

Africa Inspires



Interim Project Report

January 2012



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Introduction

The Africa Inspires project was effectively launched in March 2011, and was inspired by Coventry's determination to meet the Olympic ideals through the creation of a meaningful international partnership that would extend beyond the two weeks of competition in July / August 2012. This report tracks the progress that has been made since the project inception.

Preliminary Scoping & Implementation

Prior to the commencement of the project delivery, there had already been two preliminary visits to Kampala – the first being a *Project Scoping* visit undertaken by Paul Breed and David Moorcroft in May 2010 in order to scope the substance of the project; and the second being an *Implementation Visit* undertaken by Paul Breed, Sarah Harvey (Diageo Africa), Neil Parker (Project Manager – Coventry) and Daniel Ssembogga (Project Manager – Kampala) in March 2011.



Dave Moorcroft
Project
Ambassador



Paul Breed
Project
Ambassador



Sarah Harvey
Project
Ambassador



Suki Sahota
Project
Coordinator



Neil Parker
Project Manager
- Coventry



Daniel Ssembogga
Project Manager
- Kampala

The Africa Inspires Project Team

The Implementation Visit finalised the twinning relationships between the schools in Kampala and those in Coventry, and also provided clarity to the schools as to the ambitions and mechanisms for delivery around sports development and securing access to clean drinking water in the first instance; and around the associated desire to facilitate communication between the schools through IT connections in the second.

School Twinning

The Twinning Concept

The central mechanism for the delivery of the project objectives and eventual sustainability is built around the energy and innovation that can be drawn upon through bringing schools together into an exciting, challenging and mutually beneficial international partnership.

As such, the Africa Inspires team is essentially acting as a broker to bring schools in Coventry and Kampala together, using the core objectives of sport and water as the catalyst for such partnership, but also encouraging the respective schools to forge and develop their own links and deliverables as their partnership grows.

Therefore, an eventual measure of the success of the Africa Inspires project should be in the sustainability that has been drawn into each of the respective twinning relationships by the schools themselves, so that they can continue to exist and flourish even when the 'centralised' and facilitating role of the Africa Inspires project team diminishes or even disappears.

School Selection

An extensive process of identifying the five schools in Kampala was based around the recognisable need for sports development and access to clean drinking water, along with the associated benefits that could be drawn from closer working partnerships with UK based schools.

Similarly, it was a founding objective of the project that the involvement of Coventry schools should also seek to benefit young people in Coventry who were most likely to benefit from a range of opportunities that they would not otherwise experience.

As such, the five secondary schools that were selected in Coventry were all drawn from challenging areas of the city, where the students would most likely benefit greatly from the cultural, sporting, educational and personal development opportunities.

As the selected schools in Kampala are 'primary' schools, but with students ranging from 5 – 18, each of the secondary school partners in Coventry has also brought a local 'feeder' primary school into the partnership so that the interaction, exchange and engagement can occur across the range of age groups.

Therefore, the school twinning partnerships now involves 15 schools – 5 Primary schools from Kampala, who are twinned respectively with 5 secondary 'lead' schools and 5 primary 'feeder' schools from Coventry.



School Twinning Partnerships

Management of Twinning Relationships

Ultimately, the ambition of the project is to establish and embed the twinning relationships between the schools so firmly that they become sustainable both as individual partnerships and collectively as an 'Africa Inspires' group partnership. If successful in achieving this, then the efforts of the Africa Inspires team and associated resourcing towards the partnership should actually become less central to the ongoing success of the project.

Indeed, there are already several signs of the partnerships becoming embedded to this extent, and this process was greatly enhanced by the group visit that took place in July 2011, when the teams from Coventry visited their twin schools in Kampala to stage the Olympic Festival of Sport.

Since then, the schools have very much taken ownership of their twinning relationships, so that:

- the schools within Coventry have already become an 'Africa Inspires' community who regularly meet to plan events and exchange information / ideas for the development of the relationships going forward;
- each of the Secondary schools in Coventry have appointed two lead teachers - a *Sports Coordinator* to oversee the sports objectives; and an *International Partnership Teacher* to lead the project efforts from within their own schools – especially in relation to the water objectives;



The Coventry Africa Inspires Team

The twinning relationships are;
With the Primary Feeders shown in brackets



Mutundwe Primary - Westwood (Cannon Park)



Nateete Muslim Primary - Foxford (Longford Primary)



Bright Future Primary - Stoke Park (Ravensdale Primary)



Family Primary - Caludon Castle (Wyken Croft Primary)



Kiddawalime Preparatory - Lyng Hall (Stoke Heath Primary)

