

# TOFTA AND LORDS MEADE VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

## NEWS LETTER - MAY- JUNE 2006

*"Educating the Disadvantaged"*

Let me take this opportunity to convey my greetings to all our supporters. Welcome to another edition of our news letter. It's a great pleasure having you, and on behalf of the Tofta Educational Trust administration, I say thank you very much for your continued support in our struggle to see the less fortunate children attain education. We hope you feel more knowledgeable of our work after being communicated to through this newsletter.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE TRUST OFFICE**

The Trust office would like to express its sincere appreciation to all our beloved friends, sponsors, and every body who has lent a hand in its work of educating the less fortunate youth of today. It is great spear heading such changes in the lives of the disadvantaged youth.

Not least we thank every body who has endeavored to pay a visit to the Trust's office while in Uganda. Visitors are always welcome to Plot 5B Lubas Road, Jinja.

### **L.M.V.C'S ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

Academically Lords Meade Vocational College is improving, having produced one of the best results in the district last academic year.

There were good individual performances from students at both 'O' level and 'A' level. Those who excelled at 'A' levels have prospects of being admitted in tertiary institutions on government sponsorship.

Some of the students who contacted us hailed their teachers for their academic success while Mr. Mark Malinga, the school's Director of Studies attributed the school's gradual improvement to hard work from the teaching staff, and he promised for better results at the end of this year.

### **SECOND TERM**

The second term for 2006 academic year began on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May. It always involves many activities including games and sports. Academically this is the term in which all candidate classes sit for their mock exams. It will close on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

### **VOLUNTEER TEACHERS FROM UK**

In January L.M.V.C received two volunteer teachers from the United Kingdom, Sam Chilvers and Holly Laceby from Wolverhampton Grammar School. They completed their six months teaching experience in Uganda and returned to UK on the 18<sup>th</sup> June. We are very grateful for their work at the College – Sam taught Art and geography, while Holly taught English and Geography.

Apart from the class work, Sam got involved with the boys in games and sports, while Holly helped with the cataloging of all the books in the Library - the same books which were donated by Wolverhampton Grammar School and the Rotary Club of Wolverhampton. During their stay in the College, the students revealed having found the two teachers interesting, inspiring and encouraging to them. It was great having them around for that time, and they have left a big gap! We look forward to seeing them again in Jinja, and wish them well in their further studies.

### **LORDS MEADE COLLEGE GETS A GENERATOR**

Following the kind donation the College received from Val Chilvers (Wolverhampton Grammar School), the College administration decided use the money to buy a generator, to reduce on the effects of the daily power cuts we are currently facing in the whole country. Students can now use more valuable time studying at night and also during early morning preps, which wasn't possible before. Mr. Peter Johnston (Wolverhampton Grammar School) handed over the generator on behalf of the donors during his visit to the College. It bears the inscription "*May the light never go out on education*".

This generator is capable of lighting both the original 8 classrooms as well as the boys' dormitories. However another generator is needed to light both the girls' dormitories as well as the other classrooms.

### **TOFTA BENEFICIARIES VOLUNTEERING AT LMVC.**

This term Lords Meade Vocational College received five teachers doing their voluntary teaching practice at the school. All of them passed through Lords Meade Vocational College, and two of them are former beneficiaries of Tofta Education Trust.

We are proud to see our children coming back to do their teaching practice with us.

### **VISITORS**

The Tofta Trust and Lords Meade Vocational College continues to thank all their beloved visitors who have called at the office and at the school. In April, among the many visitors we received, was Rotarian Neville Hackett, a past Director of Rotary International. He commended our director, Rtn John Kirkwood and the school administration for the work well done having seen the progress made by the school. He was accompanied by Past District Governor Rotarian Henry Kyemba.

Rotary Group Study Exchange team from District 5340, San Diego, also visited the college in early May. This was a group of teachers who were warmly welcomed by the headmaster and the director. They were taken around the school and they also interacted with the students.

They were especially keen to see the projects that Rotary Clubs in their District had donated. These projects include the construction of a borehole, which is a great boost. Their District also assisted in buying laboratory equipments, and also to acquire new text books for the library. During their stay with us in Jinja, they attended Rotary fellowship.

