

Newsletter

Supporting education, equality & development in Northern Ghana

Issue 2 / March 2013



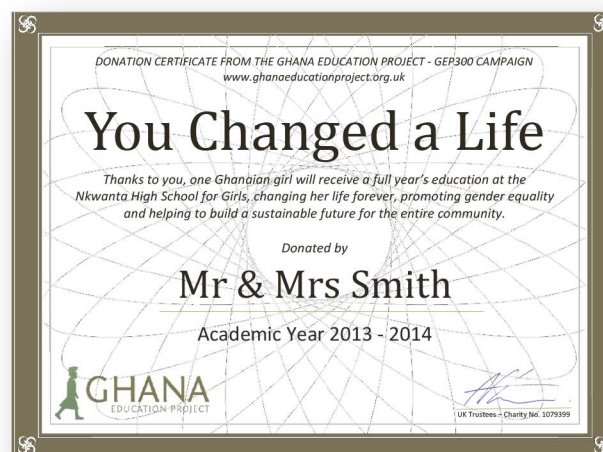
Introducing "GEP 300" Supporting one girl at a time

The next big challenge! – The Girls' School is nearly finished – Are you able to help us fund the pupils?

The campaign was launched in Spring 2012. Funds are needed to support 300 places at the new High School Girls in Nkwanta. Each place will cost £300 per annum and regular monthly donations are being sought. The charity is looking to raise money from various different sources, including Individual, Community, Business and School Partners, as well as support from Trusts and Foundations.

Thanks go to our new Community Partners, Romsey Bird Table, and to TWGGS parents who responded to an appeal letter circulated by the school at the end of the 2012 Summer term. Libby Horobin (Year 8) has pledged to fund one place at the school for every year she is at TWGGS by making and selling homemade fudge. That's the spirit Libby!

You can donate or set up a monthly payment on the GEP page at: www.btpic.com/mydonate



A Big Hand Goes To ...

Thank you to Steven Morrison from Dumbarton who chose to support a place at the Girls' School as a Valentine's Day gift for his partner Ruth. Steven found our website & thought our cause would ring a chord with his partner. 10 years ago Ruth travelled to Ghana and helped with the construction of a small school. As with all the school pupils who work with Gill in Nkwanta, the experience was a powerful one in her life and the cause of female education and empowerment is very close to her heart. We thank Steven and hope that he and Ruth had a happy Valentine's Day. We look forward to keeping them up to date with progress on the school.

Welcoming A New Face



The Trustees have decided to appoint two high profile patrons to act as advocates for the objects of the charity. We are delighted to welcome our first - Dentaa Amoateng, TV star and CEO of the

Ghana UK Based Achievement Awards as our new patron! Dentaa is an inspirational Ghanaian woman who divides her time between the UK and Ghana. We will be hearing more from Dentaa in our next Newsletter. Welcome on board Dentaa!

Looking For A Unique Gift Idea?



If you would like to give a gift that can really make a difference, please contact Julie Robinson on julie@ghanaeducationproject.org.uk, who can create a personalised Gift Certificate for you.

Full details of the GEP 300 Campaign can be found on the website, monthly donations – however small would be greatly appreciated.

Update on the New High School for Girls in Nkwanta



The Junior High School is nearly complete and the next task is to begin furnishing the first classrooms and staff areas.

The school will open in September 2013 for 75 girls aged 11 and 12. With the help of the Ghana Education Service, we plan to identify girls with potential from all the rural communities in Nkwanta South to take up these places.

There are 108 rural community schools in Nkwanta South from which to choose these first pupils. In these remote villages the number of girls attending school in their final year of basic education is already extremely small. With supported places at our school we aim to encourage pupils to complete Senior High School at age 17.

Each year from 2013 the intake will increase until the school is at capacity of over 300 pupils.

New Advisors to GEP Ghana

GEP's Ghanaian NGO is delighted to welcome three new advisors in Ghana:

- * **Dr Ayowa Afrifa-Taylor**
- Educated at TWGGS and LSE, Ayowa is now an economist and director of property business in Accra.
- * **Ivy Mawuku**
- Former education advisor for SNV (Dutch charity)
- * **Blikook Konlan**
- UNICEF education Advisor for the Northern Regions.

The new advisors will be invaluable in helping with the opening of the new High School for Girls and its relationship with Ghana Education Service. They will also help to appoint the School Head and Governors.

PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES!

BRINGING THE GHANA EXPERIENCE TO MORE SCHOOLS

The Ghana Education Project is currently appealing for School Trip Partners who will join a small number of other UK secondary schools in supporting the work of the charity.

