



## GEP Update Summer '19

Issue 15

In this edition we report on the Trustees' visit to Nkwanta and give you a roundup of the latest news from Ghana Education Project.

### [Trustees Report: Nkwanta 2019](#)

In February, John and Julie visited Nkwanta accompanied by Clare, a parent from the 2012 TWGGS team. Clare is in the medical profession, so it was interesting to get feedback about the school from a different perspective. They have returned full of enthusiasm and ideas and sharing their report with you is the best way to illustrate how much difference your support makes to the education and lives of the girls at the school.

Here is a flavour of their visit...

Once again, we have had another fascinating and rewarding trip to Ghana. Time has passed so quickly and our first intake from 2013 are now in their final year. The girls will sit their WASSCE exams in the next few months and we are very pleased that a good number of them are aspiring to continue to tertiary education, choosing a wide variety of subjects such as Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Dietetics, Pharmacy, Maths, Engineering, Physics, Economics/Accounting, Political Science, Fashion and Design, Purchasing and Supply, Food Engineering, Management in Living and Languages.

We are not sure if they will meet the grades for their chosen subjects, but they have ambition. To date we know that approximately 50% are hoping to go on to University or College or into the police or military service.

This is against only 1% of the cohort at the biggest local secondary school achieving a score that would qualify for tertiary progress last year. The girls are currently revising hard and the staff are providing evening study sessions. We hope that we have equipped those who are less academic with the confidence and skills to progress in the workplace.

### **Meeting with the Deputy Director of GES**

We are excited to have caught the interest of the newly appointed Deputy Director of Ghana Education Service, Dr Kwabenah Tandoh. It is unusual for senior GES staff to visit such remote locations, but Kyabobo Girls' School (KGS) was the first school he visited after his appointment.

He is looking to make us an "experimental school" and is very interested in the economies of running a JHS and SHS together as this is very rare in Ghana. He hopes to take the Deputy Minister to Nkwanta to see the school and meet with Gill. We will keep you posted on any developments.

### **Literacy and Numeracy Hour**

We are still struggling with the literacy and numeracy of our recent intakes, but the programme established by Gill to tackle this is making a significant difference. We were struck by how far the current JHS 2 girls had progressed from our visit last year.

We have many new teachers; most are educated to degree level and therefore able to teach across the school. We are working to ensure they teach in the manner expected at KGS and are encouraged by their performance.



*Revision Time*

## Letters to TWGGS

The following letters are just a few examples written by the KGS girls in forms one and two in response to ones received from the Year 7 pupils at Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar (TWGGS).

It is always interesting reading their letters and the fact that our school is completely free is the only reason some of the girls have been able to come to school. They often start JHS aged 15 or 16 as this is the first opportunity they have had for an education. Many of the girls lead hard lives so it is extraordinary that they have the capacity to study as well.

The examples are in the girls' own words. English is not the first language for many of them, but it is easy to understand their sentiment and meaning.



*"In my school all the teachers teaches well so thank given to the teachers and Madam Gill. At the weekend I will wash my clothes and wash the cooking utensils and I will go to farm."*

*"I want my future should be bright and I take my education seriously. At the weekend I did so many things, first of all I swept our compound, after that I brush my teeth and I wash my face and I go to farm and carry firewood and yams. When I come back I will fetch water before I will take my breakfast, after that I will go to market and buy fruits and vegetable and after that I will come and cook. My school is a good school and the teachers teach well and we understand what they are teaching us and I am doing well in my school. We have activities on Tuesday, and we do drama and other things. My parents are farmer and it is compulsory to them to go to farm so that we can get some money to buy our domestic needs and other things."*

*"I want to become a teacher to support people in Ghana. I will teach the young people to read and write."*

*"I've started KGS at the age of 15. I've entered KGS because of my financial problems. That's why I tried my possible best to learn hard and make my family proud."*

*"I am happy attending KGS. If not KGS, I will be in the market selling. And by the grace of God you gathered your money for us. Thank you very much."*

*"I study science and maths very well because I want to become a midwifery in the future and I have a strong feeling that it will surely come true with the help of KGS, I also take part in every quiz competition."*

*"I am from a poor family in which my mum suffer before we eat but as for my dad he don't have any work doing. I love my family very well because my mum does her possible best to give us our daily bread. My school is a beautiful school with nice flowers, my school is meant for girls only, I love my school because I don't pay any school fees nor buying books."*

*"My school is a very perfect school. The school have ICT lab and also science lab, I like my school very much. During the weekend, I wash my clothes and I also sell and present money to my mum."*

### **More National Success for our Students**

Because of the outstanding ICT facilities, our school has been chosen to participate in a Girls can Code programme set up by UNESCO in collaboration with the Kofi Annan ICT Centre.



One of our pupils, Amenuveve was voted top coder at the presentation day in Accra. We have also had success in quiz, reading and choir competitions.

