



David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

In November 2011, David Wallwork and 15 volunteers from the UK spend over 3 weeks at the David School.



Secondary School Built

The highlight of the trip was the construction of the classrooms for the secondary school at the site.

After a lot of hard work by local Sierra Leonians and the volunteers, the school was opened on Friday 25th November 2011, by the Paramount chief of the area, seen with David on the right.



The building was made possible by the generous donation of £15,000 by the **Clifford Chance Foundation**. The David School Trust and all its supporters are extremely grateful to everyone involved in gaining this support. Plaques were erected to thank Clifford Chance and the volunteers.



School Meals

The children's health has improved steadily alongside their education, but poor nutrition still remains an issue. David has now negotiated with the **World Food Programme** to supply the pupils with lunches on school days, to the value of US\$8000. Bulgar wheat, split peas, oil and vitamin drinks will be provided, the

Trust will transport this to the community, which will do the cooking and serving. The Trust has bought bowls, cups, spoons and large serving bowls to help with this. The funding is initially for one year, but if it works well, it will hopefully be extended.

Some of the volunteers and the phonics kit



Teaching English through Phonics

English is traditionally taught by rote and word recognition, this means that adults and children have no skills to help them tackle unfamiliar words. Phonics have therefore been taught to the teachers and then to the pupils and this is now part of the curriculum. This will teach all the sounds that make up our language (and the exceptions), and as it includes rhymes and songs, it is fun!

New Staff & School Books

A plaque was erected in memory of the teacher Momoh Kamara, who died in August. A new headmaster has been appointed, Alusine Jalloh, and as the numbers in the secondary school increase more staff will be appointed.

David met with the Procurement Officer at the Ministry of Education in Sierra Leone, who has agreed to supply the necessary text books for Maths, English and Social Studies for the Junior Secondary exams.

Healthy Living



Promoting healthy living was another focus of the trip. Further work was done on teeth cleaning, and the children were encouraged to drink clean water from the well regularly, by providing water in the classrooms.

The secondary children were also taught the ABC of safe sex:

Abstain; **B**e faithful; use a **C**ondom

Lessons were taken very seriously, far more so than is often the case in England!

All the children in the community have also been de-wormed, with support from **UNICEF**.

Work With the Community

Helping the community through education has always been one of the aims of the David School Trust. Some of the volunteers concentrated on this, and the adults were given the opportunities to learn new skills and generate income.

- Micro-finance: 5 loans of £50 were given out to support projects that were thought to be worthwhile. This allows adults to borrow money on a low rate of interest over 2-3 years. One loan has gone to develop further the soap-making project started in 2010.
- Sewing: Jennie Richards taught several of the women in the community to use the sewing machines which had been donated to the community, and purses, bags and clothes were made. Jennie then taught some of the pupils to use the machines, and, perhaps surprisingly, it was the boys who showed the most interest and aptitude.
- Basket weaving & jewellery making: With help from Judy Wilkie, some lovely items were made, and it is hoped that in the future the skills learnt will be used to generate income.
- Thanks to the electricity now being generated, evening classes for the adults are continuing.



Can you help?

In order to continue the excellent work that has been started at the David School, the Trust still needs more people to sponsor pupils. This is especially important now that the secondary school is open. It costs just £5 a month to keep a child in school. If you can help, please email David on wallwork26@btinternet.com

Trip Dates for 2012: April (after Easter) & November (second half). Please contact David if you are interested.



The pupils and volunteers

Another very big thank you from all the pupils and the community

Particularly to all the volunteers who made this trip so successful:

Bill Barr
Cynthia Carter
Dee Cartlidge
Stuart Cartlidge
Caryl Dick

Jackie Grigor,
Ken Grigor
Bob Hislop
Michael Houlden
Pat O'Keefe

Jennie Richards
Catherine Thomas
Ian Wallwork
Alex Wilkie
Judy Wilkie

and all the organisations who have supported the work this time:

Clifford Chance Foundation, World Food Programme, DFID & UNICEF

If you think you can help in any way, please contact David on wallwork26@btinternet.com
For more information about the David School in Sierra Leone, visit www.thedavidschool.co.uk