



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



SEPTEMBER 2012

10TH ANNIVERSARY



I am very happy to be writing this message to all our friends and supporters.

The 10th anniversary celebrations were held on 7th July and we were blessed with over 1000 visitors, parents and old students. It was a delight to see so many coming to support the College on its special day. The Guest of Honour was Hon. Dr. J.C. Muyingo, Minister of State for Higher Education. He appeared to be very impressed by what he saw the students presenting.

Recently a phone call from Dr. Aaron Kimwise brought a big reward. About 10 years ago he was dropping out of Senior 5 as his family could not afford the school fees. Tofta was able to assist him, and now he has just been awarded his PHD. A real reward for both Aaron and Tofta.

The credit crunch continues to bite and we are fearful about the future of many of our less fortunate beneficiaries. We are so grateful for Dale Knight for kindly agreeing to sponsor Janet Karugwe. Sadly there are many other 'Janets' who may not continue with their education unless a kindhearted person steps in to save them. The thought of these young girls stopping their education and then gamboling with life is frightening.

I would like to draw your kind attention to the appeal for text books—while we have a reasonably full library the staff are always requesting for the more relevant text books now available in Uganda. We have greatly appreciated the second-hand books that we received as donations, but we feel it is time to update them with more current text books for the benefit of the students.

We always enjoy visitors, and we are very grateful to Rotary Past District Governor Steve & Vicky Wallace for their recent visit when they came to check on the students their Rotary Clubs are sponsoring at Lords Meade. We also enjoyed a visit from the Interact Club of Excellent High School of Mathare North in Nairobi. The trip was organized by a former LMVC student and Tofta beneficiary, Jimmy Okoth Ndede.

Please read carefully the part on the new 'SKILLING UGANDA' initiative. This promises to be a big boost for the improvement of the skills training in Uganda, and we are proud that LMVC is involved in this new initiative.

With best wishes to all our supporters.

John Kirkwood. Director

Dear Readers,

L.M.V.C celebrated 10 years of existence on 7/7/2012. We appreciate Parents and all Stake Holders for their enormous support.

As of now, our major emphasis is on Vocations as exhibited during the Anniversary Celebrations. It was difficult in 2002 when we began but now many love to work with their hands on and as well use their brains, hence working towards vocational and academic Excellency.

L.M.V.C is a unique school with double curriculum, and indeed our pioneer class; Year 3 - 2012 are to sit for D.I.T (Department of Industrial Training) examinations in Mid October 2012.

It is our hope that by the time they leave this school, they should be happy to take on blue -collar jobs, if the white -collar jobs are not easily available.

Besides Academics, we offer the following very useful courses; Tailoring, Catering, BCP (Brickwork & Concrete Practice), C.J (Carpentry & Joinery), and Agro-culture.

To our donors we appreciate your effort, and to our big Parents like Children of Grace, Tofta, Good Shepherd Fold and Bujaggali Trust, we say thank you, and the struggle continues.

To our Candidates 2012, success.



Owino Raymond – Raanga
HEAD TEACHER

A DECADE OF COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

The past 10 years have seen tremendous improvement in the skills development among the youths in Buikwe, Jinja and Njeru communities. This has been due to the establishment of Lords Meade Vocational College which offers vocational skills training as part of its curriculum. LMVC was established with the aim of empowering the youths who might not be good in class but very good at hands-on subjects thus equipping them with skills, making them employable in the job market. At LMVC, students sit for a certificate from the Directorate of Industrial Training by the Ministry of Education. Hence at the end of the four years, they are able to be employed to earn a living.

PICTORIAL



Left; the Guest of Honor Hon. J.C Musingo (with a jacket in centre), on a tour of the school. On display are some of the products made by students from different departments.

Here on display, were cakes from the Home Economics department and door mats from the Art and Crafts department.



Above; students performing a traditional dance, are joined by the parents. There was a lot of entertainment.

Right; the Guest of Honor receiving a bunch of bananas grown in the school farm.



Left; An Agriculture student demonstrating how to plant a banana plant using modern farming methods for better harvests.

Right; A student displaying an improved variety of cassava, a staple food. With better farming methods, this cassava matures in 3 months.



Far left:

A tailoring and garment student displaying their products during the 10th anniversary,



Left; a carpentry and joinery class

"Educating the Less Fortunate" and "Reach High Through Hard Work"

10 YEARS AGO, AND NOW



Above: The year 2003 when the Minister of Education, Hon Namirembe Bitamazire was planting a tree during the ceremony of opening Lords Meade Vocational College. she was the Guest of Honor and 2nd from Left; is Mr. John Agaba the chairman of Tofta Educational Trust.

