



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



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2013



I start this newsletter by greeting all our friends and supporters.

I have mixed feelings as I start to write. I am happy about the 'O' & 'A' level results—we had some good results from students who came from very poor homes—please see Peter's story inside.

Recently I had a very sad day—in my last message I said that we were running very short of funds. Sadly we had to tell over 40 students that we could no longer assist them with their fees—the look in their eyes were ones of loss of hope, and the loss of their dreams of becoming a useful, professional person in their community — what will become of their lives now? When a child loses a parent he or she mourns the loss of their education more than they mourn the loss of their parent.

We also have not been able to continue supporting the 12 students whom we assisted in Senior 4 last year—they sat for their UNEB 'O' level exams in October, and Tofta Educational Trust has not been able to push them on into their 'A' level classes.

Tofta Educational Trust thanks the few individuals who have come in to assist the individual student—their £1 a day makes such a difference to these children's lives.

We are now well into the first term of the 2013 academic year—the Senior 1 and Senior 5 students have reported. They are settling in well into their first term at Lords Meade Vocational College, and we are happy to welcome them. Unfortunately we have not been able to carry forward some of the more promising sponsored students—Bovince Omondi passed his 'O' levels very well, which is a remarkable achievement bearing in mind that he had a term out when he was in Senior 3 when he contracted T.B.. Currently he is sitting in his village pondering his future.

In February we were blessed by a visit from our long time friend, Kathy Mayhew, who was able to officially open the girls' dormitory for which she kindly raised the funds. The dormitory will be named the 'Davis Dormitory' after Kathy's late mother. It can accommodate up to 44 students on double decker beds, and it will be used by the Senior 6 students.



Above: Rotarian Christopher Major gives a stimulating talk to the Senior 5 & 6 students about education in California.

We were delighted to see our seasonal visitors, Rotarian Dale Knight and her party, as well as Past District Governor Steve Wallace and Vicky, his wife, along with their party to check on the progress of the students who benefit from the 'Adopt A Village' project near Kumi.

Rotarian Christopher Major came for his first visit and kindly gave several talks to the students, who learnt a lot about the education system and the geography of California.

We are delighted that the Headmaster, Raymond Owino, has returned safely after a hectic 3 week trip to UK, where he was able to visit our link schools—Wolverhampton Grammar School & Thurfield College. He also had his first experience of snow!

I conclude this message by thanking all those supporters and sponsors who are giving a needy child hope in their future and dreams of a professional job through their secondary education. This is a very valuable part of a young person's life. For only £1 (US\$2) a day we can provide education, food and housing to a needy, intelligent child.

With grateful thanks for your current and future support.

John Kirkwood.

Director, Tofta Educational Trust & Lords Meade Vocational College.

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF STUDIES—DAVID MUNOBWA



It is such a pleasure for me to be part of this edition of TET/LMVC Newsletter that brings all the developments and happenings at both the Trust and the College.

Since the last edition, a lot has happened, and one of which are the results for both the “O” and “A” levels who sat for their UCE and UACE national examinations in November last year.

The results came out in February, and we are proud to inform you that out of 108 candidates of S.4, we registered 100% pass, with no failure Div 1 -13, Div 2-37, Div 3- 32 and Div 4-26.

Two students tied in position one each scoring 22 aggregates in eight subjects and have already enrolled for their “A” levels.

For the UACE, out of the 93 candidates, 82% obtained the 2-4 principal passes that are required for university admission.

Many thanks and appreciations go to the staff for the great work of intense teaching and hard work with inspiration to see all these good grades from these students.

We are waiting for the release of the Directorate of Industrial Training results for the 2012 candidates of which we are optimistic will be good.

We have started the year with a lot of seriousness, zeal and discipline from all us, the teachers, students and administrators and we hope with all this energy, the sky will be the limit as ‘we reach high through hard work’.

Finally, I call upon all our friends, our esteemed sponsors, parents and old students to continue supporting the College and you are welcome to visit any time.

David Munobwa. - **Director Of Studies.**

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Bovince Omondi (right) comes from Western Kenya where he stays with his widowed mother. Bovince is a talented footballer and has played for the Lords Meade Vocational College Team. In 2011 he had to have a term out of school as he contracted T.B., but he worked hard on his return to school and passed his ‘O’ level exams well. He obtained a Division 1, which is the top division.

We are now looking for a sponsor to assist Bovince to continue with his academic career so that he can study for his ‘A’ levels. Any assistance that can be offered to him will make a large impact on the life of this promising young man.



FIELD VISIT TO KAYUNGA

Friday 29th January 2013, the Co-director of **Tofta Educational Trust**, Mr. Peter Kalibbala paid a visit to Janet Karugwe's home. Janet is a 16 yrs old, less advantaged, girl whose profile and family background we put in our last newsletter. She has nine siblings all of whom are being looked after by their single mother who makes charcoal and grazes people's cattle for a living. Since last year, a Rotarian friend of our directors, **Dale Knight** pledged to assist with paying school fees for Janet.

Top Right, Janet is in uniform with a neck tie, her mother and her siblings while listening to Mr. Peter Kalibbala.

Below right; is Janet (green T-shirt) in front of the family home which is over 100kms north of Jinja near Kayunga.

At **Lords Meade Vocational College**, Janet enjoys brick laying and construction, a skill from which she has a dream of constructing a better house for the family after her studies.

