



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: GREETINGS FROM NKWANTA!

After yet another exciting year, Ghana Education Project would like to thank all of our friends, sponsors and team members for their loyal support over the past 12 months. You are helping us to achieve great things in Nkwanta, where we now have over 160 girls enrolled at the Kyabobo Girls School, with hundreds of other young people actively engaged in our activities across the district. We hope you have a very merry Christmas and we wish you a happy and healthy 2015.



Letter from the Head Girl of Kyabobo Girls School

My name is Mudira Ibrahim and I am 16 years' old. I am a Dagomba by tribe and come from Bimbilla in the Northern Region of Ghana. I like learning and reading story books but I dislike disobedience, disrespectfulness and insulting people or shouting at people.

On 1st October 2014, I was voted the first Senior Prefect of Kyabobo Girls Junior High School. I feel extremely excited about being the first Senior Prefect because every student in this world wants to be the first or have the opportunity to lead a new, beautiful and peaceful school like Kyabobo Girls School.

My vision is to promote discipline in the school. I will make sure all the students in the school obey and respect their teachers and know how to talk to them. I will also make sure all students in the school will respect each other, listen to their friends' advice and obey each other. I will also promote academic excellence in the school.



I will advise my fellow students to learn very hard, so that in any examination, Kyabobo Girls School will be the first school in the district and even beyond.

I will promote environmental cleanliness and good health of my colleagues, the teachers and the school. Before I do all this, I will discuss it with the other prefects in the school, so that we will work together to promote the good of the school, and also promote peace and unity among students.

I would like to thank God for giving us Madam Gillian Norris and GEP, who give us a wonderful gift, which I have never seen in my life before, and love us like their own children. May God bless Madam Gillian Norris and bless our lovely sponsors and donors. Long live Ghana, long live our Mother Kyabobo Girls' Junior High School. Thank you.

TRUSTEES VISIT NKWANTA

Trustees Julie Robinson & John Horseman visited Ghana with their partners for two weeks in November 2014. Here is a report from their visit:

Following a few days exploring the Ghana coast and the Akosombo region, we arrived in Nkwanta for the highlight of the trip, our visit to the Kyabobo Girls School. After several years of fundraising and planning, it was extremely emotional arriving at the school for the first time and seeing what a vibrant and happy place it is. The buildings are bright, airy and well equipped in contrast to many other schools in the region. The girls are clearly thrilled to be attending the school and are all working hard to make the very best of the opportunities they have been given. Morning assemblies are attended with enthusiasm, and the sound of one hundred and sixty girls singing at the top of their voices in the school hall was both wonderful and exhilarating.



The teachers are very committed to ensuring the girls receive the best education possible, and they enjoy the benefits of free accommodation in the new teachers' bungalows, which they consider to be of a very good standard. Thirteen units have now been built, of which nine are currently occupied. The school is well supported by an active PTA Committee with over 100 parents attending meetings.

As well as meeting many of the school's students, our visit enabled us to evaluate and identify priorities for future work and fund raising by the Charity. The Science and Technology Building has recently been completed and we are now actively seeking donations of furniture and science equipment to be shipped to Ghana next spring.

On our return to Accra we were very pleased to have the opportunity to meet and thank in person several of our generous local supporters including our lawyers, AB & David, the British High Commission, Voltic Water at Accra Brewery Limited, and OLAM Ghana Ltd.

The Trustees have a busy year ahead as we make plans for the opening of the Senior High School in 2016. We are intending to visit Nkwanta again next year to continue working with the staff and Gill Norris to further the development of the school.



THE KYABOBO BOREHOLE

Our school borehole was generously funded by the Ghana International Bank back in 2010 and is now an important social centre for the new school.

Girls gather after school to chat and gossip while drawing water for the school and teachers' bungalows, just like water coolers in the UK. Without the borehole, it would have been very difficult to make the bricks and mix the cement which built the amazing educational facility we have today.

TWGGGS Ghana 2014 Team in Nkwanta

by team member Sophie Morris



Over the last 18 months, fifteen girls from Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School have been fundraising for the Ghana Education Project, supported by the whole school and our families.

