

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



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

October 2013



Dear friends and supporters

I am feeling very blessed as I sit down to write my message. In October I was blessed and rewarded:

Two Old Boys from St Charles Lwanga S.S.S. visited the Tofta Office along with their families.

Charles Sseketawa, on right in picture, now works in Southern Sudan amongst the displaced peoples camps. Martin Lule, on left, now works in Nottingham UK with his wife and 2 boys. Centre is Peter Kalibbala, the co-director of Lords Meade Vocational College and Tofta Educational Trust. On Friday I drove to collect his son who is now in boarding

school near Kampala. I have recently received news that Peter Lubega, also a former student and beneficiary has received a promotion in the Ugandan Army.

I also attended the wedding of Verrah Oketch, a Tofta Educational Trust beneficiary and former student of Lords Meade Vocational College.

What is common with all these 5 former students is that they were all heading for dropping out of school, and yet with the required input they have all managed to fly high and achieve something valuable in their lives. All of the Kasasa OBs have been able to assist siblings and are now supporting their own children. I feel this is a great move forwards considering the homes they came from.

Lords Meade Vocational College enjoyed a busy term. A lot of teaching, exams and activities, as well as visitors. We especially welcome Val Fogarty from Wolver Hampton Grammar School. Sadly this will be her last visit as the link coordinator. She came with a large group of staff and students from W.G.S. They are all very welcome, as are all our visitors.

During the Sports Day there was a small table with a girl selling snacks. This was Lydia Akol. She is the mother of 2 children. Her parents were badly affected by the war in Northern Uganda in the early 2000s when her father was a government official. Eventually the family had to flee from Gulu, and her parents could no longer support her in school. Subsequently she became pregnant and later married the father of the child. After a second child she left the unsatisfactory relationship. She was able to travel to Jinja to stay with her aunt who recommended her to Tofta Educational Trust, and now she is in Senior 2. She works very hard at her studies as well as maintaining her young family. She is an inspiration to many as she juggles the demands on her time as she makes the most of her second chance of education.

Sadly there are too many 'Lydias' in Uganda who unfortunately become victims of unsatisfactory relationships due to lack of support during their education.

Sports Day was a great treat. It made me nostalgic remembering the sports activities on the Sports field at Starehe Boys Centre. It was very moving to see the young students running their best races and doing their field events and the extra efforts they were able to pull out when in real competition. I hope that those with the most talent can go on and use these talents to further their lives.

The new girls dormitory is now ready for occupation by the girls. This is a major step forward, and we express our sincere thanks to Rotarian Kathie Mayhew for her generosity.

The Senior 4s & 6s are now in their final straights for their 'O' and 'A' levels which started in October; I wish them well and ask you all to hold them in your prayers.

I hope that you enjoy this newsletter which comes with our sincere gratitude to all those who have been able to assist the students of LMVC and Tofta Educational Trust.

With best wishes and thanks again for your kind support. Merry Christmas and the very best in 2014

John Kirkwood.

Director, Tofta Educational Trust & Lords Meade Vocational College.



MESSAGE FROM HEADTEACHER—RAYMOND OWINO



I greet you ALL in the name of Our Lord and thank you for standing by Lords Meade Vocational College – Our Haven of Skills, My Haven in her growth and development.

All of you sharing of the TOFTA News Letter are a part of the Lords Meade family. It's you that have seen us go through the 11 years of our existence with great zeal and focus as we climb higher and higher to victory.

As it's my slogan and belief that 'It's not the Headmaster alone to run the school but, all of us as stakeholders in our various capacities are obliged to see that our yields multiply over and over and that the fruits of the Haven have the sweetest taste to all that share of them world over.

This News letter comes at the utmost opportune time when our S.4 and S.6 candidates are doing both Internal and External exams. As we anticipate for the best from their Final Examinations, it makes me mention with gratitude that we are destined for great success by the end of the year. Believe me, with your prayers and regular support in various ways, the Light at the end of the tunnel is shining so bright.

Am humbled for the pleasure granted to me as I share and wish you the best in your reading – enjoy the bulletin

Best regards in 2014, and Merry Christmas.

Owino Raymond – Raanga

THE HEADTEACHER



Old Girl Verrah Oketch weds. 24 August 2013 in Kisumu.

Recently an invitation arrived for the wedding of Verrah Oketch to Kenneth Odero. Verrah is a former student of Lords Meade Vocational College and also former beneficiary of Tofta Educational Trust when her parents were struggling to educate their family.



During the wedding Tofta Educational Trust Director, John Kirkwood was asked to address the newly weds and their guests.

The LMVC & TET representatives were honoured to be given one of the wedding cakes, as this is a privilege normally reserved for the parents of the bride and groom, and people who have been an important part of their lives.

TET & LMVC sends them both best wishes for their future together.

THE WOLVERHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL IMPACT ON LMVC.

