



TWO MAJOR MILESTONES FOR KYABOBO GIRLS SCHOOL

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New school uniform for Senior High

Senior High School Opens...

After three years of hard work and co-operation with central and regional government departments, this summer we got the go ahead from Volta Region Education Office to open our new Senior High School (SHS) section of Kyabobo Girls School and to start admitting pupils in September this year.

The school was inspected and deemed suitable earlier this year, with Ghana Education Service (GES) classifying us as an 'experimental' school.

As always, Ghana Education Project are breaking new ground with our innovative approach, since having junior and senior sections together in the same school is not the norm in Ghana.

Many of our first intake of students from 2013 have continued to Form 4 after three years in Junior High at KGS and we have gained an equal number of students from outside Nkwanta, bringing our total intake to 90 – exactly as we planned.



SHS Head Girl: Priscilla Melebor

First BECE Exam Results...

This June saw the first cohort of Junior High School students sitting their BECE, the national basic education certificate of Ghana.

We eagerly awaited the results in September and were overjoyed to find that the girls had really excelled themselves at this first major benchmark.

Students from Kyabobo Girls School achieved an amazing pass rate of 84.5% nationally and a locally-adjusted pass rate of 100%! To put these achievements in context, the overall pass rate for the district was 22.5%.

Two girls who joined the school as non-readers both managed to pass two of the core subjects, which counted towards our 100% pass rate at local level.

We are incredibly proud of both our hard-working students and the brilliant teachers at KGS who have played such a key role in this outstanding achievement.

AUTUMN NEWS FROM NKWANTA

Big Plans for the Future

Our first three years of Junior High School have been a huge success and we have developed an excellent working relationship with our partners at the Ghana Education Service and our local Volta Region Education Office.

In fact, their support has proved so valuable that GEP has now raised its sights even higher than the 300 students we were eventually hoping to accommodate when we opened Kyabobo Girls School in 2013.

By the end of 2018, we are now aiming to provide a full secondary education for nearly 500 girls across JHS and SHS: a huge 60% increase on our initial target of 300!

To accommodate this increased capacity, work is already underway on a new building at KGS, which will include four extra classrooms and a school office.



Foundations ready for the new classrooms

The foundations are almost complete and we are aiming to get to lintel level before the end of 2016. Funds permitting, we hope to complete this new structure by the middle of next year, before our next intake in September 2017.

Building in Nkwanta is very weather-dependent, as cement tends to dry quickly and crack, so great care must be taken with flooring and blocks – but when the new building is finished, we will be set up for classroom facilities well into the future.

At the same time, we are also converting GEP's Teacher Resource Centre into an additional accommodation block for KGS teachers. This was GEP's first building in Nkwanta but is surplus to requirements since the school opened.



TRC becomes extra teacher accommodation

KGS Welcomes Local Guests

Kyabobo Girls School regularly welcomes guests from some of the more basic schools in neighbouring villages, who come to experience our high quality science facilities by taking some classes with us.



Visiting students from local village schools

New Name for the Nkwanta Award

We are pleased to announce that our long-running Nkwanta Award has recently been renamed the **Voltic Water Conservation Award**, in recognition of the ongoing support from Voltic Water.

This year, the winners of the Wildlife Quiz went to Mole National Park and Voltic also funded a five-day excursion to Accra for girls from KGS Form 2. For most participants, this was their first time outside Nkwanta and they had a great experience visiting Parliament, the airport, Ghana Broadcasting, Voltic Water, a shopping Mall and the beach. As always, we are very grateful to Voltic Water for their continued support.



Guesthouse Facilities Upgraded

Our popular guesthouse in Nkwanta has recently been refurbished, with air conditioning and TV now available at a small extra charge, providing an even more comfortable environment for visitors to the area.

TWGGS TRIP TO GHANA

Lily Montague from the TWGGS Ghana 2016 Team reports on their recent visit to Nkwanta

After 18 months of intense fundraising (including a multitude of events such as cake sales, waitressing, selling crafts, a quiz and music evenings, as well as a gruelling 33-mile walk) and three weeks of memorable experiences in Nkwanta, none of us can believe our trip has finished – or that we managed to raise over £43,000 for the brilliant Ghana Education Project!

From the moment we got on the plane in October, we were all raring to go and it was hard to keep the smiles off our faces as we stepped out into the sweltering heat of Ghana; our trip had truly begun. From then on, not a moment passed when we didn't feel welcomed in this country of such beauty. As soon as we arrived in Ghana, the original itinerary was out of the window, as we went to meet the whole of Nkwanta at a presidential rally for the 2016 election. This day made a big impact on us all as it was our first real sense of Ghana: surrounded by the beaming faces of children, drumming, dancing and the vivid colours of the country.