Each of the Secondary schools in Coventry held a managed recruitment process to appoint two *Student Ambassadors* from the senior years, who were selected not only for the contribution that they would make towards the project, but also for the benefits that the project would offer them in relation to their own personal development;



Student Ambassadors

The primary feeder schools within Coventry have all received presentations from the Student Ambassadors, so that they too are also engaged within the project framework and have introduced it into their studies and extra curricular programmes – the primary schools are already involved in assisting their secondary lead schools with fund raising initiatives;



The Kampala Headteachers Group with the British High Commissioner and his wife

Similarly, the Kampala schools have organised themselves into a structured 'Africa Inspires' community of schools, with each of the head teachers having a role within an *Africa Inspires Committee*;

The Coventry schools recently arranged a presentation evening to parents and local partners of the project, which was hosted in a lecture theatre of one of the schools and was attended by several hundred people who were essentially hosted by the teams of teachers and Student Ambassadors

The latest upskilling visit to Kampala also delivered some leadership training with selected students in the schools, so that there are also two *Student Sports Leaders* within the Kampala schools to match the roles of the *Student Ambassadors* in Coventry;



Sports Leaders

The Coventry and Kampala schools are in regular – in most cases weekly, contact with each other, albeit that this tends to happen between teachers at this stage until such a time as the issues surrounding the installation of broadband lines into the Kampala schools has been resolved;

The Kampala schools are all receiving teaching resources from their Coventry based partners – both as physical resources sent to Kampala with the upskilling teams; and as ‘electronically shipped’ resources.

Future Initiatives

The schools are already undertaking their own project planning, without the management or involvement of the Africa Inspires Project Team. As such, some of the work that is currently being planned within and between the schools involves:

- ongoing planning of some extremely innovative fund raising initiatives towards the water harvesting programmes in their Kampala twin schools in the first instance and then other specifically identified resourcing programmes thereafter;
- the Coventry schools are planning their own return trips to Kampala for 2012 – without any expectation that this should be funded from within the programme, such that the planning and fund raising would be managed within their own schools;
- resourcing plans and ambitions are being exchanged between the schools so that aspects of learning and school management are constantly being exchanged in a strategic manner.

Sports Development

Upskilling Visit – May 2011

The first planned upskilling visit to Kampala took place in May 2011, led by Neil Parker (Project Manager – Coventry) and Stuart Davoile (PE Teacher – Westwood School). The week long session was hosted by Nateete Muslim Primary school and was attended by the five project schools and one other school that had been initially considered within the scoping exercise and was keen to remain under consideration.



Teachers from the Kampala Schools

The session was therefore attended by:

- 12 teachers from the six schools in attendance;
- 2 school governors from the host school – Nateete Muslim Primary;
- the Educational Divisional Manager for Rubaga Division, from where all of the Kampala project schools have been drawn.

The central theme of this initial upskilling session was on the fundamental aspects of delivering a PE lesson / coaching session, with a focus on preparation, planning, organisation, delivery methods, safety and communication.



Teachers from the Kampala Schools participating in a Theory Lesson

As such, the upskilling involved introductory sessions to a number of sports, with a view to some of these being developed in more detail at subsequent visits.

The sports that were covered within this first week long session included:



Warm Up Games



Tag Rugby



Tennis



Rounders



Football



End Ball

In order to resource the session, the upskilling team traveled to Kampala with a 'mini shipment' of equipment that provided enough resource not only to serve the upskilling itself, but also to provide each of the schools with sufficient resource to continue the coaching delivery within each of their respective schools thereafter. The equipment resource taken to Kampala for this first session of upskilling delivery included:

- footballs
- netballs
- rugby balls
- rugby tags
- tennis rackets
- nets
- low bounce balls
- rounders bats
- ball pumps, valves
- storage bags
- whistles, lanyards
- marker cones, discs



Equipment in use

The format of the upskilling week was such that the teaching team all received and participated in three intensive days of coaching and upskilling, followed on day four by them planning their own sessions and delivering them to their group colleagues and children drawn on site from Nateete Muslim Primary.



Upskilling session

This aspect also involved the teachers in aspects of session evaluation, whereby they were required to provide constructive feedback to their colleagues.



Colleague evaluation

On the final day of the week, the teachers remained within their own schools to plan and deliver sessions, which were each visited by the upskilling duo of Neil Parker and Stuart Davoile, who subsequently provided feedback drawn from their observations.



