



GETS News!

Summer Term 2013

Welcome to our new-look newsletter.

Let us know what you think!



Skills Student Success – “I like to work hard”



Twenty-one year old Batou Sanneh thought she was going to have to give up on her education at Sunrise, until she was offered sponsorship for the last two years of skills classes. She enjoyed learning English and maths and originally wanted to work in a hotel, but found her love of cooking in her work experience placement; at the Four Seasons restaurant. Now that she has graduated, she has been offered a permanent job there as a cook; “I like to work hard and I respect my job. I like cooking too - I must rush and do it fastly,” explains Batou. When asked what she most likes cooking, Batou said: “Pizza, and fish and chips!”

Batou is joined at Four Seasons by two other Sunrise students who also did their work placement there – Cecilia Gomez and Versine Jatta are both waitresses.

Batou worked very hard at Sunrise, and graduated with three prizes – an award for maths, an award for tie and dye, and the ‘best student overall’. Batou also enjoyed tie and dye lessons, and added; “Many people say that my tie and dye practical was so nice, so I also want to make some tie and dye materials for business.” Well done Batou, we wish you every success in the future. Click here to check out what else goes on in our [skills classes](#).

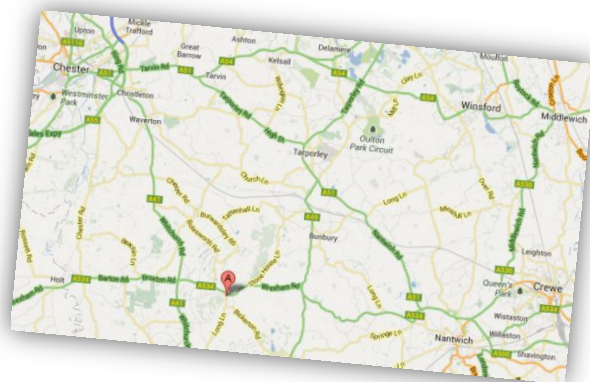
Don't forget!
GETS AGM
31st August!

Please r.s.v.p.
maxine@gets-sunrise.org



This year the AGM is being held in south **Cheshire**. The venue is Bickerton Village Hall, near Malpas, **SY14 8AU**.

The nearest train stations are Whitchurch or Nantwich, both 10 miles away. If you are arriving by train and would like to share lifts please get in contact with us. We can also advise you of local B&Bs. We do hope that you will be able to join us for lunch at the Village Hall before the meeting commences at **2pm**.



Student Hardship Fund

We have been VERY successful in collecting donations for our new hardship fund - a new support fund for the pupils and students whose families fall upon hard times.

As trustees, we have been debating how to choose which of the many deserving cases can have access to these funds and for how long. This allows us to be as fair and consistent as possible and yet to give the best possible help to keep someone's education going. We already have several good candidates for these funds based on our criteria: –

- Sudden death of a parent/guardian (allowing time for wider family or sponsor to help fund)
- Loss of GETS Sponsor for a student (allowing time to find a new sponsor to fund)
- Sunrise students in their final year may be supported if their parents cannot pay the fees, provided the

pupil/student has good reports.

One thing that the fund will be unable to do is to support students at the expensive private schools that many of our external sponsored student's parents choose for their children - so a move to a state school or Sunrise may also be a requirement of financial help. The maximum support is likely to be 1 year.

Although we don't need more cash at this stage for Hardship, if you'd like to help us further then we really need cash to pay the Teacher's salaries – See *our new initiative* (Sponsor a class).

“A new Lower Basic School Classroom opens late in September 2013 when school restarts”

What's it like working in the Nursery School?

We have known Mbacho Jallow at Sunrise for many years now. Firstly as a Graduating Skills Training Student and then as a Classroom Assistant in the Sunrise Nursery School. This is her story:-

"Since my coming in Sunrise as a teacher assistant I have achieved a great development in term of teaching and personal development. In the first place I have achieved internal training through the help of the ECD teachers in the areas of phonic, working with group and stepping in when a teacher is absent, classroom management and most importantly self-confident. I have now find it easy to work with group. Am very lucky to be part of the training of these children both in manners and mental development. Today about 90% of them can recognise the letter sounds, numbers, blend letters, forming words, adding, shapes, colours and they can write well and read. So for me this is so good and a great achievement for me. I would not have achieve this without the Charity and sunrise most importantly."

