



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 2010

Message from John Kirkwood.



Third term has started and the S4 and S6 candidates are bracing themselves for the UNEB 'O' & 'A' level exams which start in mid October. It is always an achievement to get a needy child through to such a stage, and know that very little can prevent them from sitting these important exams.

I recently witnessed their keenness to learn while giving a slide show of a trip through Switzerland—they were asking so many questions about why the Swiss do what they do, and understanding the differences in cultures & climates.

Recently Alex Holden & India Perry returned to continue their College education. We are so grateful for their return to L.M.V.C. and their inputs into the College.

Some of the Old Students are planning to raise funds to go towards the construction of a computer lab & a library. The current rooms are woefully lacking in space. I am deeply appreciative of their ideas and efforts.

Patrick Okello going to study IT in Kampala is little short of a miracle. About 10 years ago he was captured by the L.R.A. and served as a soldier with them. Now he is studying IT with the aim of returning to his home area near Gulu and then empowering that deprived area. I am so touched by everyone who has assisted him to reach such a level.

It is such a reward to see a young person taking off into life having been able to obtain education, which in Uganda is usually a luxury, and not a right. Best wishes

Word from Head teacher LMVC



Since we opened the gates of Lords Meade to its first students in 6th February, 2002, Lords Meade has grown by leaps and bounds to be regarded among the best schools in this part of the country and Uganda in general. It is a school that boasts of not only giving the traditional secondary school curriculum found in all the other secondary schools, but also offers vocational training to its students in Carpentry, Catering, Computer Studies, Bricklaying and Concrete Practice, Tailoring, Art and Crafts, Agriculture. Every student in 'O' level leaves Lords Meade with at least one vocational skill. Those in senior one today have the opportunity of leaving Lord Meade with two certificates; The Uganda Certificate of Education after Senior Four and a Craft Certificate from the Directorate of Industrial Training after Senior Three. All this is done alongside the co-curricular activities like Games and Sports, Music, Dance and Drama, Clubs and Societies etc, meant to give all round education to the students.

This is all possible through discipline and hard work from both students and the entire staff of Lords Meade. The contribution of our partners and other stake holders cannot be overstated. We could not have reached this far without their immeasurable contribution to the development of Lords Meade.

We are very thankful to our international friends for their generosity in giving a helping hand to the development of Lords Meade. These include; Parents, students and staff of **WOLVERHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL, RENDCOMB COLLEGE, HAILEYBURY, THERFIELD SCHOOL AND KING ALFRED SCHOOL** for playing a very big role towards the development of Lords Meade.

A lot has been done in the last eight years but more is yet to be done. We still need to put up a Library and a Computer Laboratory as these are currently in the science laboratory and school clinic respectively. There is need for a more modern kitchen and dining hall, more staff houses and classroom space and improved staff and students' transport. Hopefully with time we shall overcome these challenges to make Lords Meade an even better place as an educational institution.

As we prepare to celebrate a Decade of existence in 2012, your thoughts and ideas about how we can best celebrate our 10th birthday would be much appreciated.

We wish you all the best as we strive to 'REACH HIGH THROUGH HARD WORK'

Mark Malinga

Headteacher.



Disability is not inability thank you Rotary and TET

My name is Charles Ayebale. Before I was given a scholarship by Tofta Educational Trust, I never thought I would ever be a useful person considering my physical disability. When I was young, I was affected by polio and my legs became crippled. My parents were very poor and they ignored taking me to school. A church based organization paid for my education from primary level until when I finished my O-levels, and it stopped operating.

Life had become so difficult with no more education and no moving aid. I was really miserable and suffering.

In 2005, I approached the Rotary Club of Jinja for some help and they gave me a wheel chair. The same Rotarians helped me get a scholarship for my education under Tofta Educational Trust. The Trust got me a sponsor, Mrs. Ann Marie Lusins who paid for my education. I completed my A-levels and passed well into University on government sponsorship. I graduated in 2008 with a Bachelors of Business Administration and I am now employed as a bursar in a secondary school in Jinja.

Life is so precious. When I look back I consider myself very lucky. I now support my young sister with her education.

I thank the Rotary Club of Jinja, Tofta Educational Trust and my sponsor for what I am today.

By **Charles Ayebale**



PTA teachers' house construction starts

The P. T. A. has contributed funds towards the construction of a building which will house 4 teachers.

