

Bacon's College supports friends in Swaziland



Bacon's students and their teacher with friends at Hhohho AME Primary School where they helped paint the classrooms built with support from Edinburgh University Fashion Show.

The Bacon's College assembly for the launch of their Advent Appeal 2008 was a distinctive one. It was launched by five Sixth Form students who had visited Swaziland with the SCT in July 2008.

Their appeal was met by an extraordinary response from the entire College: staff, students and their parents. On December 19th 2008, SCT Chairman, Vicky

McDonaugh, was presented with a cheque for £12,000 by the Head Boy and Girl: the sum had been raised in only fifteen days.

Four of the students who went to Swaziland were sponsored by the College Governors, the fifth was the winner of a prize. They found trust and friendship in the toughest of environments, but they also found need.

'One of the most memorable experiences was meeting the children at the community centre where we helped with the painting. Despite the language barriers we were playing football together by the end of the day, but it wasn't until we unpacked our food for lunch that the relative luxury of our lives became clear. I know that I will never be able to live my life casually ignoring the existence of those in need in Swaziland.'

(Head Girl, Eva Sharma)

'I've come to realise that whatever difference I made out there, they gave so much more to me. I appeal to you to enter the world of our Swazi friends with your giving.'

(Deputy Head Girl, Toni Ross)

'Nothing was half-hearted, including the joy of the Swazi music and the need we perceived. I came home feeling closer to the people we are going to help through our Appeal. They are real people, friends, and we want them to be your friends too.'

(Head Boy, Charlie Benson)



Toni having fun with Bongiwe.

Hhohho Primary School

The classroom built here with Edinburgh University Fashion Show money is now finished.

Bacon's College has twinned with St Francis High School in Mbabane and during the Bacon's student visit to Swaziland in July the students combined forces to paint Hhohho AME Primary School. The entire school was painted bright pink.

Orphans at Hhohho AME Primary supported by Bacon's College standing in front of their newly painted classroom.



Wrington and St Andrew's kitchen

The primary school kitchen built with the support of the Wrington Community in Somerset has been completed and is in use. The lunch-time school meal is commonly the only square meal that poorer children will eat. The Wrington community also supports an orphan at the school and a student in secondary school.



School cooking facilities at St Andrew's Primary School in Malkerns. Their original kitchen, above, and the kitchen built with the support of the Wrington Community, right.



Manzana School



The water troughs paid for by the Bacon's College 2007 Appeal are built and have water in them. When visited by Vicky and Hannah in October 2008, however, the drought was very bad and the vegetables looked desperately dry.

Bakhona, a sponsored orphan at Manzana Primary School who benefits from the improved facilities. The school is in the drought prone Low Veldt. Bakhona excelled at school this year and passed his High School entrance exams.

St Philip's School

St Philip's School in London raised money to support Thulani's education in 2007. Extra funds from the appeal will help complete the roofing of a new classroom at his school, Ekutsimleni Primary School.



Singing at assembly: Ekutsimleni Primary School is a rural school with over 900 students. Over the last 8 years, the SCT has supported classroom construction, electrification and the provision of water. Forty-nine orphans are also supported.



Visiting trustee, Hannah Salisbury, being presented with a traditional necklace by teachers at the school during a tour of projects in October.

Antioch Primary School

To those of you who sponsored our Dorset coast walk in 2006, the proceeds went to orphans at Antioch. The Chairman, Vicky McDonough, and new Trustee, Hannah Salisbury, visited the school in October to hand out new uniforms and school bags.



Left: Supported orphans arrive at school to collect new uniforms.

Above: Swazi television were present and they invited the Chairman to give an interview about the work of the SCT.

CLSA Grant



The SCT, through board member Walter Riddell, applied for a grant for school buildings. Our request was successful and we are really grateful to the staff of CSLA for this generosity. One of the schools that will benefit is Bhunya Secondary School, its prayers for a Form V classroom have been answered. The school is run by a dynamic head teacher, Sipiwe. With the new classroom students will be able complete their education in Bhunya.

Bhunya Secondary School coat of arms displayed at the school gates. Bhunya is in Manzini Region. It is on the edge of the High Veldt and is a centre for forestry.

HIV/AIDS

On a visit to the Raleigh Fitkin Hospital in Manzini the Director, Dr Pichong, reported to Vicky that the HIV infection rate was down by 2%. The SCT has agreed to build a playground at the hospital. Children have to accompany their families who act as nurses, as is normal in Swaziland.

Senator Rowan Howe, SCT Trustee and Chairman of the Swaziland Board of Management, presenting an aspirator to Mrs. Futhie Mdluli, the Head of the RFM hospital, main hospital in Manzini Region.



Hope House – a new partner of the SCT



Hope house is a hospice run by the Roman Catholic Church in Manzini. Opened in 2000 it cares for the terminally ill including those dying from HIV/AIDS related illnesses. Patients live in their own small houses with family members to care for them. The SCT has equipped each of the twelve houses with a fridge.

Hope House in Manzini, the commercial centre of Swaziland.

Orphan Support Scheme



Thanks to all for your support and generosity. We support 254 orphans.

Of these, 18 are in secondary schools. Our Manager, Sizwe, gets the uniforms and shoes for the students, he knows them all well.

Four sponsored students who have graduated to Dvokolwako High School with SCT Chairman and one of their teachers.



One of our secondary school students has recently been made a prefect. Bongwiwe is now in her third year at St Josephs High School, near Manzini.

2008 Visit to Swaziland

In October 2008, SCT Chairman, Vicky McDonough and new Trustee, Hannah Salisbury, inspected projects supported by the Trust and visited some who have requested support. Twelve projects in Manzini, Hhohho and Lubombo Regions were visited.



During the visit to Lwandle RC Primary School, Gceb'sile, aged six, gave a Loyal Address, a five minute speech honouring King Mswati III. The Trust supports forty orphans at the school. It has also helped to build classrooms, home economics facilities and poultry units for agriculture lessons.

Historic Board Meeting

The entire Board, including its newest member, Hannah Salisbury, attended the June 2008 Trustees meeting. The board of Trustees meets biannually to review projects selected by the Swaziland Board of Management.



With two Trustees living in Swaziland, full attendance is not normally possible. Rowan Howe, the Chairman of the SCT Board of Management in Swaziland is a Swazi citizen; Sr Judith is the Southern Africa representative of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards International, she is based in Manzini.

The SCT Centenary

The SCT will be one hundred years old in 2010. As part of our celebrations we hope to bring the choir from St Francis High School, Mbabane, to England.

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 Photos: Vicky McDonough, Hugo McDonough, Hannah Salisbury, Sizwe Ndlangamandla & Bacon's College.*