Right: After 10 years this year, on the 7th July 2012, the Minister State for Education Hon J.C Muyingo planting a tree during the 10th Anniversary.

The official opening of LMVC was 18 months after the school first started operating.



In the pictures below; Since 2002 many students have excelled in various skills. Some get employment in the community, and others continue to higher institutions. A decade of comprehensive education. Thank you LMVC.



The Guest of Honour discusses carpentry with a student who built a stool.



A student displays some of the cakes & pies prepared in the Home Economics Department



A student and the farm manager attending to a calf at the farm.

CAN YOU HELP A NEEDY CHILD ACCESS VALUABLE COMPREHENSIVE SECONDARY EDUCATION?

For only US\$2—or £1 a day—a needy child can obtain valuable education and guidance. A child grieves more for his / her education than for the death of a parent. Can you replace that parent and give a needy child chance in life? Please see pg 7 for more details.

“Educating the Less Fortunate” and “Reach High Through Hard Work”

MESSAGE FROM JOHN GROMADZKI OF W.G.S.



Greetings readers. My name is John Martin Gromadzki and you are reading my words as a result of my decision to explore, to study and to practice the craft of theatre, in Uganda. The equivalent of a 'Senior-6-Graduate', I finished schooling at LMVC's link school Wolverhampton Grammar School in July of 2011 with the decision already made not to fall straight into university; prioritising my relationship with the World and the people who inhabit it, it follows that I would have to experience it.

Aspiring to train as an actor in the UK, my intentions in Africa are to broaden my understanding of the human being and its intrinsic need for storytelling. The primary aim of my visit is to work with students and staff at LMVC, staging a dramatic production in November.

Originally intending to bring classical British scripts to life in an African environment, it became clear early on in my stay that I would sooner get access to a true African theatre experience by exploring an African story. I have selected to direct *The Bride* by Austin Bukenya, overseeing a two month project in which willing students shall be participating in an intensive extracurricular Music Dance & Drama timetable. This project will look to bring together the talents of students throughout the school, ranging from actors, vocalists and dancers, to set designers, stage managers and musicians.

I have spent my time in Uganda so far, working with students on a technical approach to English speech and language. This has given me time to become acclimatized into and recognized within the school community. After a month of moving around Uganda, to experience the idiosyncrasies of the many cultures canopied by the wings of the crested crane (too many to list in my allotted space upon this newsletter), I now feel ready to bring these cultural aspects together in the form of *The Bride*, which the playwright himself recognizes as an amalgamation of African circumstances, rather than a study of a particular ethnic group.

Bukenya writes that the amalgamation of ingredients involved in a production of a piece of theatre "become dramatic when they are organised and enacted in a pattern of concentration which compels us to watch and which rewards our watching with a contribution to our experience". It is precisely this that I hope to achieve alongside the people of LMVC, to know that I have brought something of myself to Uganda, and will be leaving Uganda, with something of it, in me.



Above: A group of old students, both LMVC & Tofta beneficiaries, enjoyed their reunion during the celebrations for the 10th anniversary. It is a great reward to see most of them 'reaching high through hard work!'

"Educating the Less Fortunate" and "Reach High Through Hard Work"

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE.

It gives me enormous pleasure to write my message in the magazine which celebrates the 10th anniversary of Lords Meade Vocational College (LMVC).

10 years ago I commented about how much the late Dr Martin Luther King had impacted on me with his famous words of 'I HAVE A DREAM...'. My dream has taken off and I am delighted to see how the old students of Lords Meade Vocational College are 'Reaching High Through Hard Work'.

When we opened the gates of the LMVC in February 2002 it was with trepidation as we watched the first few students trickle in. Now we are proud to have over 650 students enjoying the facilities of LMVC, and we are delighted to see how well our old students are doing. We also appreciate the work and support of the LOMOSA – the Old Students' Association.

We have enjoyed seeing the timid, rather lost, soul find themselves at LMVC and turn around into becoming a young person brimming with confidence and running their own company. We have also witnessed the boy & girl saying 'I can't do it' and then watching them come back a little later saying 'I never thought I was that good at that activity'!

In the 10 years we have seen three headmasters, each of whom has paid a major part in helping the school grow. We are deeply indebted to their experience, work and inputs that have seen such growth.

A school cannot function without both the academic staff as well as the non-academic staff. We are blessed that we still have several members of the original staff, as well as equally capable newer staff who work hard for the benefit of the students.

My thanks also go to the non-teaching staff, who keep the school secure and the students well fed, as well as assisting in the general running of the school.

