



TOFTA, LMVC News bulletin

**'EDUCATING THE LESS FORTUNATE &,
'REACH HIGH THROUGH HARD WORK'**

Tofta Educational Trust P.O. Box 1200, Jinja Web: www.lordsmeade.org Email: toftatrust@yahoo.com



One needy child educated is a proper future secured for the entire society.

December 2011



Dear friends,

December is here and Lords Meade Vocational College has closed for the two months holiday.

Meanwhile we are relaxing a bit and thinking about what 2012 will hold for us. It will be the tenth anniversary of the opening of Lords Meade

Vocational College and we look forward to enjoying the celebrations in July.

We are looking forward to receiving 3 volunteers from UK, and we are most grateful to Val Chilvers for her part in preparing them for their 6 months with us.

2011 has not been kind—prices of essential commodities went mad after the elections in Feb which has been a major financial burden to all involved. However, we have reached the end of the academic year and we look forward to an easier year next year.

I would like to thank all our sponsors & supporters who have so kindly continued to support our valuable work with the vulnerable youth this year.

Sadly we have had one sponsor withdraw due to financial pressures, and this is now leaving Viola with a doubtful future—can you help raise sufficient funds for her to continue with her Senior 5 'A' level course next year? I wonder what her future will be?

The Senior 4s & 6s have completed their 'O' & 'A' level exams and now we have to wait for the results in the New Year, and then see where some of our less fortunate children can go onto.

Recently I have been told of 2 of our former beneficiaries studying for their PhDs. One OB, Jude Ssempebwa has already been awarded his PhD, and meanwhile Aaron Kimwezi is finalizing his. These are remarkable results and just indicate what can be done with a bit of input from outside when they were in difficult times.

Other old students are now climbing the ranks in the business world, and most satisfyingly, are now catering for their siblings in education.

I conclude by thanking everyone for their continued support in whatever way you have been able to offer, and wish you and your families a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

John Kirkwood. - Director & Founder

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

2011 has come to a close and to this end, we are very grateful to the almighty God for having seen us through what has been a very difficult year for all the stakeholders.

We thank the Board of Governors, the parents, the teaching and non-teaching staffs, the students, old boys and old girls of Lords Meade Vocational College for the support and the hard work they all put in to see Lords Meade Vocational College through this year.

To our partners in the United Kingdom and United States, we say thank you. Your support has been a great boost in the growth and development of Lords Meade Vocational College.

As we start the new year 2012, we look forward to a better year as we celebrate 10 years since the college started serving the community.

It is here that we would like to extend our invitation to you to join us next year in the month of July as we celebrate Lords Meade decade of existence.

You are all most welcome. We wish you a **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Mark Malinga

Headmaster.



I AM A QUALIFIED TEACHER NOW, THANK YOU VERY MUCH TET



Francis Ssemanda (on the left in photo) with his grandmother were photographed in October when they came back to say thanks to Tofta Educational Trust. Francis first came to TET offices in 2005, with his grandmother when they were seeking for someone to help him join A-levels. His grandmother had struggled to see him complete O-levels, by selling tea by the roadside. She could not afford the fees to further his education. At that time when the Trust officials visited their home, 20 km from Jinja town, the family were sleeping in a rented one room made from mud and wattle. Four other orphans, his relatives, were also sharing the same room. T E T recruited him and he was admitted at Lords Meade Voc College for his A-levels. He passed well and the government admitted him to Kyambogo University in 2008. He completed his Bachelors of Education (Sciences) in June this year and he will graduate in January 2012.



He has started teaching in a private secondary school near Jinja, where he earns a salary, and now supports the family.

He appreciates the generosity of the individual donors who have seen the needy youths like him realize their potentials. "Life will never be the same for us everything has changed., "Thank you very much TET" his grandmother appreciated. On the left below is Francis in 2005

NEW GIRLS DORMITORY

We are most grateful to the Mayhew family for the donation that will enable us to construct a new girls' dormitory for an additional 44 girls on double decker beds. Construction has started adjacent to the existing girls dormitories and we look forward to opening this valuable asset in the New Year.