We were also blessed by the visit of a second Group Study Exchange, this time from District 5330, Palm Springs, California. Being a medical team they were especially interested in the Farnfield Medical Centre.

### **GAEL RILEY BIRTHDAY FUNDS PROVIDE 45 BEDS FOR GIRLS**

Gael Riley, a long time personal friend to the director, raised funds at her birthday celebration earlier this year. She decided to send all the proceeds to LMVC. These funds were spent on more triple decker beds for the girls, and now 45 more girls are able to sleep comfortably on the new beds and enjoy the boarding facilities.



### **L.M.V.C. STUDENTS BUILD NEW HOUSE FOR A WIDOW**

During the first term students started a voluntary project. The students organized themselves and started building a house for a widow who stays a couple of miles away from the College. She had a house built in traditional mud and sticks, but it was in a very sorry state. She cares for many of her grandchildren as most of her children have died. The Headmaster and members of staff mobilize and supervise while the students build and solicit for funds for the building materials from themselves and from the staff.

Please keep up that voluntary spirit to the community – which needs a lot of such voluntary projects.



### **VISITORS FROM JOHN LYON SCHOOL, HARROW.**

A group of 17 students and 5 staff members have spent 5 days in July at LMVC as part of their World Adventure holiday program. During this time they have assisted in the construction of 2 classrooms (left) made using the new compressed murrum block

technology. They have also interacted with the LMVC students by playing football, cricket and rugby. All the students enjoyed a 'cultural exchange evening' where songs and plays were put on by both lots of students. We have greatly enjoyed hosting them, and we are most grateful for their input into the development of the College.

#### **HEADMASTERS' VISIT.**

During the visit of the students from John Lyons School, their Headmaster, Kevin Riley, a long-term friend of the Headmaster Godfrey Kiganga, paid a 4 day visit to Jinja! He was accompanied by, Gerry Holden, the Headmaster of Rendcomb College, who spent some extra days in Jinja, enjoying his first trip to Uganda. We are most grateful to both Kevin & Gerry for their continued support.

#### **TOFTA SPONSORED STUDENT'S LETTER.**

Students supported by Tofta Educational Trust always write to the Trust's office, to express their gratitude and appreciation. Here is one of the letters which was received from one of the less fortunate children.

*I would like to take this opportunity to show my sincere gratitude towards your support and care you have given me.*

*Sincerely, I would be out of school by now due to lack of school fees, but I thank God that you found and have supported me, and I am now in school.*

*I therefore promise that I will use every bit of the support you have given me constructively and it's my prayer that the Lord enables you to continue with the same spirit and may the Lord bless you abundantly.*

*Yours faithfully,           Jairus Osumba*

Jairus is one of the original students from Kenya. His parents died of AIDS while he was in primary school. He joined Tofta & LMVC in 2002, and he is now in Senior 5 studying for his 'A' levels.  
(left



#### **HAILEYBURY TRUST PROJECT**

We are delighted that the Haileybury Trust has selected to work with LMVC in a project of appropriate technology – making interlocking building blocks using murrum & cement. The project has already produced several thousand blocks which have gone into the construction of 2 semi-detached 2 bed roomed houses. These will be used for staff accommodation when they are completed in August.

The interlocking blocks mean that less cement is used in construction, and these blocks have been used by the World Adventure group in the construction of the 2 new classrooms.

The Haileybury Trust project will also include the construction of another 2 classroom block, which will greatly ease the current congestion in the classrooms.

Part of this project is aimed at making rain water harvesting tanks so that water can be collected off the roofs of the buildings with the aim of having a beneficial effect on the environment.

It is hoped that the technology will spread in Uganda and have an impact on the environment as it means that the clay bricks are no longer required, and hence the demand for firewood will diminish. The production of the blocks is currently being carried out by some of the students.

A further aspect of this project is that it is hoped that when a new course in appropriate technology is started at Makerere University the Trust will sponsor 2 students from LMVC on this course.

