



David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

New Building, New Beginnings

From 17th March to 6th April, David, Catherine and Mike were joined by a total of twelve other volunteers at the David School in Sierra Leone. During this time, the secondary school was completed, and officially opened on Friday 4th April.

The Building

The building was done by locals, supervised by Mike Houlden.



The secondary school building now consists of an L-shaped block with 5 classrooms and an outdoor teaching space.

There is also a resource centre, and accommodation for up to 4 teachers. At present, three teachers are using the accommodation. As they are living at the school, there is greater security, and this has also been increased with better locks on the doors.



The resource centre has been built ready to be fitted out to take all the teaching materials and some computers. The whole building has lighting, which runs off solar panels. The outside classroom will be used in the evenings by the community for meetings.

The Opening



The school was opened officially by Chief Komrabai II who is the second most important chief in the area.

Other chiefs from the area also attended the opening, as well as the pupils and people from the community which the school serves.



There were several presentations at the ceremony. The pupils sang, and some of the locals performed a play in Temne.



Some of the local men performed a high-wire act as shown in the picture on the left.



There was also some local dancing, and the local women sang their "Thank you" song. (See right)

New Teaching & Learning



The new building is already in use, and the picture on the left shows one of the new classrooms during a lesson.

The headmaster has left, and at present, David is acting as the head, with two deputies full-time at the school, one for the junior and infant classes and one for the secondary pupils. The position of Head Teacher is being advertised, but as there are no local papers, this is done over the local radio. All applicants' qualifications will be checked by the local Education Authority to ensure quality, and it is hoped to have someone in place by September.

Four of the school's teachers are doing further training at the nearest Teacher Training College in Port Loko. They teach full-time at the school, and study during the weekends and during the holidays. When they complete this, they will have gained an HTC (Higher Teaching Certificate) instead of the TC (Teaching Certificate) they have now. The first ones will qualify this summer. The David School Trust has loaned each of them the money for their course fees and they pay this back over the year from their salaries.

There are also three unqualified teachers training at the school. They work at the school during the term, and also study in their free time, and their course fees are being sponsored by Rotary Clubs in Norway.

The pupils are now beginning to experience some more modern teaching methods thanks to David's input and visits from teachers from England. Some lessons are being given out of doors, and some of the younger ones are being taught social skills through organised play. The picture below on the left shows the secondary school pupils returning from a science lesson outside with their teacher, Abdulai Bangura, and the one on the right shows a parachute being used to teach co-operation with younger children.



Thanks

None of this would have been possible without the support of all the Rotary Clubs, organisations and individuals around the world which support the David School Trust.

Special thanks this time go to the Equitable Charitable Trust without whose donation the secondary school would not have been completed, and the volunteers who went out to help this year.



A very big thank you from all the children and staff at the David School

Please contact David on wallwork26@btinternet.com or visit www.thedavidschool.co.uk