



GETS News!

Spring 2015

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Work Placement Success!



Mr Ali Bah

The third year skills students are back in school after spending last term on work experience at various places in the area. Twenty-one of them have obviously given a good impression of themselves and the training which they have received at Sunrise, as they were offered jobs at the end of their attachment. However, they must first return to school, and prepare for their final practical and theoretical exams before they can start work.

Mr Ali Bah, senior teacher at Sunrise, had been visiting the students at their work placements. Our new administrator, Ramatoulie, is able to drive, so she has been taking him to visit them - in Helen's new Suzuki! Their employers fill in a record book reporting on the student's performance and attitude to work during the time of the attachment and many are fortunate to be given work with them on graduating from Sunrise. Momodou Fatty (right) has been working at 2Rays restaurant on the highway. 2Rays regularly give one of GETS students a work placement and we thank them for their support.



Mr Bah said: "I had the opportunity to visit my students who are on their work placement in different places. I was amazed by the comments made by their managers. Discipline, ambitious, diligent, punctual and above all skillful."



AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Advance notice of this year's AGM. To be held on Saturday 5th September (due to late bank holiday) in the Banbury area.

More details to follow, but you are all invited to join us for a free lunch at 12pm, followed by our meeting at around 1pm.

Thanks to the businesses that support us



As a small charity, we call on many favours from many people. We'd like to say a huge thanks to two companies who have offered us help many times over the years. Mario at The Print Room (<http://www.theprintroomuk.com/>) has once again come to our rescue and printed a set of text books on tie and dye that were desperately needed by the skills classes. They are currently en route to the Gambia thanks to Baboucarr at Moneypipe (<http://moneypipe.co.uk/>), who also agreed to ship 50 pashminas out for the students to dye – all for free. We really appreciate it.



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Staffing updates at Sunrise

Last term saw lots of new faces at Sunrise - new administration staff, new teachers and lots of maternity cover!

We have two new teachers at Sunrise (right). Ceesaynding Jaiteh, the new Skills teacher is teaching sewing and needlework skills. She is a qualified teacher with both Primary Teachers' Certificate and Higher Teachers' Certificate (Home Science) Programme. She goes in the afternoon to teach in other schools. Edrissa Beyai is teaching Lower Basic Grade 2 whilst their teacher, Fatoumatta Darboe, is on maternity leave. He is a qualified teacher with Primary Teachers' Certificate. He also goes in the afternoon to teach in other schools.



Ramatoulie Ceesay (left) is our new Office Administrator. Ramatoulie is married and has worked with the Government of the Gambia in different departments and then she worked with non-governmental organisations.

We were delighted to see Fatou Sally Ceesay, our nursery 1 teacher, return to Sunrise at the start of last term after her maternity leave. We were even more pleased when she brought in the new addition to her family, Sulayman (right). Sulayman was born last August.

In other baby news we have heard that Fatoumatta Darboe, presently on maternity leave, had a son mid-February and that both are well. We can't wait to meet him!



Fatou Sally Ceesay and Sulayman



Even though we have such a wide range of ages at Sunrise, all of our students mix together very well and look out for each other. Here some Lower Basic girls are sharing a laugh with some skills students (left).



Fatoumatta Darboe

Change to Helen's role

Due to recent health problems Helen has decided to retire as a Trustee of GETS, however she will continue to administer the charity in The Gambia. The trustees are greatly saddened by her decision but realise that her health has to come first. Nothing will change at Sunrise, for Helen was administering the charity in The Gambia for a long time before she agreed to become a Trustee.



Help is always at hand



We've been lucky to have so many loyal supporters and volunteers visit us again this past term. Denise Green is back helping in the office. Chris and Steve have been making themselves very busy. Steve with his endless painting of chairs, walls – anything he can get his hands on really! Chris has been helping us prepare for the next school year by covering the new textbooks for our new lower basic class.

Remember our building plans?

Well we're up to the roof now and ready to complete the extensions of both our extra Nursery block, with toilets and store rooms plus our new Skills Training classrooms.

We hope to complete this in time for the start of the new term in September of course to allow extra places at Sunrise, in Nursery.

We can then relocate Mr Bah's English and Maths class too.



In need of creative ideas!

Madam Fofana, our Education Director, is keen to get the skills students into learning about enterprise, and passing on their creations to both supporters and the public in the UK. We have been sent over a batch of prototypes, including tablecloths and napkins, scarves, batik pictures and even clothes! We'd love to have some ideas about what items might be made from the beautiful tie and dye made in Sunrise, that might appeal to people in the UK! These could then be brought back periodically, and exchanged for donations to the Sunrise Centre. Please email any thoughts to maxine@gets-sunrise.org

Celebrating Traditional Dress!

"In mid-March we had another mufty day at Sunrise Centre where students from the nursery, lower basic and skills wear their traditional attires. Most amazingly some of the staff also for the first time wore their traditional dresses which attracted the attention of many visitors. Congratulations for the beautiful dresses and keep it up!" – Mr Bah



Gambia Education and Teaching Support

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