UNEB 'O' & 'A' LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

This year's Uganda Certificate of Education and the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education examinations started on the 14th Oct and 14th Nov. respectively. 123 students sat for O-levels and 114 sat for their A-levels. The non candidate classes also began their promotional exams on the 9th November.

We wish all students success in their examinations and a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

In the photograph, are FORM 4 candidates doing their mock papers.



NEW STAFF HOUSE COMPLETED AND HANDED OVER



On behalf of LMVC, we are glad to inform you that the 4 unit teacher's house was completed and handed over to the school administration by the PTA chairman on behalf of the parents. The hand over ceremony was held on the 16th October, the day of the Parents and Teacher's Annual General meeting.

Mr. Patrick Dhizaala the PTA chairman said that the project is timely as it will improve on the teachers' welfare and the relationship between the Teachers and students since more teachers will be residing on the school compound.

Tofta Educational Trust appreciates the PTA for their enormous efforts and contributions towards this project.

4 staff members are now enjoying the new accommodation.

In the pictures: **Above:** the house still under construction

Below: The handover ceremony



OTHER SCHOOL PROJECTS

Among the other development projects which the school needs are;

1. **A kitchen, & dining area,** as the current kitchen is a wooden structure from where meals are served. The students then look for somewhere to sit and eat, which is often in their dormitories. There is a great need to improve on the kitchen & dining facilities.
2. **School bus.** Contributions towards a 30 seater school bus started in term one this year. This will facilitate students to go for field trips and sporting events
3. **Boys dormitory.** The incomplete storied boys dormitory needs to be completed, and will then provide more space in all the boys dormitories.
4. **School library.** A fundraising dinner was held last year in order to raise funds to get a new library. The initial funds raised have been able to erect the reinforced concrete pillars.
5. **Computer Laboratory.** The current room is small. In the photo on the right, are the form four students in the current room. They study in shifts because of the inadequate space. The Computer laboratory & library that are under construction have been designed to occupy the same building.



Donations from Partners

Lords Meade Vocational College and Tofta Educational Trust receive a significant amount of its funds from public donations, and without the generous help of our donors we could not continue to run yet there is much need to help the less fortunate youth in the developing countries in order to fight poverty.

This means that any money donated is spent directly on the required resources like text books and equipment.

In the pictures on the right; Above; the Headmaster addressing parents (in the picture below) during the PTA's AGM. The Public Address System we are using for meetings and assemblies was donated by our link school Rendcomb College while Wolverhampton Grammar School donated 7 computers.

We are most grateful for these kind donations.



CAN YOU HELP VIOLA?

Viola came into T.E.T. two years ago and has recently sat her Senior 4 'O' levels. Viola, an orphan, relies on her grandmother in Kampala who brews 'local brew' to cater for her grandchildren. However, recently her sponsors stated that due to the current financial situation they could no longer support her. While we are waiting for her exam results which will direct her future, TET is looking for ways of supporting her either through another 2 years of 'A' level studies or else through a 2 year vocational training course.

While the full amount may be beyond many of our supporters at the current time, perhaps enough small donations will be able to assist this promising girl through this difficult time?

CAN YOU HELP? Please donate so that the Trust's work can continue to help vulnerable youth to obtain education, accommodation and health services so they may have a better future.

STERLING DONATIONS: Please make out cheques to "Tofta Educational Trust" and forward to:
The Secretary, Tofta Educational Trust, Flat 302, Bridge House, Sion Place, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4BW

ON LINE DONATIONS:

If you prefer an on line option, please donate on line via the Torrey Pines Rotary Club Foundation at:
www.lordsmeade.org You will receive a 501(c) 3 receipt. Email: toftatrust@yahoo.com

Phone: +256 772 412345/ +256 774 225355

Please state if you would prefer to support a boy or a girl.

Tofta Educational Trust, P.O. Box 1200, Jinja, Uganda

TET is registered with the Charity Commissioners in UK, and as an N.G.O. in Uganda

www.lordsmeade.org