



# AFRICA INSPIRES: THE STORY CONTINUES...

**June 24, 2016**

A fabulous training day led by Mr Neil Parker and hosted by Alan Higgs Leisure Centre, Wasps Community at the Ricoh and Good Shepherd Primary School.

Huge thanks to all who gave up their time for us. An energised and envisioned team returned to Caludon Castle with brains full of new ideas and arms laden with kit.





We travel to Uganda again in just three weeks time to link up with the schools in Kampala, and it all becoming rather real now.





# AFRICA INSPIRES: LUGGAGE, LUGGAGE EVERYWHERE



**June 27, 2016**

So many generous donations. So many packing headaches.

Each team member will be taking 15kg of their own luggage and 15kg of equipment and clothes. It's a fabulous headache to have.

Thank you to all who have been a part of this project already and thank you too, to those who will be donating £4 in order to purchase a mosquito net for a child at the school. When £4 becomes a mosquito net it, becomes a genuine life saver.

# AFRICA INSPIRES: WHO'S GOING TO UGANDA TOMORROW?

July 14, 2016

It would seem that Caludon English teacher, Sally Hammersley, has told a few people that she's going to Uganda; others have found out about Megan Stanley too. These two fine folk represent two key character types found within the team:

- Serene, self assured and entirely responsible.
- Wildly over excited.

It's a rare old adventure we're about to embark on. Anti-malarials have been ingested by all, and we're ready to take on the mosquitos, bags are packed, apart from the tooth brush, and a fair wind blows in the direction of East Africa.

The team have invested so much time, energy, money and emotion, but there's no doubt in my mind that every team member will receive far more from the this trip than they are able to give.



# AFRICA INSPIRES: THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

July 15, 2016

We're up and running. No turning back now.



I'm stunned – it's almost word for word how I described the whole Uganda trip to Sally Hammersley when inviting her to join the team.

The luggage has all been checked-in and Keown was relieved to find that he was able to purchase his favoured after-shave in the departure lounge. This has obviously been weighing on him as his relief was almost palpable.

Others have also been buying essentials – maltesers chocolate bars, Costa coffees etc.

I've been eyeing up some jewellery that promises, 'A meeting of elegance and faraway splendour through exotic blooms and deep blue ocean worlds.'

# AFRICA INSPIRES: FIVE OF THE WARMEST WELCOMES

July 18, 2016: *Amy B's blog...*



Amazing day meeting all the 5 of our partnered primary schools; 5 warm welcomes, 5 incredible performances and countless handshakes and high fives.

For me, I find it absolutely astonishing how people can be so welcoming. I've never met any of the teachers or students before, yet within 5 minutes of being at each of the schools I felt completely at home. They all put in so much effort by performing several dances and speeches





that must have been practiced numerous times. It made me, and everyone, feel so special, and if I'm being completely honest I have no idea what we have done to deserve their incredible hospitality. The thing that has

struck me most out here is simply the way of life. It's simply inspiring to see how people who have so little can make the most out of any situation that has been handed to them. The enthusiasm of the children in their everyday life is something I truly admire. Today really has made me excited for what the week has to hold. I can't wait to be involved in the sporting side of the trip tomorrow by leading a netball session with Lauren, even though I was told I got a bit too competitive today... To end what has been a brilliant day, Mr Morgan is currently getting a tad aggressive with a plastic cup as he can't manage to do the cup song. I promise it's a serious trip!





# AFRICA INSPIRES: WE WOULDN'T CALL IT HARD WORK

July 18, 2016: *Amy H and Jorja's  
blog...*



We started the day by travelling to Family Primary School and Kiddawalime Primary School.

On arrival, we split into groups and started to play our various sports, including rounders, end ball, badminton and volleyball, we were both shocked and impressed at the skills the children had, both listening and athletic. The children either focused on instructions amazingly or excelled at the sports they already knew.



It was great to see how grateful and happy both the children and teachers were. After just one day at a primary school we all have made close bonds already. The day was tiring, but we wouldn't call it hard work because the children made the day so amazingly special for us!



