



# David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

**David Wallwork and his daughter, Catherine Thomas, have just returned from another 10 days at the David School in Sierra Leone.**

## The School's Continuing Success

The school is now teaching 285 pupils in 9 classes, far more than was envisioned 5 years ago when the school was first planned.

Class 6 (on the right) will sit for their NPSE (National Primary School Examination) exams in May, which if passed mean they can move onto secondary education. These results will be known in August.



The children in the Junior Secondary Class (JSS3), shown on the left, will be sitting their exams (BECE – Basic Education Certificate Examination) in June. The results will come out in December. Everyone wishes them all every success.



## We're training teachers now!

The school's success has now been recognised by the local Teacher Training College in Port Loko, and student teachers are now doing placements at the David School.

Fatmata, on the right, is the first of what will hopefully be many students.



## Solar Panels Lighting the Way

All the solar panels that have been fitted during 2011 and 2012 are working very successfully, and little needs to be done except change light bulbs. Many thanks to everyone involved in providing and fitting these, especially the members of **Norwegian Rotary Clubs, Micheal Houlden and Navitron Limited in Oakham**. In addition to lighting, they provide power for an electric circuit.



## Getting On Two Wheels

The twelve bikes sent out in the last container are now being used by the pupils who live furthest from the school.

The loan system is organised by the senior pupils, with the intention of giving them responsibility in recognition of their ability.

## Health Support

A supporter of the school from Ramsey, **Fran Taylor Jackson**, sadly died recently. Some money was given to the David School Trust in her memory, after her funeral, and this is paying the hospital bills for the school's children being treated in Waterloo. The hospital there is small, local and very caring, and is run by a local man, Dr David Koromo, and his staff.

The hospital's main requirements to be able to help the David School Community and others in the area are consultations by specialist consultants, and the money to purchase the antibiotics which are essential to treat the many infections that are prevalent.

## Paying the Teachers

The David School Trust has developed an excellent working relationship with the Ecobank in Waterloo. There are cheap, efficient transfer arrangements from the UK, with good exchange rates, and the bank delivers the teachers' wages in cash on the last Thursday of each month. The support of Mr Alfred Kargbo, the bank's manager, continues to be very much appreciated.

## Farm Progress

The Sierra Leone Ministry of Agriculture has agreed to survey the Trust's 12 acres of land to advice on its development for local use. This will include soil assessment, plant suitability and irrigation needs.

Once this has been done, it is hoped to operate a small school farm, giving the senior children some responsibility in this.

## Visiting Actors



One of the highlights of David and Catherine's trip was a visit to the school by a local youth cultural group.

Their performances included lots of laughter, but also addressed important historical and cultural issues, particularly relating to the position of female children in the local society. The picture on the left shows the



actor dressed as a witch doctor and the one on the right shows a church minister telling villagers that the way they treat girls and young women is unacceptable. He then casts out the witch doctors.

## Sewing and Self-Sufficiency

During the visit of 15 volunteers on November 2011, some sewing machines were delivered and pupils and adults taught to use them by Jennie Richards. Since then Ishmael, a student from Freetown visits the community every Saturday to continue with the sewing tuition. He was taught to sew by his uncle, a professional tailor, and he uses the money he is paid for the classes to pay for his further education. His Saturday classes are attended by some of the community's women, but also by older boys and girls. Now some of the school uniforms, especially for older pupils, have been made within the community, as can be seen in the picture on the right.



Many thanks to **Mrs West** for her continuing support with this project, including her recent donation of a further £100.

### Can you please help us continue the Trust's work?

**Just £5 a month** will provide education for a child at the school for a month.

Donations of the following are also needed:

**Toothpaste and soap**

**School uniform** The girls wear red and white gingham dresses, and the boys grey shorts and red shirts.

**Shoes.** Any enclosed shoes (i.e. those with enclosed toes and heels) would be welcome, including trainers, especially in large adult sizes up to size eleven.

**Thank you for all your continuing support.**

Please contact David on [wallwork26@btinternet.com](mailto:wallwork26@btinternet.com) or visit [www.thedavidsschool.co.uk](http://www.thedavidsschool.co.uk)