Teachers delivering newly learnt skills in their own Schools

Neil Parker commented in an email afterwards that

“it was unbelievably rewarding to see the teachers from the Kampala schools delivering totally new sports and activities in their own schools, with such newly acquired confidence. The children took to the new games and whooped with delight in all of the schools, where there is clearly a very high level of natural ability”

Festival of Sport – July 2011

The planning of a 'team visit' to Kampala from the five schools in Coventry only commenced in March 2011, so that the whole visit was planned, funded and delivered in under 5 months. The suggestion of a 'mini Olympics Festival of Sport' to celebrate the "one year to go" mark from London 2012, came from within the Coventry schools' group.

The objective of the visit was for the representation from the Coventry schools to be introduced and to initiate the partnership workings with their twin schools, through the delivery of an Olympic style sports festival, whilst at the same time exploring other areas of potential partnership – especially in relation to delivering the second central objective of providing access to clean drinking water.

In addition to the core funding, the schools worked hard to raise the balance of funds that was necessary to deliver a week long event that would cost over £38k in total. This exercise of fund raising brought the Student Ambassadors and teachers together into an immediate sense of 'teamwork' and resulted in some extremely innovative advances into the world of fund raising.

The team consisted of the two teachers and two Student Ambassadors from each of the five Coventry based secondary schools, who were joined by Paul Breed (Project Ambassador) and Neil Parker, along with Daniel Ssembogga upon arrival in Kampala.



The Africa Inspires Team with the slum councilors on day 1

For several members from the Coventry group, it was their first time to have ever travelled outside of the UK and for nearly all of the group, it was their first time to have ever visited Africa.

The group took with them more than 200kg of sports equipment, along with a number of second hand laptop computers that they had drawn from within their own schools and as a result of a partnership with an IT provider from Coventry – HBT Communications.

The 12 day exchange visit to Kampala

To deliver the Sports Festival was hugely successful in every respect and was a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone involved:

Day 1:

Traveled to Kampala via Dubai – the first time that several of the Student Ambassadors from Coventry had ever flown.

Day 2:

Guided tour through the Mengo Kisenyi slums in Kampala, to obtain an understanding of the sort of environment from which their school pupil partners would be drawn;



Mengo Kisenyi slums



More in the slums

A small delegation from the group, including Joe Foreman (Warwickshire Under 16's Rugby Captain and Andy Lewis PE Teacher, Stoke Park) presented 50 rugby balls to the Ugandan Rugby Union prior to the Uganda vs. Kenya international.



Joe and Andy with Ugandan Rugby Officials

Day 3:

Group tours of all five twin schools, whereby the whole Coventry delegation were able to experience life in all of the partner schools rather than just their own twin school.





Days 4-7:

The school teams all worked within their respective twin schools, with the Sports Coordinator and Student Ambassadors working with groups of pupils to coach them in readiness for the mini Olympic Sports Festival, whilst the International Partnership Teacher became involved in other aspects of school life including classroom teaching;



On Day 7, the Coventry team were invited to the British High Commissioner's residence for a reception that included the head teachers and representation from all of the five Kampala twin schools; the Ugandan Olympic Committee; the British Council; and several sporting governing bodies.



Day 8: - Mini Olympics Sports Festival

1,200 children from the five Kampala twin schools were brought together at Makerere University for their first ever experience of an organised inter – school sports tournament.



The day was opened by the British High Commissioner and was split into two separate events with the younger age groups competing in the morning, followed by the older competitors in the afternoon. Following on from the coaching that had been undertaken over the previous four days in the schools, the competition involved the five sports of tag rugby; tennis; football; rounders; and end ball.



The partners involved in delivering the event included Makerere University who supplied the sports facilities and 24 sports studies students; the Ugandan Rugby Union who supplied referees (including the national team captain!!); British High Commission who supplied marquees, food, water, certificates, PA systems and other facilities / equipment. Media coverage of the event included National TV and the event was described by the Ugandan Olympic Committee's Secretary General and the Ugandan Rugby Union's President as **the most significant inter - school sports event that they had ever seen staged in Kampala.**

Day 9-10:

The Coventry group travelled to Jinja for two days of relaxation and white water rafting on the Nile to unwind after a hard week's work coaching in the schools and hosting the Olympic Sports Festival.



Day 11/12 - Return to the UK.

Upskilling Visit – October 2011

The second planned upskilling visit to Kampala took place in October 2011, led by Neil Parker (Project Manager – Coventry) and Dave Harvey, who is an experienced PE Teacher and former coach of the Coventry City Football Club Academy. The week long session was hosted by Mutundwe Primary school and was attended by thirteen teachers and one governor from Nateete Muslim Primary School.



The central themes of this upskilling session with the teachers were related to '*Teaching and Coaching Football*' and an '*Introduction to Teaching Volleyball*'. The upskilling of these activities was supported with comprehensive Teaching Resource Packs, which were distributed to the staff from each of the schools, along with another allocation of equipment such as hard wearing footballs, volleyballs and nets. The schools also each received a 'top up' of previously distributed equipment such as tennis balls and rounders balls.