We thank Dale for coming in to assist Janet through TET. The assistance rendered to Janet will transform this family in many ways, as her mother can now try to put her other children into primary school as she has been relieved of the burden of fees. With education, we are sure this family will not be the same.



THE NEED FOR SPONSORSHIP—£1 (US\$2) a day educates and feeds a needy child

At the beginning of every year, Tofta Educational Trust receives applicants who come in seeking for assistance with their education. While the Trust has been able to recruit each year, unfortunately, this year we are not able to, yet the needs and demands of these youths who have managed to complete their primary education but cannot afford secondary education is overwhelming.

Right is **Yoweri Lubaale** who had been brought by his uncle (**seated on the left**), to the Trust offices to apply for sponsorship. His uncle is a welder and metal fabricator in a village in Kamuli district and earns little yet he has 10 of his own children and 2 orphans to look after. He managed to see Yoweri through primary but cannot afford secondary school fees. Yoweri passed well his PLE, and has a dream of becoming a medical doctor if he gets a chance of education. Can anyone help this boy to achieve his dream?



NEW GIRLS DORMITORY OPENED

The Management, the Board of Governors, the students (especially girls) and the entire Lords Meade community extend their appreciation to Rtn. Cathy Mayhew for coming over to Lords Meade College for the opening of the new girls dormitory. Mrs Mayhew kindly raised the funds and donated the dormitory in memory of her late mother.

Due to the increasing numbers of girls getting enrolled at LMVC, last 10 years, dormitory space in girls wing had become a dire need.

The new dormitory will house up to 44 more girls which will reduce the current cramped conditions in the existing girls' dormitory.

We thank Cathy Mayhew for her generosity and support towards our girls.



RESULTS FOR THE DIT CANDIDATES STILL PENDING



Above: Building and construction candidates doing practical during the final examinations of the Directorate of Industrial Training (D.I.T.).

Right: DIT S.2 class building a chicken house at school

The vocational skills are taught in addition to the more normal academic subjects. Many former students have pursued further vocational training and are currently gainfully employed in vocational careers.

Last year the S3 students sat for the first 'Department of Industrial Training' Craft Certificate examination. The results are yet to be released, but all at LMVC are hopeful that this first group will have their first qualification in vocational training soon.

This is a new initiative of LMVC in the hopes of making the students more independent as the youth of today with their vocational skills.



RECOGNITION OF THE BEST PERFORMING STUDENTS



LEFT: Derrick Banadda receiving a present from the head of vocational department, for being the best vocational student in S.2 in 2012.

RIGHT: Derrick receives a maroon tie for being the best in academics



BELOW LEFT: Akwii Wini-fred receiving a maroon neck tie from the head master in recognition of her academic performance last term.



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Every term the 'academic giants' receive an award for their hard work. The top boy and girl in each class receives a maroon tie which identifies them as the top students in the class.

In various subjects the top student receives a token of the administration's appreciation towards their hard work.

Competition for the maroon 'academic giant' tie is very high amongst the leaders in each class.

WHERE DO THE FORMER LORDS RESISTANCE ARMY CHILD SOLDIERS GO?



10 years ago there was a civil war going on in Northern Uganda, and Francis Okello (left) and Bosco Okello (right) were caught up in the Lords Resistance Army—both of them were abducted, then served for five or more years. They were abandoned when Bosco was shot in the leg during a skirmish, and Francis when he lost a leg when he stepped on a landmine. These young men both lost a leg and had prosthetic legs made by a Rotary sponsored Jaipur limb project.

Bosco subsequently studied at the former Rachelle Centre in Lira, while Francis has been a beneficiary of Tofta Educational Trust and a student at Lords Meade Vocational College.

Bosco is currently studying for a diploma in Industrial Art & Design at Kampala International University, Jinja Campus, while Francis is in S6 at LMVC.

Part of their rehabilitation program has been to get them into school so that they can catch up with their age mates and live a more normal life. At times the scars of their former lives appear, but they are coping well in their current lives. They are two of the fortunate former 'rebel' abductees—others returned to their homes and were unable to continue with their education.

SEEKING FOR SPONSORSHIP—AN EDUCATED CHILD IS AN ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY

We are appealing to well wishers and individuals who may be in a position to support some of the youths in need of assistance with their education. **Left; Nicolas Kamira**, a 15 year old boy in S.2 at LMVC who is being raised by a single mother who works as a secretary at a primary school and can not afford supporting Nicolas and his seven siblings in school. **Centre: Caroline Kamusiime**, whose parents are both alive but very poor and unable to support her with school fees.



Right: Catherine Nakawunu a total orphan who is being raised by a maternal aunt who has her own children to look after.

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MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS.

We thank all our esteemed friends and well wishers for the kind generosity rendered to us. We are very grateful for occasional visits and all you help us with. **Right; Ceaser**, an old boy who was assisted & taught by Mr. Kirkwood while in Masaka.

He brought to the school basket ball equipment which was received by the Director in the Headmaster's office.



CAN YOU HELP? Please donate any amount 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. A full sponsorship for one year costs £360 or US\$720. **£1 (US\$2) a day educates a child!**

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
N.G.O. in Uganda

TET is registered with the Charity Commissioners in UK, and as an

www.lordsmeade.org