I must thank all our parents, friends both local & overseas, and well-wishers who have helped either spiritually or financially. Your help and support has provided so much for the school – from school buildings, the Farnfield Medical Centre, and laboratory equipment as well as games equipment and text books. There are so many individuals, groups and Rotary Clubs that have provided this very valuable and greatly appreciated support. This is especially true in today's world of recession in the economies of our various supporters. We feel very blessed by your support.

The dream of a bigger & better Lords Meade Vocational College continues, and I look forward to the next ten years and see what developments have taken place, and how many more less fortunate youths have been able to benefit from our services.

I conclude by thanking God for His mercies, and everyone for their moral, physical & financial support which provides a better future for some of the less fortunate children in the society of this part of East Africa.



Right: The Technical Drawing Department displayed a scale model of the proposed library & computer laboratory building.

VISITORS

We welcome all our visitors to Lords Meade Vocational College.

Recently we have enjoyed a visit from Past District Governor Steve & Vicky Wallace from Rotary District 5330, who came to check on the progress of the students their Rotary District is sponsoring at L.M.V.C. As part of their 'Adopt A Village' Project. By educating some of the school children from the village it is hoped that the standard of living in the village will be raised. We always enjoy P.D.G. Steve & Vicky's visits as they are both so enthusiastic about the education of less fortunate children.



LEFT: In September we enjoyed hosting a group of Interactors from the Interact Club of Excellent High School, Nairobi, where one of the former Tofta beneficiaries, Jimmy Okoth Ndede, (far right) is teaching. He is the patron of the Interact Club. The Excellent High School is situated in Mathari North suburb of Nairobi.

The students at LMVC enjoyed mixing with their Kenyan visitors and are hoping to pay a visit to their new friends.

TEXT BOOKS APPEAL

During the 10th Anniversary the College launched an appeal for funds for the purchase of text books, and while some friends have responded, and the College has purchased some text books, there is a need for the College to improve on the quality and quantity of text books in the library. We prefer to buy text books locally so that we can obtain the books that the teachers are familiar with, and also it stimulates the local economy.

We will, as always, be most grateful for any donation, however small, towards this appeal. Donations can be either sent by sterling cheque to the Secretary in Bristol, UK, or can be donated on line by credit card. Further details are available on the website—www.lordsmeade.org.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME—SKILLING UGANDA

The Ministry of Education has recently launched a new scheme for improving vocational skills of the youth. The new scheme is called: 'Skilling Uganda'.

LMVC has been inspected by the Ministry of Education and the staff and facilities passed the inspection, so we are now witnessing a new form of student who is improving their vocational skills by doing one of the 3 month courses.

We look forward to more members of the local community benefitting from skills obtained at Lords Meade Vocational College.

LORDS RESISTANCE ARMY STUDENTS

Despite the fact that the LRA civil war in Northern Uganda has been over for a number of years the children who were abducted and forced to serve as soldiers are still growing up and requiring education.

Currently Francis Okello is in S5 at LMVC, his colleague Bosco Okello has just started a diploma course in Industrial Design at Kampala International University at the Jinja Campus. Patrick Okello is completing a computer course in Kampala, and Ceasar Nyeko has started his last year in Civil Engineering at Elgon Technical College. We look forward to seeing all of these youth taking off into a better life. We thanks all the sponsors who have made it possible for them to achieve this level of education.

OUR DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE

In our last Newsletter of May, we featured John Bbosa, a blind boy, (right), he had hopes of furthering his education to university, only when he is admitted to a state university, and on a government scholarship, after completing his secondary education. Good news is that he has been admitted to the prestigious Makerere University, in Kampala, to study a Bachelors of Education in Arts.

John is indeed one of the many testimonies of Tofta Educational Trust and Rotary, having reached this far with his education. He sends special thanks Mr. Ken Donnelly, who supported his education through this trust. His challenge now is to acquire a Braille machine for his studies at the university. One of TET's task is to look for funds towards this cause in making a difference with one at a time.



Dr. Aaron Kimwise (left) came for assistance when he was dropping out of school in Form 5 in 2001 and Tofta Education Trust was able to assist him to complete his A levels, which he passed well and was able to further his education at Kampala International University.

He has now completed his PHD in Management Information Systems and is awaiting his graduation. He now lectures at Kampala International University.

Congratulations Aaron, you are the first Tofta beneficiary to have achieved a PHD!

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

At Tofta Educational Trust, we continue to convey our sincere appreciation to our esteemed friends who sacrifice by assisting an individual child at school with education.

In the picture is a 14 years old Janet Karugwe, whose single mother struggles to put the 2 of her 7 children through school. For her past two terms at Lords Meade College, she has been sharing a bed with her sister. Her mother could not afford to buy two mattresses. We are proud to inform that Dale Knight from USA has pledged to assist Janet with her school fees at LMVC.



Thank you very much friends for your continued support in our work.

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