TWGGS and KGS girls getting to know each other

The rest of our first week was packed with activities such as climbing a mountain, attending a church service and seeing the Kyabobo Girls School for the first time. Then it was onwards and upwards to teaching for six days with the most inspirational and eager students we may ever meet. Their happiness and passion really influenced us all as we began to feel part of the bright culture with our African fabrics purchased from the markets.

We observed and participated in several cultural displays and armed with newfound confidence, we were up and dancing with the local children at any opportunity possible, absolutely loving those golden moments with the new friends we had made.

As we drove back to Accra past the foundations of the new building and then past the sign for Kyabobo Girls School for a final time, we were all reminded of how proud we are to be part of what Gill Norris, GEP and past TWGGS Ghana teams have created.



The fantastic KGS Choir practising hard

In our final week, we saw another side to Ghana. Days spent making batik on the beach or learning about the history of Ghana in the slave forts were an intriguing ending to our trip.

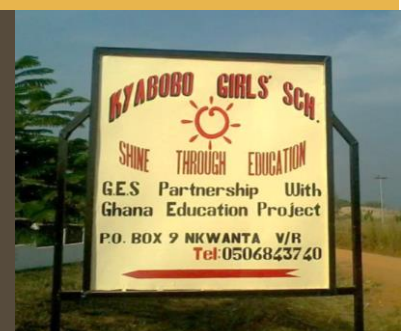
Even though the experience is over, the spark of Ghana still appears when least expected: I was recently buying a train ticket and the man in the office had a pin depicting the Ghana flag. We had a heart-warming conversation about the country and the inspirational time I had just spent there.

Our amazing trip to Ghana has been a life-shaping experience for all of us in the TWGGS Ghana 2016 Team. Memories were created there that will last for years to come and it's safe to say that all of us would give anything to go back.

REMEMBER!

You can fund a girl's education at Kyabobo Girls School for just £10 per month

Sign up now at:
www.gep300.org.uk



OTHER NEWS ROUND-UP

BIG THANKS TO:



Frank Jackson Foundation

We are extremely grateful to have been awarded a generous three year grant from the Frank Jackson Foundation, which will help a huge amount with our work in Nkwanta.

David Tennant, a representative from the foundation says: "We are proud to be supporting you... Many congratulations on the 84% pass rate... We are full of admiration for the work you are doing."

Thanks to the Frank Jackson Foundation for their continued support.



Majedie Asset Management

A recent quiz evening in London organised by the charity committee of Majedie Asset Management raised nearly £1,300.

Trustee Julie Robinson, who attended the evening with her husband Steve, said that the quiz was very unusual and a lot of fun (even though they didn't win). We thank Majedie for their ongoing support for GEP.



TWGGS Governors

We are grateful for the support of TWGGS Governing Body who held their annual dinner in aid of GEP this year. Instead of dining in a restaurant the Governors were entertained at the home of Julie Robinson, Governor and GEP Trustee.

The 2016 team helped prepare food, waitressed and washed up for the event. The £200 profit from the evening was donated to GEP and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

TWGGS Girls Sparkle at Fireworks

On 5th November, while the 2016 TWGGS team were in Ghana, 15 volunteers from TWGGS years 9, 11 & 13 greeted the happy crowds while helping out on the gates at the renowned Dunorlan Park Fireworks event.



Daldeep Jaswal, Chairman of Tunbridge Wells Round Table who organise the event every year, said "I wanted to thank the volunteers from TWGGS who braved the cold and came to help us with checking people into the park safely. It really means a lot to us that TWGGS have supported us year after year and we are confident that it's been our most successful event yet, with over 12,000 people attending. Last year we raised £25,000 for local charities and good causes and we are hoping to have beaten that figure substantially".

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Ghana Supper Club: 21st January

Ghana Supper Club, a Tunbridge Wells based group offering Ghanaian-themed supper clubs once or twice a month, are sponsoring GEP as their charity this year.

To kick off next year, we are pleased to announce that they are catering for a GEP fundraising evening on 21st January 2017 – a definite date for your diaries!

To book a ticket at this event, please email Julie Robinson at robinson4julie@gmail.com.

GEP Christmas Puddings Return

The Ultimate Plum Pudding, made by a small craft baker in Cumbria, is endorsed by BBC Good Food Magazine and has won a Gold Award at the Great Taste Awards. It is one of the finest Christmas puddings you can buy and yet it is not available in supermarkets. The puddings are light-textured, sweet & aromatic, with high quality ingredients – and most people have no idea Christmas pudding can taste this good until they try one!

The official deadline for orders has now passed, but you might get lucky if you contact Julie Robinson on robinson4julie@gmail.com. Even if it isn't possible to order you one this time, she will still be able to add you to the mailing list for next year's puddings.