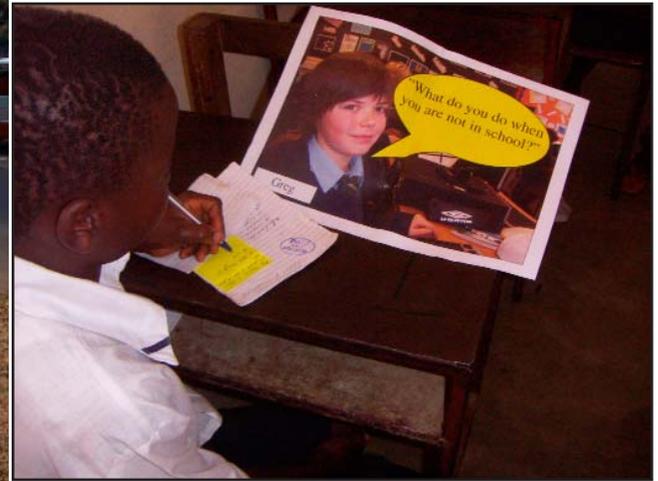


Heartbeat



Monday, 14 March

Issue 22



Teachers are out of Africa

This year's February half-term was very different to my recent ones, writes *Head of Geography, Mr Kennedy*.

For the past few years, I have been in Austria on the Year 9 Ski Trip but, this year, I headed to warmer Sierra Leone, West Africa, with (fellow Geography teacher) Mrs Sargison.

As part of the Global Curriculum Project, we were visiting our Partnership School, Lorenzo Gorvie Memorial Secondary School (LGMS) in Waterloo, 20 miles south east of the capital Freetown.

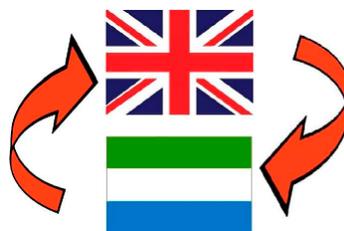
The school has about 900 pupils aged from 11 to 20; no electricity; 13 classrooms each having a chalkboard, desks and chairs; extremely appreciative pupils and friendly staff trying their best.

During the visit, we were able to meet the pupils and staff, teach some Geography and Social Studies lessons about UK diet to their Year 8 pupils and UK water supply and management to Year 10 pupils and participate in a typical school day.

As part of our partnership and helping pupils at both schools to learn about a contrasting area, we were able to start our Year 8 Geography question and answer scheme,

where pupils can ask questions to pupils at the other school for them to answer. Whilst there, we provided them with a few basics to help the school, such as atlases for their library, coloured pencils and paper for Art lessons.

Whilst in Sierra Leone, we were also able to find out more about the surrounding



area and witnessed many absorbing projects set up by the Waterloo Partnership, such as two recently built bridges and a blacksmith providing training and employment for handicapped people.

It was very interesting to see how the area was developing, and made us both wonder what it will be like ten years from now. Only just over ten years ago, the country was suffering civil war that had lasted for

eight years.

During our visit, there were sad reminders of that time but many hopeful signs about Sierra Leone's peaceful future.

In a few weeks time, through assemblies, we will be informing pupils and staff about the visit in more detail. Hopefully, we can pass on some of our memorable experience.

Towards the end of June, two LGMS teachers, Mr Dawodu (Headteacher) and Mr John, will be visiting Sacred Heart.

I am sure they will be given a warm welcome - just like we were when we visited them - and a special week to tell their school about.

Following the return visit, there will be an opportunity made, just before the summer holidays, for parents and the wider community to hear about this year's Global Curriculum Project.

The Global Curriculum Project has been funded by the Department for International Development's Global School Partnerships.

Funding pending, next year will be the second year of the Global Curriculum Project for another Curriculum area.

Crème of the catwalk



College pupils swapped the classroom for the catwalk recently as they took part in a Prom Fair.

Organised by the PTA, the event proved to be a great success that raised more than £500 for school funds.

Leadership Team/PTA member Mrs Doherty was delighted with the night.

She said: "It was a great success and a very enjoyable way to spend a few hours looking at the latest fashion trends.

"Some of our pupils were brave enough to model the dresses, supplied by Crème de la Crème, and it was easy to mistake the Lower School for a

Paris Catwalk. Great fun was had by all and local businesses showcased their services and accessories. More than £500 was raised for school funds as well as the money from the Fair trade refreshment stall. Many thanks to all those pupils, parents and visitors who supported the evening."

Support the School Levy

The School Levy is the contribution we make to the Archdiocese to support Catholic Education.

The Levy is set at a minimum of £10 per family, but greater amounts than this can be contributed.

Every family has the opportunity of gift aiding their contribution, which has the effect of increasing their contribution by the tax equivalent (please mention your desire to gift aid on a signed note or use the envelopes available from the College office).

Many thanks to all those who have already paid their family School Levy. May we politely request for all outstanding payments to be sent into the College in the envelope provided. The contribution should be accompa-

nied with the name of the child, their form and your desire to gift aid your contribution. As the College has to make the full payment to the Archdiocese, any contributions which are not received will negatively affect the College's finances and therefore our ability to sustain the same quality of education for your child.

The week in brief

There are Duke of Edinburgh meetings on Tuesday (Y11, 3.45pm) and Thursday (Y10, 3.45pm; Y13, 4.15pm). A2 Drama Night is on Tuesday and Silver Surfers meet at 3.30pm on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, is an English A Level lecture in Manchester.

Exceeding expectations

The A Level examination period in January is an opportunity for pupils to be entered early for a module of work. This year, nine AS subjects and 19 A2 subjects entered candidates. This year's January examination results show individual success against target grades. Particular mention goes to students in Year 13 who have exceeded their target grade by two or more grades, these include: Tom McCann (Math, Psy), Jamie Brandwood (Psy), Ellie Prendergast (Psy, Bus), Chris Steer (PE, Bus), Peter Henerty (PE), Michael Hyams (Hist, Gen St, Bus), Lydia Mullen (Hist) Ben Farrington (Hist), Jack Hanlon (Hist), John Broderick (Hist), Abigail Cunningham (HSC), Annelise Mather (HSC), Nathan Morris (GST), Alex McQueen (Gen St), James Allen (Eng), Ryan McCormack (IT), Nathan Tomlinson (IT), Sinead Morris (Bus) and Leah Houghton (Bus).