



We're building a pioneering secondary school for girls...

**Please help our first 300 girls become
the leaders of tomorrow**

~ Join the GEP 300 Campaign ~

Supporting education, equality
& development in Northern Ghana



Ghana UK-based
Achievement Awards

Best Charity 2011



A Small Charity with a Big Purpose

The *Ghana Education Project* is an award-winning UK-registered charity supporting the development of Northern Ghana through the ongoing **education and training of young people, building community facilities and promoting equality for girls and women.**

The Project began in 1997 as a small fundraising charity sending teams of volunteers from Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School (TWGGS) every two years. It is headed by former TWGGS teacher, Gill Norris MBE, who moved to Nkwanta in 2004 to manage the Project on the ground, unpaid and living on her teachers' pension.



Key achievements over the past decade include:

- Establishing innovative community learning programmes such as Youth for Development, Leaders for Development and the Nkwanta Award scheme (based on the UK's Duke of Edinburgh Award).
- Developing an innovative literacy project for Primary Schools and running training courses for teachers in Science & Maths.
- Organising container shipments of donated equipment from the UK which is distributed to local schools and the Nkwanta community.
- Working closely with local NGOs and government agencies to improve educational standards and provide shared buildings.
- Building the Kyabobo Centre, offering practical training, sports and cultural activities for the whole local community and the 14-bed Kyabobo Guest House. These give permanent employment to 9 people and will be self-financing by end of 2012.
- Almost completing a pioneering Girls' Secondary School, due to open in September 2013.
- Providing personal development opportunities and unforgettable life experiences for school children in the UK (via ongoing volunteer trips).

A Pioneering Secondary School for Girls

After more than ten years working with government, local agencies and NGOs to improve existing schools in Northern Ghana, we are now close to completing Phase 1 of a pioneering Secondary School for Girls in Nkwanta.

The new school will offer a no fee education to 300 girls showing strong academic potential – providing quality teaching to maximise their future opportunities.

Few women in Northern Ghana currently complete even the most basic education and 77% of adult women are illiterate. The new school will greatly improve the achievement of girls: extending their education, enhancing their employment prospects, benefiting their families and building a better future for the entire community.

Over the past four years, we have secured land, installed a borehole, laid foundations and built the principle block of the school. We aim to complete Phase 1 in time for our first cohort of 75 pupils in 2013.

On course for completion by 2013:

- Three classrooms
- Assembly hall & staff room
- Large library & secure storage
- Covered kitchen & dining area
- Separate toilet block

Foundations laid for the future:

- Dedicated science block
- Seven further classrooms
- Teachers' accommodation block
- Headteacher's bungalow

Teaching capacity

Starting with three JHS classes in 2013, we will build to a total roll of 300 girls across:

- 3 Junior High School (JHS) classes
- 6 Senior High School (SHS) classes *
- 1 Foundation Class for girls that missed basic education at an earlier stage.

(* some of our intake at SHS level will be fed by girls completing JHS in other local schools)

Once open, the ongoing cost of each place at the school will be just £300/year. With your help, we hope to create the female leaders of tomorrow.



Become a School Partner

You are invited to become a School Partner for the GEP300 initiative by funding one or more places at the new Nkwanta School for Girls:

- £300 per year will cover the annual cost of funding one place at the school.
- This small sum will pay for teachers, books, materials, support, admin and essential trips.
- We hope that School Partners will give a six-year commitment to fund places for a full cycle of Junior and Senior High School (three years in each for a complete secondary education)

OR

- Make a one-off donation of £1,800 to be drawn down over six years



GEP's commitment to YOU:

- All monies will go directly towards running the new school, making a major contribution to educational attainment in a remote region of Africa.
- All partners will receive a termly newsletter (via email), reporting on the girls' progress – with photos for use in an assembly or as a teaching resource.
- We will also supply you with a range of supplementary materials, fundraising ideas and suggestions about making the most of your involvement – in line with the needs and objectives of the UK curriculum.
- Each School Partner will be listed on GEP's website and recognised as funding places at the school.
- Our pupils in Ghana will be encouraged (but not compelled) to provide personalised news and regular updates on their experiences, via email.