## Tackling Health Issues

Gill is establishing an education programme to roll out to schools to combat the incidences of teenage pregnancy. This is an increasing problem and seriously reduces opportunities for girls. She is working closely with local churches and other bodies on this.



With the implementation of the health education programme, Clare's visit was well timed. She was able to spend time with the girls discussing health and medical issues.



" It was an absolute pleasure and inspiration to meet these young ladies who all aspire to be nurses, they were delighted to view a short video of their speeches on their hopes and dreams for the future and how Kyabobo supports them."

## **Extra-curricular Activities**

Gill continues her work with the local National Park and has taken 1000 children into the bush for an education day over the last couple of weeks. This is a major exercise as they receive two cooked meals whilst they are there!

## **New Classroom Block Unveiled**

The new classroom block funded by Majedie Asset Management is now fully furnished and being put to very good use. It has made a big difference to the school to have this new facility as timetabling can be very challenging now that the school roll has increased.



*The Majedie Building*

Our visit showed us there is much to be encouraged by and we are looking forward to more success and a productive collaboration with GES.

The continuing success of the school would not be possible without our supporters – and we thank you.

Julie Robinson & John Horseman

## **News Roundup....**

### **Donation News**

As mentioned in our update, Virgin Money Giving have replaced BT MyDonate which closes its donation platform in June.

A generous offer has been made by a supporter to double any regular donations of up to £200 per month for the first year. If you are thinking of making a regular contribution to the Trust, there is no better time to do it.

**Visit:** <http://www.ghanaeducationproject.org.uk/donate>

### **Say Hello to our New Trustee**

We would like to introduce you to Tom Morris, GEP's newest trustee.



Tom came on board in December after being involved with the charity through Majedie Asset Management, which has been a supporter of the charity for the last 3 years.

'GEP has achieved great things with tiny resources and I'm really looking forward to helping out. Education really appeals to me as an unsolved problem - one which unlocks most of the other issues the world faces.'

## Thank You Round Table

In November several girls from TWGGS helped collect tickets and money at the annual Firework display at Dunorlan Park, in return Tunbridge Wells Round Table have generously donated £500 to the Trust.



*We would like to say a huge Thank You to the Round Table for their contribution and the ongoing support they have shown to our charity over the years.*

## Time to Hand over the Baton

It seems a long time since the current TWGGS team began their epic fundraising journey in July 2017. Before a new team starts their own adventure, we would like to say a huge thank you to the girls along with their families and friends for raising an amazing £42,000. We wish them all the best for the future and hope their time in Ghana was the start of a lifetime of adventures.

We will leave the last word to Team TWGGS 2018...





The fundraising was such a vital part of being in the Ghana team that took up a lot of time and creative juices! However, working hard to raise the money was so worth it when we visited KGS and were surrounded by so many friendly and hard-working girls. I realised how lucky I am to have so many great educational opportunities. Teaching at the rural schools also made me realise why there's a need for schools in Ghana, like Kyabobo, where staff provide quality education that is not available to many young people in Ghana.

*The Ghanaian children have reinforced to me the value of generosity, kindness and happiness, without the need for material wealth.*

I had the best 3 weeks of my life in Ghana. It was an amazing country to visit and the people were beyond wonderful. I was inspired by how the children are so determined in wanting to learn and I was thoroughly impressed by their consistent positive attitude and enthusiasm. They put a smile on my face every day. It was an incredible experience!

*One thing I will never forget is how generous, happy and welcoming everyone (especially the Kyabobo girls) were towards us even when, compared to us, they have so little.*

The happiness and generosity of everyone we met out there was so amazing, and everything we did, from the teaching to visiting the markets and national parks, taught me so much about the world around me and the things that really matter in life.

*I was amazed with the kindness and generosity of the Ghanaian people. It was also inspiring to see Gill in Nkwanta, and I am in awe of how much work and time she puts in to the Kyabobo school and GEP. My favourite part of the trip was the teaching as it enabled me to connect with children who live in such a different culture while also helping them on their path to higher education. Thank you very much for this incredible opportunity. I had the most amazing time!*

For me Ghana was easily three of the best weeks of my life. It was incredible to finally see how all the fundraising we'd done for the past year was helping, and it was amazing meeting all the girls at the school. We were all overwhelmed by the welcome we were given and the generosity of all the girls. The trip has definitely helped me improve my confidence, and to not take for granted the opportunities I have been given.

*My trip to Ghana was the most amazing three weeks of my life. As soon as we arrived, I felt comfortable, happy and excited with my new situation, and these initial feelings lasted with me all the way through our journey.*

If you know of anyone that would be interested in finding more about what we do, please share this newsletter.

Ghana Education Project  
thanks you for your continued support.



*Ghana Education Project is a registered UK charity supporting education for girls and the wider community in Nkwanta, a deprived area of Ghana in West Africa. Ghana Education Project is a registered UK charity supporting education for girls and the wider community in Nkwanta, a deprived area of Ghana in West Africa.*

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