

## JAN RIHAK & MARK FLIEGAUF CHARITIES FUND

**When Jan (an MBA student at Emmanuel) passes by the Porters' Lodge every morning at 8 o'clock en route to the Judge Business School, 15-year-old Kiti (top left) is already on her way. However, Kiti is far from being a student in Cambridge: she attends a high school in Mombasa, Kenya.**

And although she and Jan have neither met nor spoken to each other, their lives are intimately tied together and to Emmanuel. Kiti recently finished among the top one per cent of Kenya's students in her age group. Yet the girl nicknamed 'Gift' – due both to her sharp intellect and her winning smile – had not been able to pursue secondary education since her parents could not afford the high school tuition fees of £375 per year. It was at this point that Jan and I (Mark Fliegauf, studying for a PhD at Emmanuel) entered her life. We decided to help bright but needy students in developing countries to pursue their academic goals. Therefore, we founded Aiducation International's UK chapter in

autumn 2009. As CEO Jan explains: 'Aiducation ([www.aiducation.org](http://www.aiducation.org)) is a non-profit organisation, dedicated to giving highly talented children in Kenya the chance of education and thus to fulfill their dreams.'

We have assembled a team of 15 volunteers in Cambridge and London. 'We approach people here in the UK who themselves have profited from some form of financial help during their education and are now eager to give back', explains Jan. While solidarity is one core principle of Aiducation International UK, the other is merit. 'We look for bright students, who have the potential and the willingness to achieve their goals and thus help their community.'



Like Kiti, who combines stellar grades with the aim of becoming a cardiologist to help Mombasa's poor. At the heart of Aiducation's concept lies a one-to-one link between scholar and donor, with supporters receiving regular reports on those they are helping.

So far, Aiducation International UK has raised 25 scholarships since its foundation in September and is hoping to double this number by the end of the year. None of this would have been possible without logistic and financial help from the College. Emma has become our home.