

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



June Issue

## SCHOOL OF THE MONTH



**BROOKHOUSE SCHOOL, RUNDA**

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## MY VISIT TO BROOKHOUSE SCHOOL, RUNDA

A parent asked me to help check out Brookhouse School, Runda for them and I was absolutely down for the task! I attended their recent open day and let's just start with the obvious: this school is beautiful. State-of-the-art facilities that truly uphold its mission of holistic learning, and the staff? Incredibly warm and welcoming. Plus, there also seemed to be genuine respect between teachers and students as we walked through the campus.

Brookhouse Runda opened in September 2017 as the sister campus to the Karen campus, sitting on a world-class 15-acre site just north of the UN complex in Nairobi. It offers the British Curriculum from Early Years through to Sixth Form. Also, Brookhouse is one of the few kindergartens in the region to offer the Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Years learning alongside the Inspired Education Early Years Approach, serving young learners aged 1 to 5.

As I walked through, the campus, the first thing that impressed me was how intentional the school is about its extracurricular activities. One programme that particularly stood out for me is Service Learning. The students have the opportunity to volunteer at Kambui School for the Deaf, giving them exposure to communities beyond their own. To prepare for this engagement, students even learn sign language, enabling them to communicate and build genuine connections with the learners there.

I thought this was a powerful example of a school moving beyond academics to cultivate social responsibility.

I also learnt that Brookhouse is part of the Round Square network, a global community of schools in 50 countries committed to principles like character education, leadership, service, environmental stewardship, adventure, etc. Being part of this network means the school continuously benchmarks itself against international best practices and provides students with opportunities to engage with their peers from around the world.

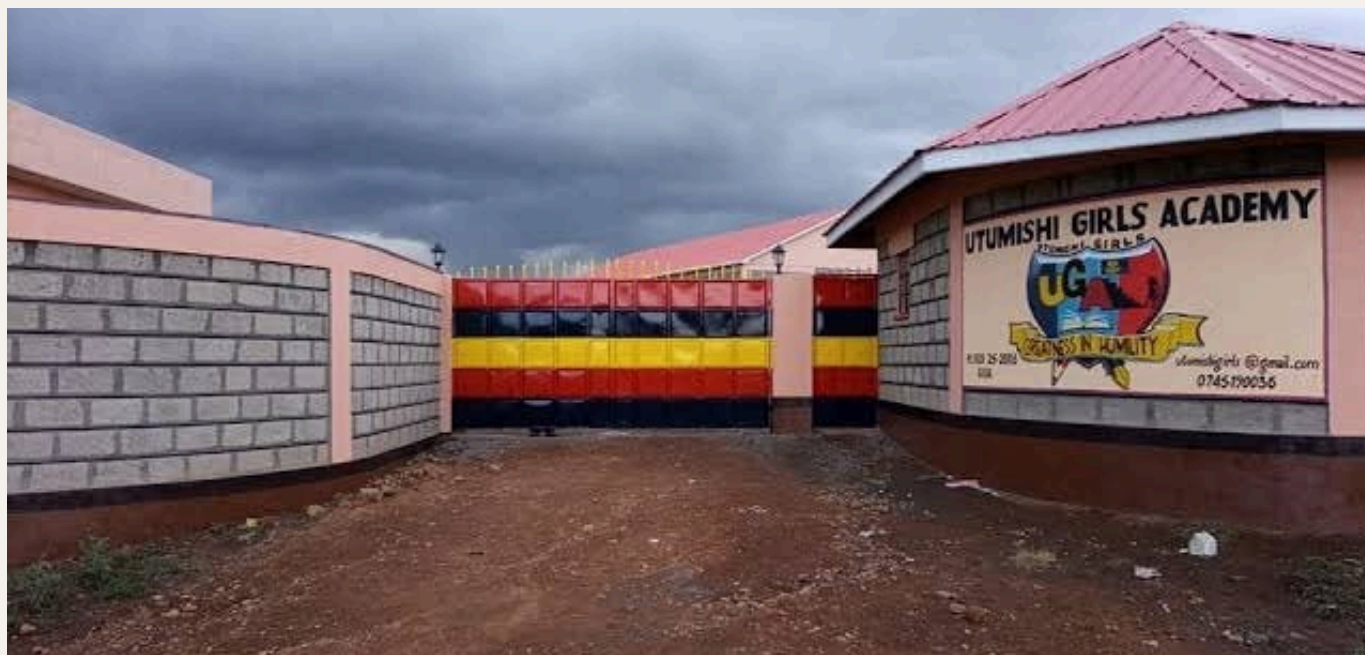
### **Who is Brookhouse Runda right for?**