In late October 2014, we were then lucky enough to visit Ghana for three weeks to visit the Kyabobo Girls School, and see the results of our fundraising in action. We experienced lots of new things and discovered a culture very different from our own, making it a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience.

We spent the first two weeks of our trip in Nkwanta, staying at the Kyabobo Guesthouse, the brilliant community centre built by Ghana Education Project. We spent time in two local secondary schools, with ages ranging from 11 to 21. We taught English, maths, biology and geography, encouraging them to speak and read English as much as possible. We soon discovered that what they most loved hearing about was what life is like in England - especially the weather!

While we were in Nkwanta we were able to try lots of the local food, visit the vibrant markets and play intense games of volleyball and football against the Senior High School - unfortunately we lost very badly! We also attended an enthusiastic church service and climbed "Breast Mountain", where we saw the campsite that TWGGGS girls stayed at on the first Ghana trip in 1991.

The Kyabobo School was incredible with outstanding facilities and welcoming staff. The girls were exceedingly confident compared to the girls at the other schools and were enormously eager to learn and improve. It was very rewarding to see what all our fundraising had built and what an impact it has had on the girls' lives. On our last day in Nkwanta we attended a cultural day where the Kyabobo girls and the TWGGGS team performed dances, songs and plays. Having thought how similar we were to the girls there, their performance shocked us in showing that their biggest struggle was still simply persuading their parents to allow them to go to school. However, we all felt confident that having been given the opportunity of attending this exceptional school and grow very strong academically, that the perception of girls having to stay at home to help with the housework would soon change.

We spent the final week of our trip travelling around Ghana. My three weeks in Ghana was one of the best times of my life. I hope the Kyabobo School continues to be the huge success that it is and would like to thank all our teachers and parents for their fantastic support, which allowed us to have this amazing experience.

STOP PRESS!

Look out for our team bag-packing in Tunbridge Wells at Morrisons supermarket on 22nd December!



RECENT FUNDRAISING EVENTS

TWGGS Epic Sponsored Walk

The annual sponsored walk took place on Saturday 30th August and was organised by and participated in by the TWGGS Ghana 2014 team, accompanied by trip leaders Matthew Breeze and Henny Spokes, and several parents.



The team raised an astounding total of £12,801.96 for the walk. Well done to everyone who participated in this ambitious 30-mile walk from Brighton Pier to Eastbourne Pier over the South Downs and congratulations to Jez for such an impressive achievement!

Dunorlan Park Fireworks

Although the TWGGS team were away in Ghana at the time, we had lots of volunteers from lower down the school to help man the entrance gate at this year's Dunorlan Park Fireworks in Tunbridge Wells on 1st November. We would like to thank the Round Table for giving us this opportunity again and many thanks to all the helpers.

Wreath Making Evening

We had a Christmas Wreath Making evening on 8th December that raised £260.

Many thanks to Lara from Darling and Wild (www.darlingandwild.co.uk) who ran the workshop for us. We all enjoyed the evening and were delighted with the professional looking wreaths we made under her expert guidance.

DONATE WHILE YOU SHOP ONLINE

easyfundraising
.org.uk

GEP has received more than £250 simply from our supporters shopping online, as part of over £5m raised by good cause shopping website easyfundraising.org.uk.

GEP earns the donations when people register to support us and shop online through the site. It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:

- 1) Register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2) When you're asked to choose your cause, select Ghana Education Project
- 3) Get shopping - it couldn't be easier!

There are over 2,700 online retailers participating, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco, who all donate a small percentage of what's been spent with them to say thanks.

London-to-Paris Bike Ride

Eleanore Longley & Philippa (Billie) Rowe literally got on their bikes to raise money for GEP. They left Crystal Palace at 6am on 3rd September and pedalled their way through the hills of Kent and then across the wide country of northern France. Three days later, they arrived in Paris, cycling up the Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe with a final couple of laps around the Eiffel Tower. Their achievement of this 300 mile ride was the culmination of many months of training. Billie and Eleanore are both former TWGGS pupils and Eleanore was a member of the 2001 TWGGS Ghana Team. Between them, they raised over £3,000.