Kampala PE Teachers with Africa Inspires Upskilling Certificates

In addition to this, Neil Parker also delivered a one day certificated **Sports Leaders Award**, which targeted three senior students from each of the five Kampala schools.

The students were coached through aspects of:



Students Sports Leaders with Africa Inspires Leadership Certificates

Organising and leading a sports session:



Introduction to warm up games:



Introducing skill practices:



Safety issues when delivering sessions:



As with the previous upskilling delivery, the format of the week was such that the first four days involved the upskilling work with the teachers and the Sports Leaders from the schools, followed by a final day of observation and feedback where Neil Parker and Dave Harvey visited each of the schools to observe coaching sessions by the teachers and the newly qualified Sports Leaders.



Africa Inspires students and teachers delivering in their own Schools

Neil Parker commented on the improving standards of the teaching and coaching but also on the enthusiasm of the Sports Leadership:

"we expected a high standard of delivery from the teachers as we knew they had absorbed a great deal of information and skills, but we were very impressed with the standard and quality of the Sports Leadership. Giving the students a role within sports coaching in the Kampala schools clearly has a great deal of potential and we intend to develop this further, perhaps into a community context, on our next upskilling visit"

Water

Context & Solutions

The selection of the project schools in Kampala was also based around their need for improved access to clean drinking water, with the objective of ensuring that each school was able to obtain such access without the need for children to walk some distances such as is currently the case.



All of the schools are currently dependent upon a 'stand pipe' supply from the National Water Company, which is at best intermittent (described as being not working in any week more than it is working), hence the reason why children are having to walk some distances to obtain water – which in turn prevents them from attending some classes. In essence, the intermittent water supply means that even those children who are at school are receiving an intermittent education.



Some initial survey work has been undertaken in each of the schools to identify the most suitable means of meeting the water demands within each of the respective environments, with the recommendations suggesting that all of the schools are best suited to water harvesting solutions.

The suitability of water harvesting solutions has been identified for a number of reasons:

- the very nature of schools is that the school buildings provide a large surface area of roof space, thereby lending itself to the easy and more scalable collection of water;
- the installation of water harvesting tanks would serve as both collection and storage tanks;
- water that is collected from the roof areas of the school buildings can then be filtered as required for drinking, whilst the water that is used for other purposes such as washing and sanitation does not necessarily demand the expense of filtering.



Essentially, the water harvesting solution combines the joint functionalities of both collection and storage. The calculations that have been drawn in relation to water demand within each of the schools, demonstrates that it simply does not rain sufficiently throughout the year to ensure that harvesting alone would resolve the need for continual access to clean water.

Therefore, by using the collection tanks in the secondary role as storage tanks, then the schools would at least be able to replenish the tanks during those times when the supply from the National Water Company was working, thereby at least ensuring a continual supply of water on site.

Clearly, the replenishing of the tanks from the National Water Company will incur charges for the schools that might not always be affordable, so that the challenge for the sponsoring twin schools in Coventry has extended beyond the one off cost of the water harvesting installations, into the ongoing annual expense of the schools obtaining water from the National Water Company.



The implementation of the simple water filtering system within the classrooms, would ensure that the water drawn from the water harvesting tanks was safe for drinking.

Implementing Agencies

The project team have engaged and held discussions with a number of Implementing Agencies in Africa that have provided various options for design, installation and associated training in health and sanitation but crucially the delivery of this objective within the project's time frame, with an Implementing Agency that is able to meet the project objectives, within the budgets that have now been set for the Coventry schools to fund raise towards.

Cost & Funding

The initial indications received from the various Implementing Agencies have suggested that water harvesting solutions into each of the schools is likely to cost in the region of £4,000 per school. As such, the schools have set themselves the target of raising this amount and have already instigated a number of their own innovative measures to meet this funding objective.

In addition to this, the Africa Inspires team has been working to introduce the Coventry schools to a number of prospective partnerships that should be useful to them in their endeavours to raise the £4,000. Examples of such partnerships include:

- *Rotary Clubs* - four of the Coventry schools have now been 'adopted' by a sponsoring Rotary Club in Coventry, who are working with their schools to provide advice and assistance in how to go about fund raising;
- *Corporate Sector* - all of the schools were able to receive an amount of corporate sponsorship towards their visit to Kampala for the mini Olympic Festival, so that these corporate links have been maintained;
- *Voluntary Sector* - at least one of the schools has already received a significant donation from a charitable Trust towards the cost of the water harvesting installation in their twin school.

