The first stage of the Career Network Support (CNS) programme began this week, with self-discovery workshops taking place at six different secondary schools. These workshops aim to encourage students to reflect on their own identities, and to better understand both who they are and who they want to be.

Students seemed very engaged in the first sessions. The personality quiz in particular prompted great amounts of laughter as students were able to identify themselves and their friends in the results.

Further self-discovery workshops are set to take place across the next few weeks and these will encourage students to further explore their own identities and feel more confident in making future decisions.

- Stephanie Stacey

As a new pilot initiative, the team is developing an English Club for primary level students. There is a difficult stage for students transitioning from primary to secondary school education as they must adapt to being taught in English rather than Kiswahili.

Research shows that most students need additional explanations in Kiswahili to participate in class and many students fall behind. The aim of this club is to bridge the gap, with extra English teaching to prepare them for secondary school and better navigate this transition.

We hope to pilot the initiative at Mlimani primary school and are currently researching what the curriculum should include in order to best prepare students for the next stage of their education.

- Orla Papadakis

KompyutHer is a new initiative, piloted last summer, which seeks to improve the computer skills of out-of-school girls in order to increase their confidence and chances of employability. The overall goal of KompyutHer is to provide participants with weekly training sessions in computer skills over six weeks. Each of the six sessions within the six-week programme will consist of a different theme and target a different aspect of the computer.

In order to gain a deeper understanding into the kinds of skills and experiences participants would like to gain from KompyutHer, Aditi (UK) and Geoffrey (Tanzania) worked closely with the Education M&E team to host a needs assessment morning on Monday with eight students who participated in the pilot last year. Working collaboratively, they produced participant information sheets and consent forms, which were read and signed over the course of the morning. The session proved to be highly insightful and the programme officers are currently in the process of integrating feedback from participants into the content and design of the curriculum for the KompyutHer sessions commencing next Wednesday!

- Aditi Arora