Due to the need of accommodating teachers at the school, the P.T.A. board is raising funds to construct a house. The construction which has started, is expected to be complete by February 2011. This four units in one building will help increase on the number of teachers' accommodated at the College.

Thanks to the PTA board for the efforts towards this project.

Seeking for sponsorships



Barbra is a 14 year old girl in Form Two is seeking for sponsorship for her education. Her father died of HIV/Aids and mother is HIV positive. Barbra helps her mother selling vegetables to raise money for fees hence missing school. Her dream is to become a nurse to be able to support her 4 siblings. The Trust is seeking for a sponsor to help Barbra with her education.

Brian, is dreaming of becoming a lawyer if he is lucky to complete his education. His dilemma is raising school fees. His single mother is unable to pay for fees, buy food for her 5 children from her meager earnings from local brewing. Any donation made through TET will have a big impact to many of such families in our communities.





A word from the Director of Studies

As a Director of Studies, it is an immense privilege and a great honour to be at the helm of this College as it is on its way to deservedly celebrate its decade of providing quality post primary comprehensive education to the youth of Uganda and beyond. I say deservedly because each year since Lords Meade opened its doors to the public, it has registered tremendous growth, recognition and trust in the region. These successes are not only in academics, which is of our course our core business, but also on the pitches, stages and courts. Obviously, such growth and success bring with it newer and sometimes tougher challenges and as we look at the years ahead, we can certainly not afford to sit on our laurels. This is particularly the case as the terrain of the education sector has transformed quite significantly and the playing field is still, I believe continuing to change.

I am no lover of league tables but I do not hesitate to pronounce that we have a proven record of achievement with public examinations and an enviable record of success in sporting, musical and dramatic performances. The secret of our success lies in the area of having an experienced, qualified and enthusiastic staff who maintain a caring and orderly school. Our discovery is that a sound, strong, well remunerated human resource is a primary criterion in providing a professional approach in serving our clientele. We have therefore continuously committed resources in organizing workshops for our staff so that they keep abreast of new developments in customer service as well as the ever changing social and academic requirements in the dynamic world in which we all operate.

“A school is as good as the quality of its staff and the quality of their team work”

Our formula to achieve steady but sustainable growth therefore, has been to undertake our activities with an incessant blend of positive energy amongst ourselves; instilling acceptable moral levels among the students and setting high service standards, which, ultimately, is anticipated to be second to none in this infant District of Buikwe, whose political administrators (Buikwe) are worried of who will carry the mantle of ‘educational excellence’

I would like to specially thank our Partners in UK especially Rendcomb College, Thurfield College and Wolverhampton Grammar School for truly realizing that their “Brothers and sisters” need a massive hand of help but not merely hand outs. Their continued support in many areas is greatly appreciated.

Juma Godfrey Ouma Director Of Studies 2008-2010

Appreciations

Filda Agiro. Filda is the eldest of her late mother’s children, and one of her late father’s 11 children (from a polygamous family). She was identified as a good student by her distant relative who forwarded her case to Tofta Educational Trust. The Trust sponsored her through her 6 years of secondary education, and then assisted with hostel fees for her pharmacy course at Mbarara University. She recently completed her internship at Mulago Hospital in Kampala and now looks set on a useful life where she can assist her younger siblings.

In her appreciation she states: *‘Without your assistance I would be helpless back in my village, probably married off, and starting my own family in the continuing grinding poverty that comes with such village life. At least now both my siblings and I can see a brighter future. My thanks to all those who assisted me to achieve my degree’.*



An sms message from Joyce Atim to the Director: *“Hello father, I am very glad to say congratulations for educating me. I am now teaching in a certain primary school. Please send my regards to Mama Josephine (Okello) & Joseph (Kirigwajjo).*

After doing her S4 ‘O’ levels at L.M.V.C. and then her Primary Teachers Training, Joyce returned to her home in the Northern Uganda town of Lira to take up teaching some of the children who have been badly traumatized by the troubles caused by the Lords Resistance Army rebels in that area. Tofta Educational Trust’s work is being rewarded by Joyce’s efforts of furthering education in Lira.

Volunteers at LMVC



Left: Alex Holden, India Perry & Ben Lawrence

Alex Holden (left) is the acting link co-ordinator for the Rendcomb College link. He returned to LMVC with his friend Ben Lawrence to see how the College is progressing. They were able to spend a lot of time helping coach various sports, from rugby to girls' soccer, as well as assisting in the Sports Day that was reported in the last news letter.

