



THE MESERANI PROJECT

EDUCATING AFRICA'S CHILDREN



Inspired by the pupils, staff and parents of
Acklam Grange School, Middlesbrough, England.

Registered charity number: 1135670

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Newsletter – December 2015

Welcome to our Winter 2015 Newsletter for all sponsors and supporters of The Meserani Project. Whilst the newsletter is primarily for those individuals, families, schoolchildren and organisations that sponsor our pupils, we hope that it will also be of value to other interested parties.

The big stories over the past few months have been the number of pupils currently studying A' Levels, our link with Virgin Media and the International School of Moscow, and our first ever University students! The predominant issues since the previous newsletter are:

- 155 pupils are currently being sponsored through their education – 119 pupils are attending one of six secondary schools that we have links with, eight students are at a Vocational Training Centre, two at Teacher Training College, nineteen students are studying A' Levels at High School and three students are in their first year at University. We also have a further four students due to start their vocational training next year.
- Virgin Media have committed to sending another group to Meserani in June next year.
- The International School of Moscow have expressed an interest in visiting Meserani again next year.
 - Twenty-two students from Acklam Grange School spent two weeks at Meserani in July this year.
 - A new dormitory for Kipok Girls' Secondary Boarding School has been completed and is being completely furnished.
 - The second Kili Topping Challenge took place in 4 & 5 July.
 - We have our first university students.

Please remember that The Meserani Project does not take expenses out of any money that is raised or donated. All people that work for the project do so entirely at their own expense, and every penny goes directly to the young people whose lives we are changing.

Twelve new A' Level students

We now have nineteen students studying A' Levels, and we are extremely grateful to all their sponsors for allowing this to happen. Seven are now in their second year, and twelve began their first year in August.



The 3 boys at Moringe, Monduli.



Five of our students with Grace Kagwiria



The 12 new students with pupils from Acklam Grange

Virgin Media visit Meserani



In June this year a group from Virgin Media spent a week at Meserani

working on a number of projects. The visit was originally proposed by former Acklam Grange pupil Tom Chapman who now works for Virgin Media, and his idea was taken up by the company following a presentation to their management. The group comprised the top ten apprentices throughout the U.K., and two senior managers from the Birmingham headquarters.

During their visit the group engaged with Arusha Vocational Training Centre, providing them with a consignment of electrical tools and equipment, and they also undertook a critical valuation of the Centre and its infrastructure, with the aim of providing long-term project support.



Frank Panter & Chris Starling from Virgin Media with Arusha VTC staff



A consignment of laptops and projectors were donated to the Njiro campus.



The group also installed a comprehensive solar power system to a teachers' block at Kipok School, they undertook a survey into the possibility of water harvesting at Meserani Chini School, and they gave individual laptop lessons to our twelve new A' Level students.



A new overhead projector was also donated and installed at the Meserani Education Centre.

The visit was such a success, that the management at Virgin Media have committed to sending an even larger group to Meserani next year, and for a longer period of time.



The International School of Moscow



A group of students from The International School of Moscow spent two days at Meserani in June

(<https://www.internationalchool.ru>)

They visited the homes of the two boys that they sponsor to go to Moita Secondary School, and they also visited Kipok Girls' School to donate a laptop and projector, and provide educational software for the teachers.



Acklam Grange School visit to Meserani



A group of 22 former pupils from Acklam Grange School spent eleven days at Meserani in July this year, working on projects for the charity. They met with all 119 secondary school pupils that we sponsor at four different schools, they met with a number of A' Level students



to prepare them for their new academic year, they provided pens for every pupil at four primary schools, they interviewed pupils in their final year at primary school for possible sponsorship to secondary school and they organised a Sports Day for three primary schools. It was a busy eleven days!



Kipok School Dormitory

Girls at Kipok Secondary Boarding School are currently having to sleep two pupils to each mattress, due to a shortage of bunk beds

and dormitories. A new dormitory build was started last year, but due to a lack of funding from the government, the school was not able to complete the dormitory, so it

was left with no roof or internal furnishings.

The Stockton branch of Soroptimists International have stepped in and paid for the roof to be completed, and The Meserani Project will be paying for the beds and internal furnishings. The dormitory is expected to be completed early next year.



Kili Topping Challenge

The second annual Kili Topping Challenge took place on 4 July, and we are indebted to James Small and Joe Millar for organising the whole event.



University students



Charles Robert.
St. Augustine
University

We now have three students at university – another 'first' for our charity – and a huge thank you to their sponsors.