Please sign up to become one of our School Partners for 2013 and beyond.

Fundraising ideas for schools

Just £300 per year for six years will change the life of a Ghanaian girl forever!

How could your school raise this small sum each year?

Simple ideas:

- An annual 'Own Clothes' day or 'Wear Ghanaian Flag Colours' (red, yellow and green) with each pupil donating £1.00.
- A refreshment stall at a school Sports Day or music concert.
- A collection at the end of a school drama or music event.
- An Easter Egg raffle.
- A "Fairy Cake Friday" cake sale on the last Friday of each month, with each form or year-group baking cakes and running one sale.
- Carol Singing in a shopping centre.
- Bag Packing at local supermarkets.

More ambitious ideas:

- Hold a talent show based on 'X-Factor' or 'Britain's Got Talent'.
- Organise a 'Staff in their Eyes' event as an alternative twist.
- Hold a 'Bring-and-Buy' sale at lunchtime, with small donated items such as toiletries, stationery and jewellery: perfect for Christmas!
- Organise a sponsored event, eg. walk, silence, read or litter pick.
- As Ghana is a major cocoa producer, why not hold an annual chocolate tombola, asking parents to donate chocolate prizes.
- Hold a music, sports or general knowledge quiz night for parents, selling tickets for team tables.

Ideas for pupils to fundraise individually:

- Make and sell arts and crafts.
- Offer your services at family events, eg. washing up or waitressing.
- Ask friends and family to fill a Smartie tube with 20p pieces.
- Offer to help at other local events, for a small share of proceeds.

In our experience, many of these straight-forward ideas will raise over £300 / year, changing someone's life forever for a very modest amount of time and effort.

Why not challenge each year group in your school to raise £300 each, so that you can support more than one place at the new school?

How will being a School Partner benefit your school?

Supporting the GEP 300 initiative can help you to meet at least two of the Government's new education standards (from September 2012).

Standard 1: Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils.

Standard 8: Fulfil wider professional responsibilities - make a positive contribution to the wider life and ethos of the school.

“ Students’ experience and understanding of life beyond their local community are greatly enhanced through exceptional, long-standing and mutually beneficial international links, such as those with Ghana. ”

- Ofsted Report for Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School (November 2011)

Benefits for Pupils

Your involvement will also help your pupils to:

- Gain a valuable insight into the nature of life in a developing country.
- Learn to appreciate the huge opportunities afforded to them in the UK.
- Understand how to support developing countries in a sustainable way.
- Discover that helping others can also be a lot of fun.

Extra ideas for making the most of your involvement

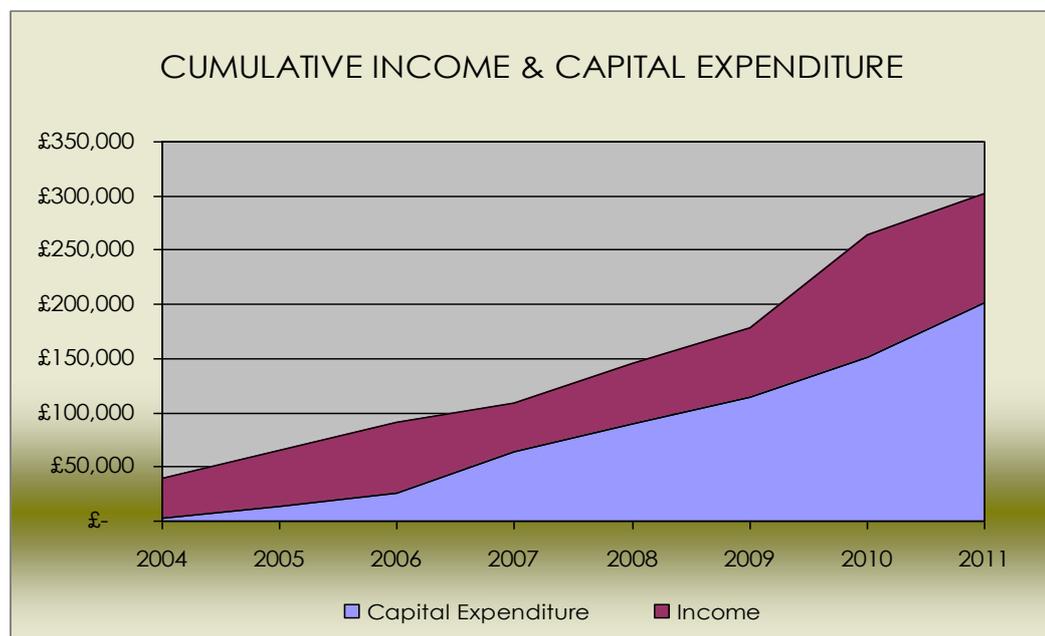
1. Consider starting up a trip to Nkwanta for a group of pupils from your school, with GEP's advice & support (see last page).
2. Hold a Ghanaian information session as part of your Citizenship programme.
3. Ask Charity Representatives to hold a school assembly, using GEP's work to raise awareness of the education system for women in developing countries.
4. Send a regular newsletter to pupils & parents updating them on the project's progress (using the materials we will send to you every six months).
5. Encourage older pupils to consider volunteering in Nkwanta in their summer holidays or as part of a Gap Year.