From the many fruits of having a link school relationship with Wolver Hampton Grammar School UK, every year Lords Meade Vocational College receives a group gap year students who come, stay with us, teach and participate in various school activities with our students.

In February this year we were glad to receive Will Nield, Elliot Hopkin and Alice Parton who were later joined by Charlotte Holman and Dan Jones. Will, Elliot and Alice have stayed with us for six months till late July when we bid farewell to them as they returned to UK to further their formal education. During their stay at LMVC, they shared their experiences with both teachers and students. They helped by teaching in various classes of English language and literature, Fine Art class, and helped with some students suffering with dyslexia. They also worked in Physical Education, helped coaching our football, rugby and cricket teams and also they actively participated in organizing the sports day and acted as route supervisors during the inter house marathon.

According to the LMVC students, a lot has been shared and learnt from their brothers and sisters for the time they have spent with them. At Lords Meade Vocational College and Tofta Educational Trust, We appreciate the efforts of Will, Charlotte, Alice, Dan, Elliot and Holly in seeing the learning of students a success and your enthusiasm will always be remembered by the whole community at the school. We also appreciate Wolver Hampton Grammar School administration, parents and teachers for the healthy relationship between the two schools.



Above: Madam Christine, a teacher at LMVC, with Charlotte, Will and Dan at one of the check points during the LMVC 2013 marathon. **Below;** extreme left, Dan Jones and LMVC staff during his farewell party.

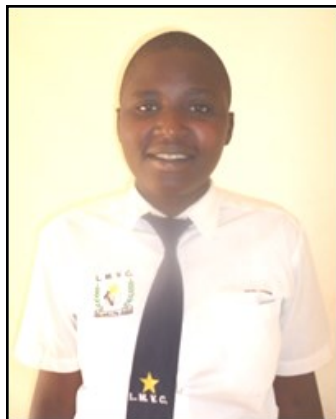


Above: from extreme left; Elliot, Charlotte, Will and Dan during the sports day. **Below,** are the drama club with their mentor John Grawmadsk standing in centre background, at one of the schools where they presented their play 'The Bride'.



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

WITH ALL THE STRUGGLES, SHE WILL NOT GIVE UP



Tofta Educational Trust has been seeking for a sponsor to help **Lydia Akol** with her education at **Lords Meade Vocational College**. Lydia, a 27 year old young mother of two, was born in Feb, 1986. Lydia had a normal education until her parents were affected by the L.R.A. war and could not afford her fees.

Later she got pregnant and her parents then denied her further support. After the birth of her first child in 2009, she was forced to get married to an equally young spouse at just 19 years. She struggled through her young marriage until she divorced with two children and started seeking ways of going back to school.

In 2010, she cultivated land and planted crops which she sold, raised some money, and in 2011 she relocated to Jinja to stay with her aunt who introduced her to Lords Meade Voc. College where she joined Form One in 2012. Since then she had been doing some small business of roasting and selling ground nuts to fellow students and around her village to raise her school fees.

With all her burdens of raising her school fees and money looking after her family, she was again falling out of school until she approached the headmaster who referred her to Tofta Educational Trust, who was seeking for someone who may be able to assist her.

She is a hard working girl, determined, and motivated to take advantage of having a second chance at getting her education.

Tofta Educational Trust believes in by educating a girl child, one educates a nation.



We are most grateful to Mrs Swiffen for supporting Lydia in her studies.

APPRECIATIONS TO THE SMITH FAMILY



Tofta Educational Trust and Lords Meade Vocational College gladly extend sincere appreciation to the family of Miles Smith, a student from Wolverhampton Grammar School UK, for choosing to assist Yoweri, a 17 year old needy orphan whose guardian, a paternal uncle could not afford getting him into secondary education.

In our last newsletter, (May 2013) we profiled him seeking for someone to assist him. From the generosity of Miles and

his family, Yoweri is now confident and happily pursuing his dream of becoming a medical doctor, now that he has a chance to be in school.

In his appreciation letter to his sponsors, Yoweri mentions of the fact that he is now very happy, for he can now afford at least two meals a day while he is at Lords Meade Vocational College unlike at home where they at times he went without food. Thank you very much Miles and family. In the photos above; On the left: Yoweri and his uncle on first at TET offices, and on the right; while in school, Senior 1 at LMVC.

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VISIT OF WOLVERHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

On a Monday morning of 22nd July 2013, LMVC hosted a group of visitors from our link school, Wolverhampton Grammar School with a team of 30 students and 8 teachers. This team led by Madam Val spent the whole day at the “Haven” and got involved in the day’s programme. They had lunch with the students and staff, attended an assembly, the girls played netball and won while the boys drew 2-2 with our boys. While at the assembly, there was the official handover of the goodies carried from WGS, and among them were laptops, sports kits and equipments, books, and scholastic materials which we continue to appreciate as these items ease the administration and the study and learning conditions at LMVC.