### **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AT COPENHAGEN**

Directors John Kirkwood and Peter Kalibbala traveled to Copenhagen for the Rotary International Convention during June. They manned a booth 'KIDS IN CLASS' for the Rotary Club of Jinja that also advertised the work of both Tofta Educational Trust and LMVC. They greatly enjoyed meeting their Rotarian friends from all over the world and meeting other Rotarians who showed interest in the projects. Director John was delighted when a friend gave him some money to assist Caesar Nyeko with his fees. They enjoyed a few days exploring parts of Copenhagen and visiting Helsingor as well as Helsingborg in Sweden.

### **UK TRIP**

On their return Directors John & Peter spent 10 days in England during which they visited the following Rotary Clubs that have kindly supported LMVC – Wolverhampton, Odiham & Hook, and Bolton Lever. They also visited Wolverhampton Grammar School and King Alfred's College at Wantage to further cement the existing links. Apparently the hire car company was not happy that they covered over 1000 miles in a week!



### **CAESAR NYEKO**

Caesar was abducted by the Lords Resistance Army in 2001. He served as a 'rebel' for 15 months until he was able to escape. During this time his father was murdered by the rebels. The Ugandan Army asked him to serve with them, but he dreamt of pursuing his education. A friend of his late father has been sponsoring him at LMVC, but recently this friend had to retire resulting in Caesar spending a lot of time out of class looking for fees. Caesar can now look forward to a year of uninterrupted education.

### **AIDS 2006 CONVENTION**

Director John and Kenyan students' liaison officer, Jack Ocholla, will be attending the AIDS 2006 Convention in Toronto, where they will have a booth advertising the work of Tofta Educational Trust as well as Lords Meade Vocational College in educating the orphans left behind by the HIV / AIDS scourge. They will also take the opportunity to visit Rotary Clubs in the Edmonton and Calgary areas before the Convention, and Toronto and London areas after the Convention, also to advertise the Trust & College's work. We wish them a successful trip.

### **KENNAIR FOUNDATION**

Richard Kennair is setting up the Kennair Foundation in Canada. The Foundation will be handling donations from Canada towards the sponsorships of needy students and also the development of the College.

Richard assisted TET & LMVC during the six months he spent in Jinja in 2003 / 2004 by producing one of the pamphlets used for publicity as well as doing research and writing up project proposals. We are very grateful for his continued support.

### **BANK STANDING ORDERS**

Some friends in England have kindly set up standing orders for £20 a month. With the Gift Aid included, another needy orphan is able to obtain valuable education. The Secretary, Philip Gray, will be happy to discuss this with you if you might be interested.

*I hope that you have enjoyed catching up on our news, and again I thank you for your support in whatever form you are able to give – it is all greatly appreciated.*

*Joseph Kirigwajjo - Newsletter Editor*

*Director's message:*

*It gives me great pleasure to communicate with our supporters again through this newsletter. I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading about the goings on of both Tofta Educational Trust and Lords Meade Vocational College.*

*This summer is becoming a time of travel, all with the hopes that it will bring further development to both the Trust and College.*

*I would like to thank everyone who visited the 'KIDS IN CLASS' booth at the Rotary International Convention in Copenhagen, and especially those who gave cash and cheques to further the work of TET.*

*We are most grateful to everyone who supports us – without each individual the work of neither the Trust nor the College could take place.*

*I feel very blessed when I see people like Constance Mudungu, an AIDS orphan and former beneficiary of TET and student of LMVC, coming back to LMVC to do her teaching practice. I also feel very humbled when I see youngsters like Caesar Nyakeno struggling to raise fees for their education – and the enormous relief they feel when they know that a kind person has given them their education for another year.*

*With very best wishes and sincerest thanks to you all for your support*

*John Kirkwood*

*Director*

*If you would like to assist Tofta Educational Trust assist a child with little hope for their future, then please send a cheque made out to 'Tofta Educational Trust' to Philip Gray, Hon Secretary, T.E.T., 17 Sion Hill, Bristol BS8 4AZ or by credit card on the web at [www.lordsmeade.org](http://www.lordsmeade.org)*