

# Hopeson Mataka



## Dental Surgery (BDS)

Prior to the start of the dental surgery course in 2019, there were just 36 registered dentists throughout Malawi, a country of 19 million people. There are now more trainee dentists in Malawi than qualified dentists, representing great hope for rectifying this situation and building capacity for oral health services.

### THANK YOU

for supporting **Hopeson** with his education to become a dentist!



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## Background

Hopeson is from the central region of Malawi, Nkhototata district. He is the firstborn in a family of 4 children with 1 sister and 2 brothers. His father is a primary school teacher and is the main breadwinner in the family. The extended family rely on subsistence farming. He is the first person in his family to go to university to study a degree level programme.

## School

In Malawi, primary education is free and lasts 8 years. Secondary education lasts 4 years and is not free. **Hopeson** attended a government secondary school where his fees were paid by a scholarship fund. He achieved **11 points** in the Malawi School Certificate (MSCE). In Malawi, student points are calculated by adding the 6 highest subject points together. The better you do, the lower the score; 1-2 points = distinction; 3-4 points = credit; 5-6 points = pass. **Hopeson** did extremely well to achieve **11 points!**

## Why Dental Surgery?

*“By the time I was applying it was a newly introduced programme. In Malawi right now we do not have enough dentists. I would like to be one of them. We have so many people who need support. Even my family as well. I want to be one of the ones helping. I would like to work in hospitals in Malawi and I would like to go further and specialize in Maxillary facial surgery in the future.”*

- Guarantee tuition fee support until graduation
- Provide twice-yearly stationery and living allowances
- Provide textbooks, equipment & laptop
- Graduated students provide mentorship support