

Meet Rachel

We supported Rachel* throughout her Diploma in Theatre Technology at nursing college. She graduated in November 2025

**not her real name*

Rachel has had to overcome so many barriers to continue with her education. Like all our scholars, she faced financial barriers: her mother has mental health problems and severe asthma and struggled to pay her school fees. But Rachel also lives with autism. When she was little, she struggled to meet the usual developmental milestones: she did not start to speak until she was 4 and was diagnosed with autism at 6.

Her mother got in touch with our partner, Autism Society of Kenya, and Rachel was able to join the first autism support unit they had established, with our support.

By the time she was 8, Rachel began to show improvement and was able to join a mainstream school nearer her home: she continued learning with monitoring, encouragement and learning support from ASK. She was one of the first group of 6 autistic children that completed primary school with support from ASK.

She then managed to complete secondary school and got the grades to continue on to college.

We supported her to do a Diploma in Theatre Technology, with ASK continuing to support her, monitoring her progress and interacting with her tutors.



Rachel graduated in November 2025 and we can't wait to hear what this determined young woman who has overcome so many barriers goes on to do next!



To support Rachel cost Rafiki Thabo £500 per year

Rafiki Thabo Foundation: Registered Charity No 1193124