Communications

The ongoing sustainability of the twinning relationship between the schools will be crucially dependent upon the ability of the teachers and children from the respective schools in both Coventry and Kampala to communicate on a regular basis.

In addition to the obvious opportunities for online discussion to take place, the installation and commissioning of broadband communication between the schools will also facilitate a more accessible form of exchanging teaching resources and materials.

Clearly, the access to such communications for the Coventry schools does not present a challenge, so that this objective centres on providing the necessary hardware, connectivity and training into the partner schools in Kampala. A partnership between Coventry Sports Foundation's IT company (HBT Communications) has already resulted in the donation of quite an amount of hardware – much of it too big to be transported easily and that will eventually need to be shipped to the schools.

However, the Coventry team that visited Kampala in July 2011 for the staging of the mini Olympic Sports Festival were able to take with them a certain amount of equipment for each of their respective twin schools – albeit that it had to be included within luggage allowances that were already being challenged by more than 200kg of sports equipment that was required for the delivery of the sporting event.

Connectivity

The Project Manager in Kampala – Daniel Ssembogga, has been working hard to obtain a communications partner in Kampala, to the extent that an agreement with Orange Networks is nearing finalisation. The agreement is such that it will provide each of the schools with line installations, connectivity, accessories and a ‘bundle’ of limited free data usage, beyond which the schools will be required to pay for any additional data usage. As such, the schools have all agreed to the contract terms with Orange in relation to the data usage charges.

Therefore, Orange Networks have now been resolved to the fact that they will receive website, literature and event advertising from the Africa Inspires project (through Coventry Sports Foundation) for the duration of the project, and will also have agreements with each of the respective schools in Kampala in relation to data usage and exclusive branding within the schools.

It is anticipated that the line installations and connectivity into each of the Kampala partner schools should be completed early into 2012.

Project Impact

One of the founding objectives of the Africa Inspires project was in addition to delivering the sports upskilling, water harvesting, communication and education links between schools, it should also be used as a means of building capacity both professionally and through personal development – both in Kampala and in Coventry.

Appendix A provides some personal statements that have been received already in relation to the benefits, opportunities and extended understanding that has been facilitated through the Africa Inspires programme.

Professional Capacity

In the short space of time that the project has been delivering its outputs (since March 2011) the Africa Inspires work has contributed to the professional lives of many people through the development of a broader knowledge and range of skills.

As a sports coaching / teaching upskilling project, it was always sure to broaden the professional capacity and understanding of the games and PE teachers from both the Kampala schools and those in Coventry, but the project has contributed to the professional

development of many more people including the Project Managers themselves who are at contrasting stages of their respective careers.

For Neil Parker (Coventry), the Africa Inspires project represents the pinnacle of a 36 year career in teaching PE and sport in schools, such that when he was asked at the mini Olympic Sports Festival in July as to how it ranked amongst his many achievements within school sport over the years, he replied “*number one – absolutely number one*”. Neil is one of the most highly regarded PE specialists, certainly in Warwickshire. He also admitted that his own mindset as to the structure and delivery of sessions in Kampala had changed and developed greatly from the time of his first visit.

For Daniel Ssembogga (Kampala), the project has always represented a set of challenges that coincided with several areas that have always been quite close to some personal ambitions – sport, the ‘chance of opportunity’, and the experiences that enable individuals to grow and realise their potential. The opportunities that the project has presented to Daniel in so many aspects of Project Management have equipped him with a wide range of skills that will undoubtedly be of use for the remainder of his career.

In addition to this, the project has contributed to the professional development and outlook of individuals from both Kampala and Coventry including games and sports coordinators, classroom teachers, school governors, coaches from governing bodies, members of the community and even the young aspiring Sports Leaders.

There is no doubt that as the project extends its upskilling from within the schools to the surrounding community settings, it will reach many more people yet who will benefit from the opportunity to obtain more knowledge and extend their skill sets significantly.

Personal Development

Clearly, the Africa Inspires project has already provided the context within which the lives and outlook of many have been greatly influenced, such as can be perceived within the many personal statements that have been received – some of which are included within Appendix A - *Personal Statements*.

Whilst the impact of the project on the personal development and growth of those in direct contact was to be anticipated, other aspects of development have become evident more gradually. Recently, the schools in Coventry jointly held a presentation evening to their parents, teachers, school colleagues, local sponsors, Rotary Clubs and friends. The evening was staged at one of the participating project schools – Caludon Castle School, and attracted over one hundred people.

The format of the evening was that the Project Ambassadors and Managers would introduce the evening, but thereafter the management of presentations was to be undertaken by the Student Ambassadors – many of whom were selected in the first instance on the basis that the project might provide them with a context to grow skills and confidence.