Based on what I saw, Brookhouse Runda is a strong fit for families who not only want academic results, but also their child to be stretched, in whom they are becoming. The school invests in building students who are internationally minded, socially conscious, and genuinely prepared for a world beyond Kenya.

It is a premium school, and the fees reflect that. Fees are competitive at the early years level but rise substantially through secondary and into sixth form, where costs can exceed KES 2 million per term for senior boarders. Parents should go in with full clarity on the long-term financial commitment, particularly as fees rise through secondary and into sixth form.

Additionally, Brookhouse is a large, fast-paced, ambitious school. It is ideal for children who thrive in structured, high-expectation settings with strong peer competition.

# A WAKE-UP CALL FOR BOARDING SCHOOLS, PARENTS AND POLICYMAKERS IN KENYA



The past two weeks have been deeply unsettling for families across Kenya. A wave of student unrest has swept through secondary schools nationwide, with many institutions sending students home around Friday, June 5, following dormitory fires, walkouts, and security concerns linked to exam pressure, school conditions, and disciplinary tensions.

The most tragic incident at the centre of this crisis is the fire at Utumishi Girls Academy in Gilgil. The fire on May 28, 2026, claimed the lives of 16 students and left dozens more injured; a devastating event that has forced school boards and the government to urgently reassess safety standards, dormitory security, and student welfare protocols across all boarding institutions.

That incident appears to have triggered a chain reaction. Schools including Alliance High School, Kisii School, Lenana School, Tenwek Boys High School etc have since closed indefinitely following student walkouts. Several affected schools have linked the unrest to complaints about inadequate food supply, poor living conditions in boarding facilities, and concerns about the quality of education.

Security agencies have warned that students are heavily leveraging social media and peer influence across county lines to coordinate mass walkouts and arson attacks. They are no longer isolated incidents.

The Ministry of Education has responded by ordering tighter supervision of learners, emergency Board of Management meetings, and the deployment of hundreds of additional inspectors. However, the Ministry has confirmed that the school calendar will remain as is and has ruled out an early national break.

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## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR PARENTS

For parents currently navigating school selection, this crisis raises questions that go beyond academic results and fees. It asks something more fundamental: how well does a school know its students, and how safe are they when they are not at home?

At GoShule, we have always included pastoral care and school culture as core criteria in our advisory work. This moment reinforces why. As you evaluate schools, especially boarding options, here are the questions worth asking directly:

- How does the school communicate with parents during a crisis?
- What are the dormitory safety standards, including fire exits and evacuation procedures?
- How does the school address student grievances before they escalate?
- What is the food provision like for boarding students?
- How does school leadership respond when students are under exam pressure?

The schools that are weathering this period well are the ones with genuine relationships between staff and students. *(PeopleDaily)*





## **THINKING OF CHANGING SCHOOLS? HERE'S HOW TO MAKE THE TRANSITION EASIER FOR YOUR CHILD**

Changing schools is one of the most emotionally significant experiences a child can go through. Whether the move is driven by a curriculum switch, a relocation, a transition from primary to secondary, or simply a better fit, children carry real weight through that process. Here is what we know works.

