

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



January Issue

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH



MARY HILL GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

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DOMINE DIRIGE NOS (LORD GUIDE US)

Maryhill Girls High School is one of Kenya's most prestigious national boarding schools for girls, with a legacy that stretches back to 1933. The school was founded by the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa, whose influence continues to shape Maryhill's strong moral foundation.

Located in Thika, Kiambu County, along the Thika–Naivasha Road, Maryhill offers a serene and structured learning environment that supports both academic focus and personal growth.

Over the decades, the school has built a reputation for rigorous academic standards, producing consistently strong results in national examinations while nurturing confident, principled young women. Among its notable alumni is Sicily Kariuki, a testament to the school's long-standing role in shaping national leaders.

CBC MILESTONE: 97% OF LEARNERS MOVE FROM GRADE 6 TO JUNIOR SECONDARY

Kenya has recorded a major milestone in the rollout of the Competency-Based Curriculum, with 97% of learners who completed Grade 6 successfully transitioning to Junior Secondary School. The figures reflect steady progress toward the government's goal of ensuring near-universal school transition and keeping learners within the education system.

The high transition rate has been attributed to coordinated efforts between national and county education offices, school administrators, parents, and local communities. Authorities note that education access and retention remain central priorities, with continued attention on learners who face barriers such as financial constraints, delayed placement, or social vulnerability.

To bridge remaining gaps, the government has intensified targeted interventions including household mapping, door-to-door follow-ups, community sensitisation, and expanded access to bursaries and scholarships. Placement timelines have also been adjusted to allow more flexibility for learners requiring additional support.

Beyond the numbers, the transition rate signals a broader shift in how education is viewed nationally not just as a policy requirement, but as a shared responsibility and a critical foundation for long-term social and economic development.

EDUCATION CS EXTENDS GRADE 10 REPORTING PERIOD

The Education Cabinet Secretary has extended the Grade 10 admission deadline to January 21, 2026, as the government pushes to ensure full transition into senior secondary school under the Competency-Based Education framework. The move follows concerns that a significant number of learners who completed junior secondary had not yet reported to their assigned schools.

Early admission data showed that only a fraction of eligible learners had taken up their placements, prompting the extension to give families additional time. Financial constraints have emerged as a major barrier, with parents citing delayed bursaries, school fees, transport costs, and the burden of settling learners in schools located far from home.

Education officials acknowledged that the slower reporting was anticipated, given that this is the first cohort transitioning to Grade 10 under the new system. They emphasized that the placement and admission process is being managed digitally to promote transparency and allow schools to fill available slots efficiently as reporting continues.



ADMISSION



ADMISSION



NDINDI NYORO CUTS DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL FEES TO KSH 500 IN KIHARU

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro has rolled out a major education support initiative by reducing day secondary school fees to Ksh 500 per term, down from Ksh 1,000. The move, implemented under the Kiharu Masomo Bora Programme 2026, applies to learners from Grade 10 through Form Four and is expected to benefit over 12,000 students across 65 public day secondary schools in the constituency.



TO BE CONTINUED:

The new fee structure takes effect from Term One 2026 and is part of a broader effort to ease the financial burden on families while improving access, retention, and performance in secondary education. Beyond fees, the programme introduces a comprehensive school feeding plan, providing daily meals including githeri, rice, uji, and a monthly chapati day to support attendance and concentration.

Additional funding has been set aside for academic support and infrastructure. The constituency has allocated Ksh 10 million for revision materials this year, building on previous investments, alongside significant spending on laboratories and school facilities. Students joining Grade 10 in selected low-enrolment and newly established schools will receive free uniforms, while all participating schools will get extra funds to support co-curricular activities.

The initiative also includes incentives for teachers and school leaders tied to performance, as well as cost controls that cap remedial fees and prohibit additional charges. Transport-related costs, including insurance and servicing for school buses, will also be covered. Overall, the programme reflects a coordinated approach to making day secondary education more affordable, supportive, and results-oriented for learners and schools alike.



HOW MUCH WILL GRADE 10 COST IN 2026? A BREAKDOWN OF C1–C4 SCHOOL FEES

Parents preparing for the transition to Grade 10 in January 2026 are beginning to get clarity on how much senior secondary education will actually cost under the new C1–C4 school classification system. While some learners will continue to enjoy free secondary education, others will pay annual fees of up to Ksh 53,554, depending on the category of school they join.

Under the revised structure, senior schools are now grouped into four clusters. Learners admitted to C1 schools: formerly national schools will pay the highest fees at Ksh 53,554 per year. Those joining C2 schools (previously extra-county) will pay Ksh 45,054, while C3 schools (county schools) will charge Ksh 40,035 annually. Learners placed in C4 schools, which align with sub-county schools, will continue under free secondary education, with no tuition fees charged.