Appreciations to the Wolverhampton Grammar School community, thank you for loving Lords Meade Vocational College. We are grateful and we shall always be.



Above: Mr. Raymond, the head teacher addressing an assembly during the Wolverhampton Grammar School 's Visit to LMVC. On the **right** is a boys' football match between WGS and LMVC. The first match in LMVC with a net on goal posts., donated by WGS. They drew 2-2.

Bellow; are WGS and LMVC girls during a netball match. WGS school won the match. LMVC girls were overwhelmed by the WGS skills.



STUDENTS CLUBS HAND-OVER

“Belonging to a particular club or clubs contributes largely to your future career path and gives you purpose while at school.” these were words from Mr. Joseph Lwanga an old boy while at the writers’ club handover ceremony.

During this second term of the academic year, all clubs witness transitions of leadership from the old to the new. These clubs include the Interact club, the Writers’ club, debater’s club, Youth Alive, Red Cross, scripture union, the catholic community among others and all of them have had their leadership change during this term in order to give ample time for the candidates holding offices to have enough time to prepare for their national examinations.



Left, Director John Kirkwood hands over the 2013—2014 Rotary Banner to Jaq Wasonga S5, the incoming president of the Interact Club of Lords Meade Vocational College. Jaq is the son of a former Starehe Boys Centre Colleague. Eliud Wasonga.

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH TO CREATE THEIR OWN JOBS

With the number of unemployed qualified young people ever increasing in Uganda, Lords Meade Vocational College is one of the model schools helping in tackling this problem” said, the Hon. Dorothy Mpiima, woman member of parliament Buikwe District during her visit to the school on the sports day. She commended LMVC for being so innovative and spearheading vocational skills training in the district by helping these youths gain hands on skills.

She noted that while many tertiary institutions and universities churn out thousands of students each passing year, very few get lucky to get employed yet if they were equipped with skills, they would be able to create their own jobs.

Christine Adong, an S.4 student who passed her Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) examination in tailoring last year, says that with her skills, now she is able to raise some money during holidays in her village. “I am so happy that I am self reliant and can help my family. We are waiting for the graduation ceremony for the students who sat for the DIT last year, which will be held early next term.

We are proud to inform you that our first candidates for the Directorate of Industrial Training, those who sat last year 2012, passed very well and are now awaiting their graduation ceremony. They are now ready to be employed or start their own jobs in a particular vocation they have been trained in.

RHINO HOUSE WINS ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

The annual sports day is always one of the long awaited days on the Lords Meade Vocational College calendar. Competitions between the four houses; Lion, Rhino, Zebra and Hippo had been going on since the second week of the beginning of the term with various games and sports activities like football, volleyball, basketball, netball and were concluded on the 20th July 2013 with field games which included athletics, javelin, short put, high jump and long jump.

The guest of honor, Hon. Dorothy Mpiima, the Buikwe District women's M.P. appreciated the school administration for organizing such a good event at which students exploited their God given talents. She also commended the students for being disciplined and smart in their school uniforms

Those who excelled in various games received prizes and certificates and the winning house "Hippo" received a bull, in second place, "Lion" received a goat, followed by Rhino in third place and in last position Zebra.

One of the day's exciting moments came during the fun run which saw the headmaster participating in one of the races with old boys and parents. Below are the photographs.



Above: recognition certificate giving ceremony during the sports day. Handing over certificate is Will (Blue T-shirt), Dan (orange T-shirt), Elliot in (Gray-shirt) all from WGS, and Head teacher in blue track suit.

Bellow: taking off are the girls in their 400 meters, one of the exciting races of the sports day.



Above: Boys preparing for 800 meters race. One of the most competitive races of the afternoon

Bellow: are boys during the 8000 meters race



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SEEKING FOR SPONSORSHIP

Due to the many vulnerable and less fortunate children seeking for assistance from TET each year, The Trust continues to appeal for any support towards helping these youths. On the right is Shalom Akoth whose both parents are alive but the father abandoned them and does not believe in putting Shalom and her four siblings in school. Shalom is very bright but out of school most of the time due to school fees. Her mother struggles by hawking second hand clothes in local markets. On the right is Shalom with her mother.



£1 (US\$2) a day educates and feeds a needy child



APPRECIATIONS TO VAL

At TET and LMVC, we extend our sincere appreciations to the out going coordinator of the LMVC-WGS link. It has been great working with Val, and we appreciate all the fruits; educational, moral and the cultural exchange between the two school. She has really put much effort in realizing development at the school, and also in helping some of the needy students acquire sponsorships for their education, a dream they would not otherwise have got. Thank you very much. In the photo is Val handing over to the deputy Head teacher one of the laptops and other equipment donated to LMVC.

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 £420 for non taxpayers) or US\$720.
£1 (US\$2) a day educates, house and feeds 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

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

www.lordsmeade.org