We are all very grateful to Alex and Ben for sharing their time with L.M.V.C. and bringing invaluable games skills to the students at L.M.V.C.

This was Ben's first visit to Uganda, and while appearing to enjoy himself to the maximum, he has promised to return sometime in the future.

We look forward to their next visit, and we wish them well in their continuing studies at university.

India Perry (centre above), a volunteer from Wolverhampton Grammar School, returned to LMVC during her college vacation. She states: 'I'm doing a BA Economics and History at York University, in my second year.

The buddy system is part of Peer Support. It basically plans to set up all new students with a 'buddy', a student or Peer Supporter already at the school, who shows them around the school and offers someone that they can talk to if they are having problems settling in. It is an extension of the Peer Support system, in such that each student should have the ability to be able to talk to another student confidentially about their problems but specifically geared towards new students who may need a bit of extra help when they are starting the school.'

We are most grateful to India for her giving up her valuable holiday to set up this 'Buddy System' at LMVC.

Volunteers are always welcome.

Usually the community at L.M.V.C. enjoys the services of gap-year students who teach and then introduce additional ideas into the extra-curricular activities. The volunteers normally enjoy about 6 months experiencing a new culture and return to their homes with a wealth of experience that often stands them in good stead later on in life.

There are vacancies for volunteers both at L.M.V.C. and also in the Tofta Trust office.

Please contact the Headmaster, Mr Malinga for more information about the possibilities of volunteering at lordsmeade@yahoo.com

Both Tofta Educational Trust and L.M.V.C. are grateful for all that the volunteers have done to assist the students at L.M.V.C.

Appreciations (cont)



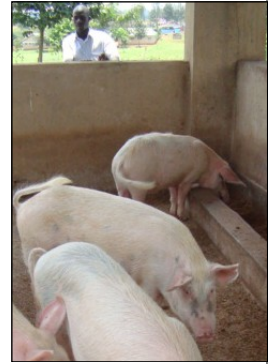
Patrick Okello— a former L.R.A. rebel!

On September 22nd Patrick reported to start his 2 year I.T. college course in Kampala. As a former L.R.A. rebel this was way beyond his dream until T.E.T. managed to get him a sponsor to get him through his secondary education. Selected by the Rotary Club of Gulu for assistance with his secondary education, Patrick states that when his course is over he wants to return to Gulu to improve his home community. Many thanks to all involved in getting Patrick off to a better start in life!

Join our LMVC Facebook page

Agriculture at LMVC

Piggery is one of the projects carried out under the agriculture department at Lords Meade Vocational College. This project which was started two years ago, produces about 150 piglets each year, and has assisted in passing on vocational self sustaining income generating skills to the students. Students participate in the feeding, cleaning and general management of these animals, which skills they require back in their homes. Many of these students are orphans and come from low income earning homes and find such skills very cheap and practical, and some of them apply them in their homes for income generation. Some students work on the farm during their free time as a way of raising money for school requirements which have not been afforded from their homes. Another advantage of this project, is that it supplements the school gardens with manure which fertilizes the soils for good agricultural yields. **Right: some of the piglets on the school farm.** The school management hopes to expand the project for more productivity, and to create chances for students from poor families to own piglets which they can look after at their homes, to improve their income and livelihoods.



Electric power for carpentry workshop

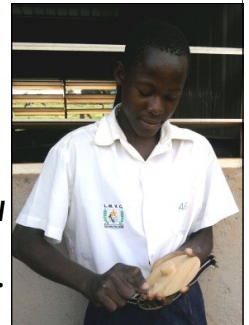
UMEME, the National electricity supply company has completed the installation and wiring of the 3 phase power supply at Lords Meade Vocational College. The College had received donations of wood work machinery from Rotary two years ago, but had not been able to operate them because of inadequate power supply. This power installation is going to boost the productivity of the carpentry department at school as it will cut on the expenses of cutting timber from other workshops. The students are looking forward to learning to operate these machines as they will improve their vocational skills. We thank Rotary and all individuals who have donated towards the completion of this project. At LMVC, students make furniture for the school during practical lessons, and hand finished articles like bowls & lids.



Left, a student at work in the carpentry workshop, using a circular saw under supervision.

Right, students also learn to make hand finished

articles like bowls & lids.



YOUR DONATION CAN HELP to make a difference while the Trust continues 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, click the “Donate Now” button and join us to change lives. .

Donate Now

Secure Through the Torry Pines
Rotary Foundation

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

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