By adopting the model established by the Founding School Partner - Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School - and adapting it to their own requirements as appropriate, the pupils of these schools will learn about the key role of education in Africa and gain valuable life skills in their fundraising activities.

The whole school can take advantage of the educational opportunities afforded by engaging with GEP and, for the lucky few, the trip to Nkwanta is a life-changing experience.

Interested institutions should contact:
julie@ghanaeducationproject.org.uk



FUNDRAISING STORIES



SPONSORED SWIM

This took place in TW on Sunday 18th November. Over 20 ladies (including 9 TWGGS girls) ensured that the lane, kindly donated by Virgin Active, contained a swimmer for 4 continuous hours. The aim was to raise money to enable GEP to part exchange the vehicle used by the charity's Founder and Project Manager, Gill Norris. The roads are very challenging and without a robust vehicle Gill could not do her valuable work in Nkwanta.

Special mentions go to Annie Cassidy who organised the TWGGS Swimming Team and to star swimmers, Miriam Fox (120 lengths) and Debbie George (130 lengths). Harwood's Land Rover Pulborough kindly donated £150 to the total that reached £2500!

Well done to the organiser, Caroline Horobin.

BAG PACKING - Thanks to Morrisons, Tunbridge Wells for letting a team of TWGGS girls pack bags for their customers on December 23rd, raising £370.

FANTASIA SINGERS CONCERT

Amy Tyler and Tash Smith, (TWGGS 2012 Team) gave a presentation on 24th November at a Fantasia Singers Concert. The proceeds of the evening which included a raffle and bring & buy were donated to GEP. The event raised £281.00. Thanks to all involved and to the group's organiser Tony Gosling for giving GEP this opportunity



ROWING FOR GHANA

Wargrave Boarding House at Eastbourne College has chosen to support GEP for their traditional annual rowing challenge. The boys are doing a virtual row down the west coast of Africa. We are very grateful for their support. WELL DONE GUYS!

GENEROUS LOCAL SPORTING DONATIONS



The children in Nkwanta were thrilled to receive football kit donated by Forresters in Tunbridge Wells. Langton and Ridgeway and

Tunbridge Wells Badminton clubs also donated shuttlecocks and rackets that were taken out to Ghana with the 2012 Team.

**We are delighted to welcome
Malvern College as a new
School Partner**



The school will be fundraising for GEP and travelling to Nkwanta to work with Gill as part of an expedition organised by Wilderness Expertise.

www.wilderness-expertise.co.uk.

REPORT FROM TUNBRIDGE WELLS GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

By Ella Morris of the TWGGS Ghana Team 2012



During our stay in Nkwanta, we spent time in primary schools teaching Maths, Geography and English. We loved seeing the enthusiasm and willingness to learn of children who have so few opportunities in life. The rest of the time was spent in the junior high school, where we focussed lessons on Aesop's fables using them to develop English skills, as well as trying to help the children to be creative and use their imagination. This was challenging as very little emphasis is placed on independent learning in Ghanaian schools. We also organised sports each evening at the Kyabobo Centre, a lovely way to get to know the children. It really was the experience of a lifetime. We learnt what it is like to truly be part of a team: working together to fundraise, plan lessons, and look after one another. We now realise just how lucky we are in this country to have opportunities, especially in education, compared to those that exist for girls in Ghana. Our endless fundraising really paid off, we were thrilled to learn that we have surpassed our target amount, raising over **£53,000** for the Ghana Education Project. This, and an incredible three weeks, would not have been possible without the continued help and support of Mr Breeze, Miss Muddle, Dr Brimsted, Julie Robinson, and all of our parents, for which we are hugely grateful.

Thanks
for the
Fireworks!



GEP were delighted to receive a cheque for £1,500 from the Tunbridge Wells Roundtable, for their help with last year's annual firework display in Dunorlan Park. Although the 2012 TWGGS Team were in Ghana when the fireworks took place, an alternative team from the school rallied together to play a key role welcoming and directing thousands of visitors on the day.

THE NKWANTA AWARD - A REPORT FROM GILL NORRIS

In January, 400 children spent a very hot, tiring but enjoyable week at camp in Kyabobo National Park. We made a long and hot uphill trek to the waterfall, which offered great respite from the high temperature. Although there are animals in the park, we rarely saw them as the children were making too much noise. In the evenings we cooked rice and stew for everyone before settling down to go over what had been learnt during the day. After that, the children told stories and riddles until bedtime.

The annual camp was an exciting experience for the children that took part.

A huge thank you to Accra Breweries who have been sponsoring the Nkwanta Award. Their continued support is much appreciated.