Investing in a Sustainable Future

Since 2004, the Ghana Education Project has raised over **£300,000** to support development work in Northern Ghana. A major proportion of this has been raised by hard-working teams of pupils from Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School - who visit Ghana every two years to teach in local schools.

The charity also receives many donations from individuals and community groups, as well as regular support from commercial organisations such as Barclays Ghana and Ghana International Bank.



Capital Expenditure

To help develop a sustainable educational and community infrastructure in the area, two-thirds of funds raised so far have been spent on important capital projects, including the Teachers Resource Centre, the Kyabobo Community & Sports Centre, the Kyabobo Guesthouse and the principle buildings of our new Secondary School for Girls.

Administration Costs

Administration costs are maintained at less than 1% of funds raised, covering only essential items such as insurance and bank charges. All other funds are transferred to Ghana on a regular basis where they are spent locally supporting our ongoing projects in the region.

Full accounts available on request – or via the UK Charities Commission.



Interested in sending your own team?

If you are interested in sending a team of your own pupils to help with our inspirational work in Nkwanta, we are able to offer free assistance through our experienced Trustee and advisor, Anna Gallagher. Anna has visited Ghana twice with previous teams from Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School (TWGGS).



What does typical expedition look like?

- **Team:** A group of 8-15 pupils with two leaders visit Ghana for 3 weeks.
- **Teaching:** The team spend 2 weeks with our founder in Nkwanta, teaching in local schools, running extracurricular activities & mixing with the community.
- **Exploring:** The last week is usually spent exploring southern Ghana, including batik-making, visiting an historic fort, trekking and canopy walking.
- **Accommodation:** In Nkwanta, teams live in our own Kyabobo Guest House, (full board). Elsewhere, tried & tested accommodation is used (half-board).
- **Cost:** Recent trips have cost c. £1,500 per pupil, NOT including spending money (c. £100), vaccinations or personal equipment such as mosquito nets.
- **Timing:** Current teams visit Ghana for 3 weeks around the Autumn half-term. Extra trips could overlap with Christmas or Easter holidays or Spring half-term.
- **Planning:** We recommend 'Discover Ghana', an external travel company specialising in school visits to Ghana at a very reasonable cost.

How do pupils benefit?

- They learn important team-building, organisational & presentation skills.
- They gain a valuable insight into the nature of life in a developing country.
- They learn to appreciate the huge opportunities afforded to them in the UK.
- They learn to be reliable and self-sufficient.
- They learn to deal with challenging situations.
- They gain valuable 'personal capital' for University and job applications.

How does GEP hope to benefit in return?

- GEP requires all visiting teams to fundraise for the Charity. In the 18-month build up to the trip we need School Partners to raise a minimum of £10,000.
- Unlike many 'volunteer' trips, direct costs must be funded independently of the charity fundraising, eg. via Saturday jobs, parental support, etc.

For more details please contact: julie@ghanaeducationproject.org.uk