



# David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

## Good News The David School Reopens

As you may have heard on the news, Sierra Leone has announced that schools can reopen from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015, so the David School is open again for business.



Everyone connected with the school are so pleased and relieved that Ebola didn't reach the community at Mile 36 or our key workers out there, and would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the David School Trust's Emergency Fund during this awful time.



The David School was featured as one of only two slots on BBC Radio 5 Live's Drive programme on 14<sup>th</sup> April, when it was announced that the Sierra Leone schools were opening again. One of school's teachers, Abdulai Bangura was interviewed.

There is now a lot of work to be done in Sierra Leone to get the country back to the situation it was in before the Ebola outbreak decimated so many lives and livelihoods. However, the David School will play its part by offering excellent education to those in its community, and giving youngsters and their families the best chance they can.



### Pupils Return

Both the secondary and primary sections of the school have been opened. At present, approximately 80% of the pupils have returned to the school. Despite education having been over the radio and in small groups, children at the end of their primary education will soon be



entered for NPSE, and some of the older ones for BECE. Due to the closure being so long, the intake into reception class has doubled so we are in need of school uniform in small sizes.

### Our Teachers

Eight of the school's teachers stayed in the community during the outbreak, and worked with small groups. They are **Mohamed Fofanah** (the Acting Head), **Marian Wartman**, **Mohamed Conteh**, **Ibrahim Dumboya**, **Ishmael Conteh**, **Abudulai Bangura**, **Alimamy Bangura** and **Alusine Jalloh**.

## Staff Loyalty Rewarded

David wrote to the staff who stayed in the community in March, thanking them for efforts, saying, *The efforts of the staff through this very difficult period have been exemplary and worthy of considerable credit.*

*Your persistence, commitment and stamina have been second to none. This is why we decided to provide those of you with unbroken service through these times the recent financial bonus amounting to Le 100,000. The Trustees of the Charity would like to place their sincere thanks on record.*

David also asked them if they wanted to continue to support the school in the future, and they all wrote back to him confirming that they did. Their letters were long but included the following:

*I want to always be contracted to the David School* (Ibrahim Dumboya)

*I would like to be part of the (future) and I wish to be associated with and contracted to the David School* (Mohamed Conteh)

*I will always be part of any development of the David School.* (Marion Wartman)

*I am optimistic that Education Changes Lives. I promise that I will always be part of anything associated with and contracted to the future of the David School.* (Ishmael Conteh)

*On behalf of the staff we are very thankful for what you are doing for us. I comply with everything in your letter.* (Mohamed Fofanah)

In recognition of the loyalty these six staff have shown the school, the David School Trustees have to give each of them a 15% pay rise from September. In addition, they will continue to get free medical care for them and their families and interest-free loans to continue their studies.

## New Staff

A local girl, called Aminata Fullah, in the picture on the right, has been recruited as a trainee teacher at the school. She will work alongside the teachers during the term and will study at Port Loko in the school holidays. Her training is being paid for by **Norwegian Rotarians** and our sincere thanks to themselves for their continued support. It is hoped to recruit another trainee teacher soon.



## Water Purification

**The Rotary Club of Peterborough** has very kindly provided more LifeStraws water purification equipment for the outlying villages in The David School's community which do not have access to a well. LifeStraw Family is a point-of-use instant microbiological purifier that allows people to create a stable and reliable source of water for home consumption. Each one will filter up to 18,000 litres of water enough to supply a family of five with safe drinking water for three years.



## Handwashing

UNICEF delivered hand-washing equipment to the school, which is now set up outside the classrooms, and staff & pupils wash their hands every time they enter. This reinforces all the basic hygiene education which is being done with the community.

**Thanks to everyone who donated soap.**



## The Present Needs

✓ **Soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes** are still needed at the David School community, so further contributions will always be welcome, to top up the supplies that have already been used.

✓ **School uniform in small sizes** is also urgently needed: **red & white gingham dresses, red polo shirts and grey shorts**

Please contact David if you can help with any of this.

[wallwork26@btinternet.com](mailto:wallwork26@btinternet.com)

**Thanks to everyone involved with The David School especially Alfred Conteh and Hassan Lansana**