



GETS News!

Summer 2015

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Graduation Time again!



Everyone worked hard to get ready for our Graduation Day, as usual; cooking, students washing and ironing the gowns made in Sunrise, and the teachers made new matching clothes for the occasion too.

27 students graduated from our Skills Training Centre in 2014/15. They are pictured proudly displaying their certificates. We were delighted that many of them got jobs or offers to come back after their work placements in local businesses. This is a testament to the discipline and skills that they have learnt during their time at the Sunrise Centre.

We are really grateful for all the support that the local businesses give us, allowing students to get their first experience of real employment.



Working at Sunrise

- Sunrise Education Director, Madam Fofana

The Sunrise Education Establishment is an amazing institution with a vibrant future, as I move into to the third year of my career as Education Director, full of wonderful experiences - some of which are learning points and others quite amazing.

The work environment is very fine and conducive, good office space with good lighting. If the national electricity supply is not available the trustees have provided solar as the alternative source of energy. The staff are very cooperative and hard working; they always abide by the rules and regulations of the institution.

The trustees are very willing to help all aspects of my work, providing resources needed to make my work easy whenever within their reach. I must say special thanks to the sponsors, particularly those sponsoring some of our skills class because the skills area plays a crucial role in the development of any country. The Gambia's skills sector is not very promising and GETS would like to do more in this particular area by coming up with new programmes like hair dressing and cosmetics, and engineering programmes. The above mentioned areas are part of our long term plans because these are areas I feel the Gambia needs to have more skillful people but the reason why we can't start these programmes sooner is lack of funds to buy equipment needed.



AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**1pm, Sat 5th Sept,
St Mary's Church Hall,
Horsefair, Banbury
OX16 0AA**

All welcome. Free lunch provided at 12pm.

Please RSVP. Nomination forms have been emailed out, please return by 21st August to nelsonsue4@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!



Lots happening to improve Facilities for 2015/16!



GETS has wonderful supporters who seem to do more each year to help us. We were given gifts of cash for building projects this year that have allowed us to bring forward many of our projects. Thank you! Everything is under way to complete our classrooms in time for next term. Mr Bah's new classroom is now tiled and doors and windows are in progress. The new Nursery block, sponsored by the Winchester Catholic Church group (Covenant for the Poor), is at a similar stage. The rains, now started, aren't a problem now that the roof is on both areas and a school free of children allows unfettered access for our builders.

We are also upgrading our cookery area in the Bantaba to improve hygiene standards, supporting our accreditation works for the National Training Authority standard. The area is being made into an enclosed classroom with doors, ceilings and windows. We hope this will be ready for next term too.

We've also managed to fit 2 solar panels to our Lower Basic School roof to boost power in our office.



Staffing Sunrise

We are delighted that Mrs Ramatoulie Cessay has come to work in the office at Sunrise. She lives nearby in Brufut and brings significant admin experience to our team. Ramatoulie has been taking photos to help Tony write the blog over the past few weeks.



Ramatoulie

Mrs Cham brought her new daughter (Kaddy, shown right with Helen). Her mum refers to her as a "Sunrise Baby". Mrs Darboe brought in her new son (Alassan) to see us. Both teachers will be back with us for next term.



Mrs Cham and Kaddy

Maternity leave has been a challenging time again for us this year, as female staff are all entitled to 6 month paid leave.

Mrs Darboe and Alassan



A Flourishing Nursery School

We are very pleased that our Nursery students are enjoying life in Sunrise and learning fast, both inside the classroom and also outside.



One of our long term teachers, Mrs Kaddy Jawara is going to move to our new reception class (Nursery 1) to work with Mbacho Jallow (Classroom Assistant) to make sure that next year the youngest intake (aged 3 to 4) get the best possible start.

Providing a Rich Experience



At the Sunrise Centre we seem to be creating the right environment to allow the children and young people to become well rounded citizens. The teachers enjoy playing with the students (Mr Beyai enjoys football), the Skills students are always proud of their work, LB3 work towards their Nations exams (NATS) and students make a great effort to look good on Mufti days, wearing their tribal costumes.



Sponsoring Children's Education

It's really important that we remember that GETS supporters sponsor education in a country where parents often struggle to afford to send children to school.

All the payments are managed by Helen Touray and the Trustees are indebted to her for her diligence in this process.

The parents and students alike all appreciate Helen's work too, of course.

Recently GETS has encouraged sponsorships within Sunrise as a first priority since we can do much more for less money.

Students Seeking Sponsors!



Ousman Cham
D.O.B.:
17.12.2006

Ousman will be in Sunrise Lower Basic Grade 2 this September – if someone will sponsor him. He lives with his mother in Sukuta. She has five children but receives no support from their father, and has to rely on friends and family to help her as she has no means of earning money.



Awa Nying
D.O.B.:
19.07.1994

Awa will be in Skills 2 this September – if she can find someone to sponsor her. She has completed three terms at Sunrise and has a good work and attendance record. Awa lives with her mother and her siblings at Kotu. Her mother does any domestic work she can find so that she can get money to pay the rent and provide food for her children. She cannot afford school fees.



Gambia Education and Teaching Support

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