Thinking of sponsoring a student or class?



A UK Student's view of life in The Gambia - Lucy Hobson, 18

"Donating a sum of money is one thing, but physically seeing how such a small gift can have such a huge impact on an individual's life is something on another scale."

Before visiting the Gambia on a school trip, I was given the opportunity to sponsor a student at the 'Sunrise Centre'. I took up this opportunity and donated £10 a month to enable now-graduated, Kaddy Sanyang to attend school. In Gambia we met Kaddy and were invited to her home. Seeing basically western-necessities such as the toilet (hole in the ground) and shower (bucket), it became clear that without an education and thus a job, standards of living become very low. The small donation of £10 a month goes barely unnoticed from the pocket of the average British individual – a main course at a restaurant, a new item of clothing... or a child's education for an entire month. Think about it."



One of our Sunrise Skills Training Students tells her story:-



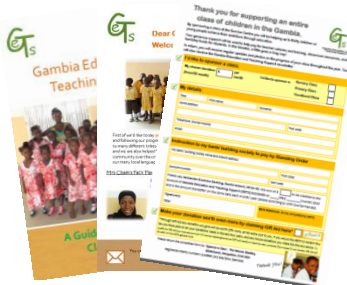
"Hello, my name is Awa Janneh, a first year skill student. I have got many experiences since I started Sunrise Centre in term of cooking, sewing, tie and dye, English language, and maths. Life skill is another important lesson that helps me a lot as I used to be a very short tempered girl but now life skill has changed my life. Maths is a subject that I used to struggle with but now am very comfortable because all is going well. I am really having a nice time in the school and would like to continue till I graduate. Also what I enjoy most was the ebbah day that was staged in the school, it was a big fun and I enjoy it very much. My other impression of the school was the sport day for the nursery kids. It was one the biggest fun I have ever attended. It was a great day for me. The environment is also very friendly and all students speak English which has made great impact on me too. I would like to be a waitress when I finish my studies, because I like meeting new friends."

Here are Jarra, Awa and lastou in dress from their traditional backgrounds. To keep up to date with Sunrise activities follow our [blog](#).

See below for our launch of 'Sponsor a class'



We are delighted to launch our new sponsor a class programme this summer. For only £5 a month you can sponsor not one child, but up to thirty! You can choose to sponsor at any stage of education; nursery, lower basic or skills. Whilst you may not be the sole sponsor of the class, we will send you termly updates and photos of the class, so you can see what activities they are enjoying, what they are learning about, and how they are developing. At the end of the year you can decide to follow your class as they progress throughout the school, or keep sponsoring the same age group and meet a new class of children in September. You will also be able to email messages to the class or ask questions – and of course, should you visit Gambia, we would be delighted for you to come and meet them in person. Your sponsorship will be used for the sole purpose of furthering the achievements of the children in our school, for example buying classroom resources, funding mid-morning snacks or providing training and salaries for our teachers. For more information and to be the first to sign up to this new programme, email maxine@gets-sunrise.org for a sponsorship form.



Although GETS has great supporters who we value, we thought it worth mentioning that we always need more cash . . .

Thinking of raising funds for us but don't know where to start? How about giving something up for a week? At Sunrise we work hard to ensure that every pupil, no matter how disadvantaged, is provided with a low cost, high-quality education. No child should have to go without the opportunity to learn, and no child should give up on their dreams. Rather than see these students go without, we're asking you to **"Give it up for GETS!"** All you have to do is choose something to give up for one week, and then get sponsored for sticking to it. It might be giving up smoking or eating snacks, or something more personal like giving up complaining! Perhaps something more challenging or quirky such as giving up using your mobile phone or the internet, or using your car, for an entire week. All we ask is that it is something you will find challenging and that people might sponsor you to do. Please tell as many people about the challenge as you can, and see how many people you can get to join you! Please email Julie@gets-sunrise.org for a sponsor form and fundraising pack.