### **Involve your child in the decision; do not just announce it**

This is the step most parents skip, and it is arguably the most important one. Transferring schools is not a decision parents can make on their own. Children want in on it too, especially because they will be the ones dealing with the people in the school directly and daily. Even if the decision is already made, sitting down with your child and explaining the reasoning genuinely, not just with a sales pitch makes an enormous difference to how they receive it. A child who understands why is far better equipped to cope than one who simply has the change happen to them.

### **Prepare them before day one**

Before arriving at a new school, it helps to talk openly about the move and encourage questions, explore photos or videos of the school together, maintain familiar routines where possible, and involve children in the process of preparing. A child who has seen the school building on a screen, knows what the uniform looks like, and has been allowed to ask every question they have will feel significantly less anxious walking in on the first morning than one who arrives cold.

# **CONT.**

## **Let them meet other children from the new school before they start**

This one is underused and highly effective. By letting children meet other kids from their potential new school before they join, they will not suffer too much culture shock, because there are so many new things to process at once, they either have a meltdown or shut down altogether. If they meet children from the new school and hit it off, they will feel far more secure in the new environment from day one. This is especially important when the school culture is very different from what the child is used to. Ask the admissions team whether a pre-start playdate or orientation day is possible. Many schools offer this, and parents simply do not think to ask

## **Watch for the signs that your child is not coping**

Most parents wait for a child to say, "I don't want to go to school," before they act. By that point, the child has usually been struggling in silence for a while. During a transition phase, your child may be quieter than ever or begin to question everything. They might have more attitude than they normally do. Remember, they are reacting to a new environment. Beyond mood changes, watch for physical signs like recurring stomach aches on school mornings, disrupted sleep, and reluctance to talk about school at all, which are often the earliest signals that something needs attention. Act early. A conversation with the class teacher or school counsellor at week three is far easier than one at month three

## **Look for a school that handles transitions well**

Pastoral care and student wellbeing help students feel welcomed from the very beginning. Buddy systems, transition activities, and supportive teachers all play a role in helping students build confidence and a sense of belonging.

When visiting a prospective school, ask directly: What does your settling-in process look like for a new student? Do you have a buddy system? How do teachers identify a child who is struggling socially in the first few weeks?

Every transition is unique, but children thrive when they feel supported, understood, and connected. Strong relationships between home and school play an essential role in helping students navigate change with confidence.

# GOVERNMENT ORDERS BOARDING SCHOOL AUDIT AFTER WAVE OF STUDENT UNREST



Following weeks of student unrest, dormitory fires, and school closures across the country, the government has taken decisive action. Education Principal Secretary Julius Bitok announced that the Ministry of Education would intensify dialogue with learners, strengthen guidance and counselling programmes, and conduct safety audits across schools to address emerging concerns.

The review will look at dormitory conditions, emergency preparedness, physical infrastructure, and compliance with existing safety regulations, with the goal of identifying and addressing risks before they escalate into tragedies. The assessment will be conducted at national, regional, county, and sub-county levels, with County Directors of Education instructed to coordinate the exercise through Sub-County Directors and Quality Assurance Officers.

The Ministry is seeking to increase the number of Quality Assurance and Standards Officers by 1,000 across the country. Already, 342 newly recruited officers are being deployed, complementing the 600 already at work, bringing the total to approximately 942 officers countrywide. PS Bitok has also cautioned school administrators directly, stating: "I told them this is a very, very sensitive term, and you must be on top of things. You must listen to the students." It is not just the government responding.

The Consortium of Secondary Schools Alumni Associations of Kenya (COSSAAK) has called for a national audit of dormitory architecture and emergency escape systems in all boarding schools, covering occupancy levels, bed spacing, emergency exits, fire detection systems, firefighting equipment, evacuation signage, assembly points, and night supervision arrangements. They are also pushing for a risk-rating system for boarding facilities with corrective timelines and temporary closure of dormitories found to be unsafe. (*Capital FM*)