This marks a significant shift as the first cohort under the Competency-Based Education (CBE) framework officially enters senior school. The three-year senior school cycle-Grades 10 to 12 will require learners to take seven subjects, combining core requirements with elective pathways aligned to career interests.

The Ministry of Education has emphasized that the fees announced are standardized and that there has been no increase beyond what was approved in policy guidelines. Government capitation of Ksh 22,244 per learner per year will continue to support senior schools, helping cover instructional and operational costs.

Senior schools are also expected to admit at least 10% of learners as day scholars, a move aimed at reducing pressure on boarding facilities and expanding access for families who may prefer or require day schooling.

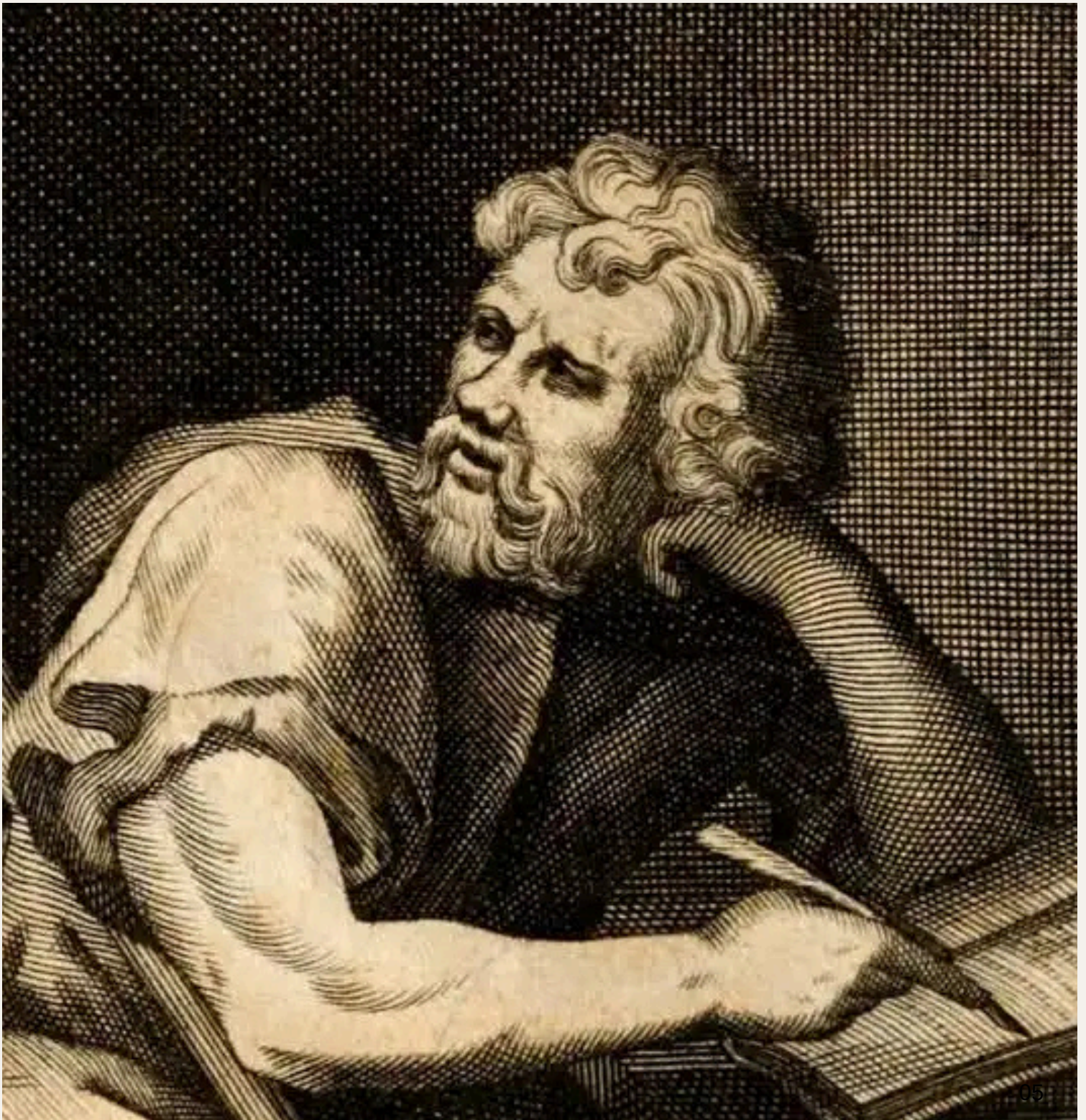
With reporting scheduled for mid-January 2026, the new fee structure highlights a widening cost gap between different categories of senior schools:an important consideration for parents as placement and admissions continue under the restructured education system.

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WISDOM CORNER

“Don't just say that you have read books. Show that through them you have learned to think better”


Epictetus




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