A great example of what we mean

Students from Churchill Community College in Wallsend, Tyne and Wear have raised almost £400 for GETS as a result of a fundraising campaign led by Christopher Hill, Danielle Lyddon and their teacher Miss Edwards. Christopher had visited GETS in February 2013, and was determined to help continue the charity's good work by raising its profile so students knew about the amazing work being done and by fundraising to help provide resources. He and Danielle created and presented a PowerPoint during daily assemblies to raise awareness about what the charity does, show how rewarding helping children in the Gambia is, and to demonstrate how lucky we are in the United Kingdom to have the chance to receive a good education. A non-uniform day was held at the end of May and all money raised is being sent to GETS.



Thank you!



A report on the Skills Training Graduation 2013 by Mr Ali Bah (Sunrise English and Maths Teacher)

"Sunrise had yet another successful graduation on Friday, 21st June, 2013. This was the third ceremony since GETS took the running of the school. Twenty-five students graduated this year after successfully completing their skill training. Among which are twenty-two girls and three boys.

The ceremony started on Friday afternoon attended by parents, invited guests, staff and students of Sunrise. It was a colourful and

surprisingly the hall was full to its capacity for the first time since GETS took over.

The guest speaker was madam Kaddy Fofana (pictured centre), a senior lecturer at Gambia College, school of education. Her speech was base on Gender and skill development which was well delivered.

There was a special cake and prizes were given to the best students in each subject and Batou Sanneh was the most outstanding student having scored the highest total in all subjects. She gave the 'vote of thanks' speech and commended her sponsors Maxine Beech and her husband Richard Beech and most importantly the charity and sunrise centre and staff of the school for their support and guidance during this three years The graduation ended as planned and was a very successful graduation."

PTA meeting – Forming the School Management Committee by Nurudeen Mbye (Education Director)

The extraordinary PTA meeting was held on the 14th June, 2013. The objective of the meeting was to form the School Management Committee which is one of the fundamental principles in running a school in the Gambia. Before this particular meeting, parents were sensitised about the roles of a school management committee. So this means parents knew very well what to do on this day.

The Election was conducted and the following people were elected to manage the (SMC):

Mr Mbodge - Chairperson of the committee

Isatou Lamarana Barry - Treasurer

Nurudeen Mbye - Secretary

Arona Jeng - Auditor

In addition to this members, are heads of various sub-committees:

Auntie Safie Jobe - Leadership and management

Auntie Joana Mendy - Community participation

James Brown - Learners Welfare and School Environment

Kaddy Jawara - Curriculum Management

Mr Saihou Darboe - Teaching and Learning Resources

Mr Andrew Sambou - Teachers' Professional Development



New Sports Facilities at Sunrise

Drifffield 873 Squadron Air Cadets and their leader CO Adrian Hanrahan are coming to Sunrise next year to see the completed Sports project that they have already raised more than £2000 to build.

The new facilities will provide a much needed flat concrete hard court area for students to play sports within the Sunrise grounds. The Cadets plan to give the school facilities to play Volleyball, football and netball in the area. Today they play on a mix of sand and sharp stones, often in bare feet. All quite normal in The Gambia, of course, but more than 300 students and pupils (when the school is full) will get so much more from the new area when work completes. The Cadets were introduced to GETS by our long time friend and supporter, Angela Longoni-Sarr who is Chair of the Civilian Committee responsible for this squadron. Angela also helps with fundraising and the Cadets have a stand at the 138th Annual Drifffield Show, where they hope to raise the remaining funds required. We are delighted to have this kind of help from our supporters and look forward to completing the work in time for the visit of 30 of the Air Cadets to Sunrise during April 2014, as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

For information about Royal Airforce Cadets and Drifffield 873 Squadron please email jlwilsonwalker@live.com or phone 01377 217021.



Gambia Education and Teaching Support

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