Each of the schools was required to develop and host their own aspect of the presentation evening, such that all of the Student Ambassadors were able to publicly present their experiences to a sizeable audience. The confidence to present in this manner was a skill that very few, if any of the Student Ambassadors, would have had prior to the project. Indeed, the Student Ambassadors now regularly make presentations to Rotary Clubs, their partner 'feeder' primary schools and within the setting of their own schools.

Similarly, the teachers in Kampala have also commented on the development of their own pupils and have most notably commented on the changes in learning that have occurred within the classroom since the schools have become so involved in the structured delivery of sport to all of their age groups on a regular basis.

Finally, the friendships that have developed between the pupils, teachers, head teachers, governors and supporters of the respective schools in Kampala and Coventry, along with those between the project managers, ambassadors and all of those working behind the scenes to facilitate the delivery, has undoubtedly created an Africa Inspires community.

Such are the strength of many of the friendships and associations, that there is little doubt that the project is not only achieving its objectives in relation to the outputs of sports development upskilling and water implementation, but is also achieving the founding objectives that were drawn from the Olympic ideals of encouraging international partnership, cohesion and friendship.

Africa Inspires – Interim Project Report

Appendices

Appendix A – Personal Statements

Mother of a Student Ambassador

Coventry

Hi

I am sending this email to thank you on many levels. The Africa Inspires project is an incredible idea and I am very thankful that my son has been given the opportunity to be a part of it.

He has come away from this project with so many positive things, a seismic shift in his appreciation of global issues and understanding of poverty, a love of Africa, the individual children he met in Kampala, the spirit of the children, their natural talent, his appreciation of how natural sporting talent can be denied because of poverty and lack of opportunity.

He has been so changed in the 12 days away in Uganda that I am having to adjust and find a level with my 'new' son, but that's a good thing! This journey has made him so aspirational in his own life, he wants to 'make a difference', he aspires to be able to be in a position where he can develop projects like you have developed to make changes to children's lives in impoverished areas. I know from what he has said that he has found a role model in you.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about him, and he has given me full permission to say this:

Before he went to Kampala, the furthest he had traveled was Coventry v Newcastle away match. 2 years ago I was plucking him out of nightclubs having been drunk and disorderly and collapsed, insulting security guards. I had to get him from a police cell when he was 15 in the middle of the night because he had caused a bit of a fracas and the police wanted to throw the book at him. He's taken drugs, including Class A's, drank too much, been expelled from school for fighting, had the 'wag' woman after him had a CAMHS psychiatrist. I have to admit, there were times when I wondered where my son had gone.

When he applied to be a part of this project he had already traveled a long distance from being the child who never went to school, who tried drugs recreationally, who got in trouble with the police, he had already made up his mind that he didn't want to be that person, but he needed something to consolidate that, an experience, a role model, an aspiration, a goal, an alternative experience. He has had all of this from this project. I cannot thank you enough. I got the son back that I always knew I had. I know now as a parent, that from this experience, he'll never slide back into those negative behaviours that he had engaged in because he has had this opportunity to see a different world, to help and be a part of it.

He says that if you wish to quote him as an example of the impact of the project (as a case study), including everything that I have said, then he is happy to do so.

With more thanks than I can say

Joanne



Ezra Kanyerere
Games Teacher
Nateete Muslim Primary
Kampala

Greetings Mr Parker.

Am so grateful for the time and resources you have put in Uganda schools. Its your tireless effort that you made 22nd July 2011 a colorful day.

I really want you to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to mama Robinson ,Mr Paul Breed, Mr Stuart and the team you came with for the tremendous work done plus the Coventry people who generously contributed for the above cause.

Back in Uganda, the children are very proud and joyous for winning the senior team min competition which has made the stakeholders to reach at our school and congratulate the learners upon success.

May God bless you richly.



Heather Robinson

Deputy Head Teacher
Foxford School, Coventry

Sian Massey

PE Teacher
Foxford School, Coventry

Dear Paul,

There is no doubt that our recent visit to Kampala was a true sporting and inspirational success! All that was accomplished was brought about by your vision, belief, and determination 'to make it happen'. Thankyou Paul.

To see so many children happy and engaged through participating in sport was incredible. It will stay in so many minds and hopefully change outlooks of what is possible for us all in Coventry, and in Kampala.

On behalf of ArrendEEP, Rosie, Sian and myself I would like to express our thanks to you and your team for the extensive work involved in organising The Africa Inspires project.

