



KYABOBO SCHOOL FOR GIRLS: THE STORY SO FAR...

This has been an eventful first six months for the new Kyabobo School for Girls, with some significant triumphs under our belt in terms of reaching some key milestones and securing major support.

The government's Ghana Education Service (GES) have provided the school with some excellent teachers, who are working extremely hard in the classroom and are very active in running a range of extra-curricular clubs for activities such as drama, poetry recital, dance and singing.

Our first intake includes some very promising students, whom we must bring to their full potential - but we also have some girls who can barely read, so there are significant challenges ahead. In Nkwanta district, only 14% of girls passed their Basic Education Certificate this year (the lowest for some time) and we are aiming for at least 70% of our girls to be successful in 2015. We are teaching them to be more confident in class and they are much livelier than in mixed schools where the boys dominate.



The students have already sat their first exams with some girls excelling themselves. Understandably, non-readers found these difficult but we have now started a programme of one-to-one tuition with good readers helping those who struggle. The PTA raised some money to pay for our on-site playing field to be levelled, which avoids wasted time walking to the Kyabobo Centre for sports and has given us time for our new literacy hour. We have also managed to acquire equipment for a distance e-learning programme, comprising solar-powered computer links to a classroom in Accra for satellite-based teaching. Pictures and sound are sent both ways to allow questions and maximise interactivity.

We are now seeking funds to equip extra classrooms as our numbers increase over the next two years, as well as the completion of our science block. We are appealing to corporate donors as well as individual supporters and the TWGGS 2014 team to help with this. We want the girls to have all the resources necessary to give them the best chance of success and showing what they can achieve.

MORE INFO AT: www.ghanaeducationproject.org

OR DONATE NOW: www.gep300.org.uk

IN THE GIRLS' OWN WORDS...

"I like Kyabobo Girls' School because everything which is needed for education is provided, such as books, writing tools and materials. Secondly, the teachers in the school are hardworking and dedicated and they are very kind and I like them. Thirdly the teachers teach a lot and if they teach me I understand very well. Lastly, my school is having very beautiful buildings and we students are very disciplined and hardworking and the most interesting thing is that. In this school everything is provided and we do not pay fees like other schools do. So I just like the school because I never been in such a school."

From Victoria Nyarko, top set (see photo)

"I couldn't read but I came here and now I can read a book... and we are happy in the school."

Elizabeth Nani, Group 3 (see photo)

"The teachers give us very good advice because they like our future to be good for us."

Judith Nsiawu, Group 3

"The teachers are very kind and they have been guiding us so enthusiastically to perform well. I love my school very much because the teachers are honest, kind and all sorts of lovely words."

Mercy Mensah Dorman, Group 1 (see photo)



Students: Elizabeth, Mudira, Mariana, Mercy, Nancy, Victoria

TEACHERS' BUNGALOWS

The first block of teachers' bungalows are now complete and five teachers and their families are happily accommodated.

Thanks to a very generous donation we are now able to fund a second block of eight teachers' bungalows and the construction of these has already begun. The water shortage has made this challenging, as using the bore hole to pump and carry the amount needed for making cement blocks is not easy. We are just waiting for the rains to fall on the filling sand of the foundations before we can continue the building works.



Above: First block of teachers' bungalows completed

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Teachers (L-R Below): Evans, Evelyn, Bob, Naomi, Christopher, Ben



INTRODUCING OUR TEACHERS!

We are very pleased to welcome six new teachers to the school. Our headmaster and English teacher is Benjamin Hosi, who has previously worked in schools in the Nkwanta community, and spent some time visiting schools in Kent in 2011.

Ghana Education Service have provided us with Fred Semabia - ICT and Maths; Evans Sovon - French and English; Evelyn Anyamanu - Social Studies and RME; and Naomi Abekoe - Ghanaian language. In addition, we have Christopher Huago, who joined us from National Service, teaching Maths and Science.

GRAND OPENING: KYABOBO SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



On 12th December 2013, the Official Opening of the Kyabobo Girls' School took place. The ceremony included speeches by the headmaster, Ben Hozi and founder Gill Norris. In addition, the girls performed drama, poetry reading and choral work to a very high standard.

The day was a huge success and an opportunity for both students and staff to show their pride in the new school.

Left: Gill Norris with girls

Below Left: Girls at opening ceremony

Below Right: Ben Hozi giving his speech



PRESIDENTIAL VISIT



The President of Ghana visited our Kyabobo Centre recently for an important meeting with Local Chiefs

NKWANTA AWARD

This year, the number of children involved in our Nkwanta Award has increased to nearly 400. As this is too many for camping, we did day walks followed by a special quiz. The winners will be going to Mole National Park on 25 February for a three day visit, all sponsored by Voltic Water.



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FUNDRAISING UPDATE



TWGGS TEAM 2014

The team of girls from Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar (TWGGS) who are visiting Ghana in October 2014 are doing fantastically well with their fundraising efforts, having already raised over £20,000 towards their target of £50,000.

Recent fundraising events have included a Bake-off at TWGGS; collecting money at Dunorlan Fireworks in return for a donation from the Tunbridge Wells Roundtable; a Christmas Gift Fair with lots of brilliant stalls all themed around Christmas; using buckets to collect donations from the public at Tunbridge Wells Station in December; Bag Packing at Morrisons supermarket in December in return for donations... and there are many other exciting events in the pipeline over the coming months.

WELL DONE GIRLS!

And thanks to students, parents and staff at Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School for their ongoing support!



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Key dates for the next six months:

21st March 2014

GEP Rock & Pop Music Quiz, 7.30-10pm at Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School (TWGGS).

25th April 2014

Auction of Promises, held in collaboration with the school PTA at TWGGS, with 30% of profits going to GEP.

22nd June 2014

Tea in the Park – a delicious tea with live entertainment will take place again this year at Molyneux Park.

For tickets or more information about any of these fun events, please email Julie Robinson: robinson4@tesco.net

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

The efforts made by Gill Norris and the GEP Team have really paid off recently, as we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters since the school opened last September.

Special mentions for this edition go to:

- **Southborough Lions** (£1,000)
- **Tunbridge Wells Rotary Club** (£870 to buy a photocopier for the new school)
- **St Bedes School** (£2,577)
- **Tonbridge Grammar School** (£1,157)
- **Jo Feast** in Germany (€500)
- **Frank Jackson Foundation** (Undisclosed)
- **Voltic Water** (for renewing their generous sponsorship of the Nkwanta Award)

FIND OUT MORE AT: www.ghanaeducationproject.org.uk