# AFRICA INSPIRES: ANOTHER DAY OF SPORTING TRIUMPH

July 20, 2016: *Lauren and Jack's blog...*

Today was such an unforgettable experience, my memory was sparked as I saw familiar faces from last years trip. It was an amazing feeling when I heard multiple old friends from the schools shout my name out and see their big smiles, as I had kept to my promise which was to return and see them. It is very difficult to hear how tough it has been for them over the last two years, it has made me realise how much I take for granted at home. So now I have made it my goal to become more resourceful and appreciative of my lifestyle back in the UK.



For me, the most important part of this trip isn't giving financial support or sports equipment to the schools (although this is vital) it is actually the memories and experiences gained by both the team from Caludon and the students at the Ugandan schools. The time spent with the students at Family and Kiddawalime schools has been unbelievably special; it has emphasised to me the importance of valuing the little things in life.





## **AFRICA INSPIRES: UGANDA – PEARL OF AFRICA**

**July 21, 2016: *Sally's blog...***

Teaching tenses and tennis today, along with a visit to the reception class to practice the alphabet.

It's overwhelming how welcoming and inquisitive both staff and students are; everyday brings new questions concerning the moles on our skin (whether they itch or if we're ill) and the differences between our countries and cultures.

The children's happiness is infectious and their enthusiasm for learning makes this experience even more enriching. Olivia, the teacher of English at Kiddawalime Preparatory School, has made the biggest impression on me; her connection with the children is eye opening; she's a teacher, mother and an inspiration.

Everyday I'm asked what I think of the country, and my answer is always the same; Uganda offers a richness beyond the value of money.





# AFRICA INSPIRES: SPORTS FESTIVAL DAY

July 25, 2016: *Sam and Tamesha's* blog...

Five schools. Over 750 students. 6 sports...but only one champion.

Today we were lucky enough to spectate a festival that started in 2011 and is still thriving and growing stronger in skill and ability each year. I can honestly say that they have flourished and developed since we first started coaching them on Monday, and have not only become better athletes but personalities have grown.

The students who won, immediately congratulated each other for their hard work and the ones who didn't win, showed nothing but joy for the winners and that was my favourite part of the day. Children of such a young age not only demonstrating advanced skills in various





sports and admirable sportsmanship towards their peers; which I imagine will only develop throughout their life.

When surrounded by children who constantly have a smile on their face you can't help but embrace the positivity and good vibes.



## AFRICA INSPIRES: PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

July 25, 2016: *Keown's blog...*



The problem with making friends becomes apparent when it's time to depart.

Partly it's to do with saying goodbye to whole groups but it's also to do with saying goodbye to the individuals you've got to know. Seeing how happy they were at the start of the week and then seeing how sad they were saying goodbye was really tough.

Everyone was asking for contact details because they want to be friends for life. Seeing how proud they are of their school has been inspirational. When you feel you've made a significant impact on someone's life, it feel really good.

All the time they were asking if we'd be coming back. I would certainly love to have that opportunity. It changes your perspective on the things you have and makes you more grateful. I've been struck by how many things we take for granted and how much family means to me.

# AFRICA INSPIRES: LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

July 25, 2016: Andrew's blog...

A remarkable few days in East Africa is drawing to a close, with a stellar cast of students, a strong lead role from Sally Hammersley and admirable support roles in the form of Ben and his good friend Richard; it's a struggle to know what would phase these gentlemen.

Late flight  
arrival on the  
first day? No.  
Constantly  
changing  
itinerary? No.  
British  
humour? No.  
Major  
flooding as a  
result of a  
'passing  
shower'? No.  
And more  
'No's'  
besides.



The hard graft is most certainly over. The last 28 hours have included a boat cruise on the Nile, lounging by the outdoor pool, huge meals on the huge verandah, absurdly beautiful views and, as undeniable evidence that the Commonwealth is truly in rude health, croquet on the lawn. (Brief pause to squeeze a little more lemon into my tea.)



There will be so much to process when we return. Please bear with us, and grunt and murmur warmly, as we show you our photos and tell you our stories, and do please beam with delight when we present you with souvenirs which seemed so 'right' at the point of purchase.





There's so much to say; so much more than this blog has captured. Essentially, the only way you'll get us off your case, is to come and see for yourself. Here's to 2018! And you're right Ben – it's not funny.....