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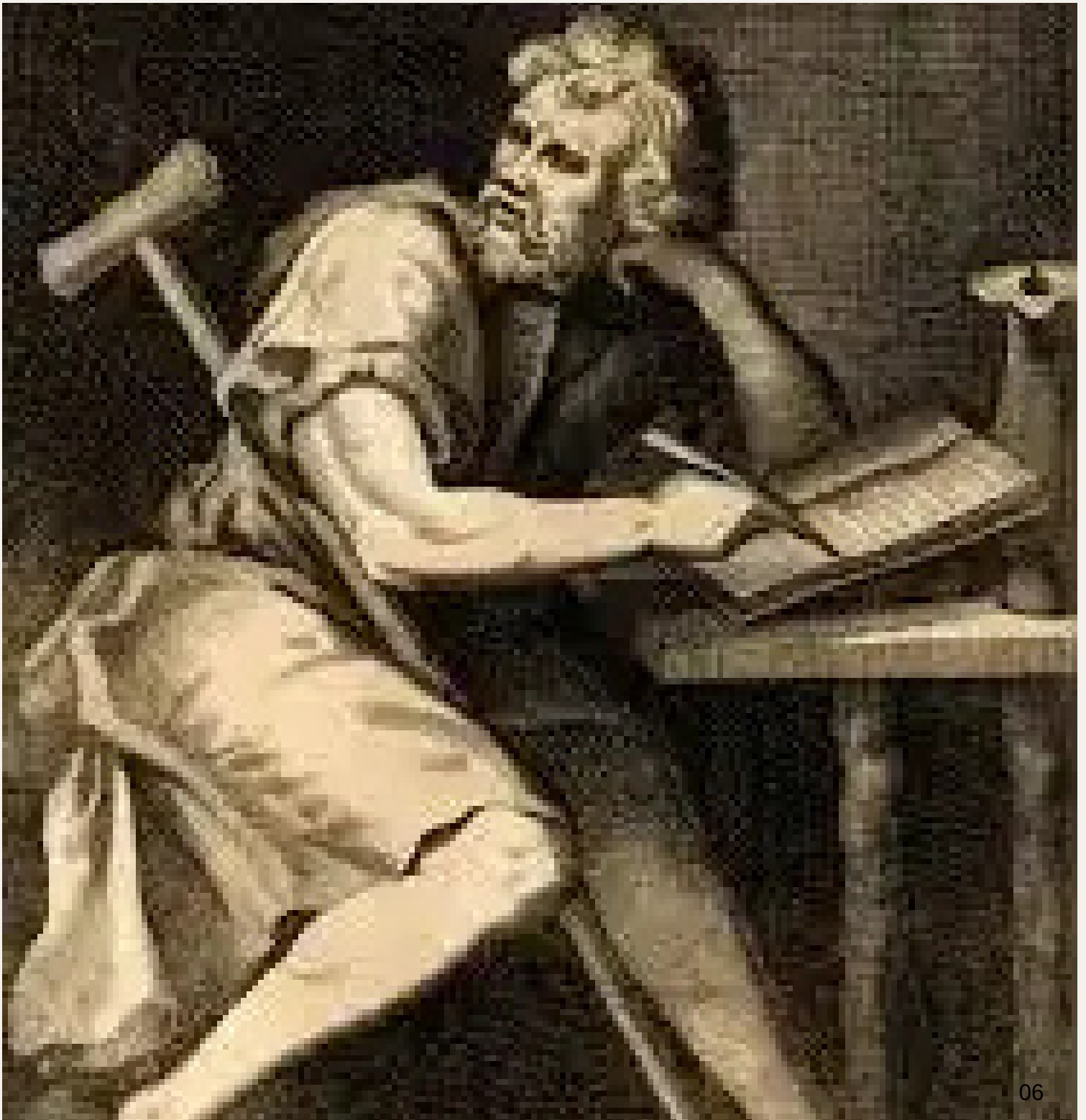
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Epicetus




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**JUNE ISSUE**

# **GOSHULE** **MONTHLY** **NEWSLETTER**

From school highlights to latest education insights, each issue is a curated guide to support your child's educational journey.

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