Our special relationship forged with Nateete will hopefully flourish. Their needs are many and we are determined to help.....But I believe we also have much to learn from Nateete's spirit. We loved our time in the school with the fantastic children and staff, and feel very privileged to be part of such a worthwhile and successful project

Thank you once again Paul.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Robinson
Foxford School



Mathias

Head Teacher

Kiddawalime Preparatory School

Kampala

Hi PAUL.

I simply have no words to thank you! You have put smile to over 4,000 faces. And this has been done in a very short time and with almost no cost to our schools. Am really humbled,

Our schools are too humble to play games of that kind but you made it possible, The pupils we teach are from very humble backgrounds, but have made possible 4 us to see a new world.

It was all tears at the field after the games. This was because of the impact u have created. It is our hope that it will not end here and as lead of the headteachers here, I promise we will always work with you.

Let the Almighty bless you

Mathias

Kiddawalime



Billie Davoile
Student Ambassador
Caludon Castle School
Coventry

Billie with Dad Stuart

Paul,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for providing me with the best experience of my life. This years Africa Inspires trip was absolutely brilliant.

I remember when you came into our school and gave a presentation all about it and I just remember having this drive to go forward with it and now look at where we are as a group.

The whole atmosphere of the trip was fantastic I loved everyone and the whole mood around it! The whole P-POD vote was so funny and how you didn't get it I will never know Breedy! Some fantastic moments within the group and everyone was a lovely person with a good sense of humor!

The sport and the water in my school (The Family) was poor but I like that challenge. It makes me want to make it even more. The kids are so talented and want to learn more than anything. This makes it so easy to teach and to see there smiling faces is so rewarding.

Seeing the children and people in Kampala has opened my eyes up to so many things in life. I will appreciate the things I have and I will always think twice about what I am complaining about. The kids have nothing yet they have everything to smile about they are so happy that it's actually overwhelming. Their smiles on their faces whilst they're playing sport is amazing to see, they love playing sport! I love sport and it has always been a massive part of my life and to pass on some of my knowledge to other people who are less fortunate is the best thing I could ever ask for.

Not just in the schools had an impact but going around Kampala and experiencing what its over there and how different everything is from Coventry. How they live and what they do each and every day. A special highlight is going and experiencing the slums and thinking some of the children from the schools come from that sort of background and it breaks my heart to see any human being in that kind of situation.

I can now see why you and Neil are so passionate about Uganda and the Africa Inspires project and you have now passed that vibe onto me! You have a fantastic project that is up and running and it's changing people's lives for the better on both sides. I know it has changed my life in a way I will now look at things so different and realize how lucky I am. I am so willing to help, Africa now holds a very special place in my heart forever.

I cannot thank you enough Paul for giving me this fantastic opportunity in my life and letting me help these amazing talented students and seeing them smile whilst doing something they love. I most definitely had the best time of my life out there with everyone and doing what we were. You have been an inspiration to me and made me want to do something with my life which is going to benefit others as well. You are certainly someone I will not forget easily!

Yours faithfully,

Billie Davoile x

(MUSUNGU)



Sean Harvey
Student Ambassador
Westwood School
Coventry

Hi Paul, it's Sean Harvey from the Africa Inspires 2011 team. Sorry to bother you but I feel the need to say a personal thanks to you with my own words.

The last 12 days have easily been the greatest of my life and it has been a fantastic pinnacle in a turn around in my life over the last few years. Over the past 12 days I've felt myself take huge steps as a person, steps you've guided. You allowed me to truly see the difference and beauty in life. An amazing feat for any one individual. Because of your fantastic work and the amazing team you assembled you've allowed me and several others the chance of a lifetime and I just hope that you achieved everything over the course of those 12 days because you thoroughly deserve it. You're a great guy and it was inspirational to have someone as high as you working among us as equals despite pulling all the strings. You were like a father figure for the whole group throughout the trip, we could come to you for a laugh, talk or a cry and you would embrace us all, a quality I find outstanding. I know I speak for the whole group when I say you were incredibly important to all of us and we will all think of you fondly and will base the passion around you to continue working and fundraising for Africa Inspires teams harder than ever. Inspiration doesn't describe you and what you've given to the whole team. A new wealth of hope, belief and drive has been given because of this work you have done and it has changed thousands of people's life from Uganda to Coventry from child to adult. I wish you all the best for any of your future works whatever it consists of, you're a brilliant guy and I hope you don't forget us too quickly. Thank you for everything Paul and I hope to see you soon, hopefully during the working on pushing Africa Inspires even further forward.

Thank you so much Paul.

Highest regards Sean Harvey

Paul Green

Head Teacher

Lyng Hall School

Coventry

Hi Paul,

Just wanted to congratulate you on the success of the school visits in July. You know I thought it was a tall order given the time constraints so that makes it even more impressive!!