Sabaya Sanare.
Dodoma University



Lembris Loisulie.
Iringa University

Other news items

- ▶ We continue to buy text books for Kipok Girls' Secondary Boarding School.
- ▶ Our links with Hartlepool College of Education continue to develop. They have provided much-needed resources for the project, and are investigating the possibility of applying for a BPEC Award on behalf of the charity.
- ▶ The trip to Meserani in August next year is now full – 28 people will be spending two weeks in Kenya and Tanzania, with most of their time being spent involved with Meserani Project commitments.
- ▶ 24 Acklam Grange School pupils have signed up for a three-week visit to Kenya and Tanzania in July 2017. Most of their time will be spent at Meserani.





► Peter is attempting to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in January – there are places available in his group if anyone wished to join him.



► Our friends from the Community Hub, Thornaby, knitted blankets and clothes for the clinic at Meserani.



► Andrew Lee organised a BBQ in August to raise the funds necessary to ensure that Germana James can do her two years of A' Level studies at Mringa School, Arusha.

► Angela Johnson raised almost £1,000 at her Afternoon Tea Party in June. The money raised will be spent on Kipok Girls' Secondary School.



► Normanby Primary School Y6 Knitting Club have now raised more than £300 for the project. Most of this money was used to buy a water tank for Kipok School.

► The Edinburgh based organisation 'Helping Hands With Charity' delivered us yet another huge consignment of medical supplies for the clinic at Meserani.



What next?

- We are back in Meserani in December and January to prepare our new secondary school pupils, who will be starting their studies in January.
- We currently have 26 new sponsors for pupils starting their secondary education in January.
- There is a Race Night on Friday 8 July at Acklam Grange School – please keep this date free in your diaries – details will be posted out nearer the time.
- The staff room at Lesiraa Primary School is urgently in need of basic furniture – they do not even have desks for the teachers, or cupboards for storage. Lesiraa School's recent national examination results for Standard VII were excellent again this year – amongst the best in the area – and providing basic furniture for the staff room will only serve to motivate the teachers even further.
- Wherever funds become available, we need to provide more basic text books for Moita School and Kipok School.

- ▶ Dates for your diaries: (details are on the website www.meseraniproject.co.uk)
- ♦ Thursday 10 & Friday 11 December – African Jewellery Sale at Acklam Grange School.
- ♦ Saturday 26 December – Boxing Day Dip at Marske.
- ♦ Tuesday 29 December – Quiz at *The Cleveland Bay*, Yarm.
- ♦ Friday 8 July – Race Night at Acklam Grange School.

Can you help?

- ▶ **White shirts** (long and short-sleeved, new and second-hand – particularly medium and large sizes), **P.E. shorts**, **tracksuit bottoms** and **ankle socks** are desperately needed as part of the pupils' school uniform.
- ▶ Our A' Level and vocational training centre students urgently need **training shoes**. If you have any unwanted training shoes, in reasonable condition, please let us know.
- ▶ Now that we have students at High School, we urgently need **plain black jackets or blazers** - second-hand would be fine.
- ▶ If you have any **unwanted mobile telephones** (unlocked), with chargers, then we can certainly find a use for them at Meserani.
- ▶ If you have any **unwanted sunglasses** with UV filter lenses, we urgently need these for an increasing number of Meserani residents who are having eyesight problems due to the intense sunlight.
- ▶ If you happen to have an unwanted **overhead projector**, (to project laptop presentations onto a screen or classroom wall), we urgently need these for the secondary schools that we support.
- ▶ Like all charities, we are struggling to raise funds in the current economical climate, but this simply means that we have to work even harder to do what we can for those who rely on our support in Tanzania. If any of you feel that you would like to help in any way, there are a number of options:
 - * You could host an African Jewellery & Handicrafts Sale, (we will provide everything for you – we have a large stock of traditional African Jewellery & Handicrafts that we have bought from markets in Tanzania and Kenya).
 - * You could organise a fundraising event yourself, of your own choice.
 - * You may wish to fund a water tank for one of our schools, (all schools are in remote, desolate locations, and currently some pupils have to walk many miles each day to collect water, thereby taking time out of their studies). The cost of each water tank is £347 and we would make sure that the water tank had your name on it – a lasting and meaningful legacy for you!
 - * You may wish to fund a whiteboard for one of our schools. The cost of each whiteboard is £70 for the largest size available.
 - * You may wish to sponsor a pupil through their secondary or further education, or you may know someone who would be interested in doing this.
 - * You may have links or access to commercial organisations who may wish to support our charity. Kipok Boarding School is in desperate need of new classrooms and dormitories, and a commercial organisation may wish to fund a building project.

- ★ We have a number of volunteers who we affectionately call our 'Meserani Helpers'. These are not only friends and acquaintances of ours, but many of them are simply people who have heard of the project, and like to help out from time to time. If you would like us to add your name to the mailing list, there will be no obligation at all to do anything – all that happens is that we e-mail you when something is coming up, and if you can help, then that's great, and if you can't – no problem!

Thank you as always to our sponsors and fundraisers for your continued support – the project would not survive without you, and you are making a real difference to someone's life.

Diane & Peter Swan

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