Di and Drew have just given an inspirational presentation to the staff who are planning all sorts of ways to work with our partner school and to raise the money for the water projects.

Rebecca and Dion have had a cultural experience that is potentially life changing. Rebecca has already declared that she wants to take a gap year and work for a voluntary organisation in Uganda!

We are in e-mail contact with Kiddawalime School and staff are starting to think how they might pair up for some partnership work.

This has the potential to be much more than an Olympic project..... which was always your original objective.

Thanks for this opportunity.

Best wishes.

Paul Green



Natalie Harborne
PE Teacher
Caludon Castle School
Coventry

Hi Paul

I have finally opened my school email after a long summer break!

Just a quick email to say thank you very much for allowing us to participate in such an amazing project over in Africa.

It was very uplifting and we look forward to sustaining the link and working hard to see continued success.

Thank you once again.

Natalie



Jackson
Head Teacher
Mutundwe Primary School
Kampala

Hi Mr. Parker

Thank you very much for your exciting message.

On the behalf of the learners, teachers, parents and school management committee, i wish to express my deepest gratitude to you and Coventry sports foundation- Africa Inspires for the great work you are doing for our school in the area of sports upskilling and sports equipments.

The teachers have been very active training the learners and we are now ready for the Olympic sports festival at Makerere University Sports Ground on 22nd July 2011.

We pray to the almighty God that the relationship with our partner school west wood grows stronger.

We're ready for our visitors who are arriving on 18th July 2011 and i promise you a warm reception.

May the good Lord grant you a very comfortable flight to our beautiful country especially for those who are visiting us for the first time.

Greetings to your family and all friends at Coventry sports foundation especially Mr Paul Breed.

Regards,

Jackson



James Knights

Student Ambassador

Caludon Castle School

Coventry

Hi Paul

I just wanted to say a massive thank you for everything you've put into this project. I have to say i've had the best 10 days of my life, every second i spent in Africa i absolutley loved and thats all down to the effort, commitment and organisation you put into the Africa Inspires project. This is what i wrote when we got on the plane for home at the end of the week;

In the last 12 days I've seen some pretty amazing things, had some incredible experiences and met some inspirational people. An overall summary would be to say i've had the best week of my life. However from what i've seen, experienced and from the people i've met, i've been motivated and inspired to do some amazing things myself and help the children i've met. The small cost it takes to make a difference is well worth it after seeing the the effects it can have. The last week has made the biggest difference to my life, i'm already starting to see the world differently and see my life in a new light. I think we all have a purpose and a destiny and i believe mine is to help these children and make the biggest difference to their lives.

I just wanted to say thank you for this summer Breedy and the experiences you have allowed me to experience, i have the upmost respect for you and wish you all the best for the future.

Kindest Regards

James Knights



Natasha Burns

Student Ambassador

Stoke Park School

Coventry

Paul,

Within ten days of being in another country I never thought I'd experience so much emotion and receive so many opportunities. It has truly been a once in a lifetime experience that has created the best days of my life. I feel extremely lucky to have been chosen and to have had the chance to experience this experience of a lifetime.

Coming back home has been hard to put the whole experience in to words, it's been truly mind blowing and breathtaking. At every point of the day I think of all of what we've got and the little they have; literally living out of a suitcase, it has really made me understand not to take anything for granted and appreciate what we have. I am still overwhelmed by the smiles they welcomed us with and continued to have throughout our stay considering the struggles they have day in day out.

Not only do I feel that I have made an impact to life's within Africa but I also feel that it has taught me a lot as a person and has had a huge impact on my life and my prospective to life. I hope that they feel that we have had an impact on their lives and understand the impact they have had on us.

Seeing the media side of what the other world cope with doesn't show the true reality and from my aspect hide a lot of the true facts, or seeing it on the screen just doesn't seem possible to be occurring. Although it was extremely mentally challenging and emotionally draining it has shown me the true picture of what the world is still like in the 21st century. From this it has given me the determination to pass the image and true reality I have viewed on to many people and allow a difference to be made. However, I do not see this as a short term project, I want to be involved with this in years time, seeing the children grow up and have opportunities that people here take for granted.

I don't see this as a goodbye to the children and to Africa and the opportunities themselves, far from it, actually a welcome to the start of the sustained help, new opportunities on both side of the project; here and in Africa and the relationships I have gained and will continue to build, from what I have gained from this.

This is what I thank you for, for all the hard work and time you have put into this project to allow it to occur. I really hope that we as a team have achieved and will go on to achieve what you have visualized for us to do.

Tasha