



GETS News!

September 2016

Issue 30

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Are we Achieving at Sunrise?

It is important to check that we're doing the right things with the help that GETS brings to The Gambia. **Every day in Sunrise we get the answer – Yes!**

Children seem to be happy and are trying new things. Teachers are learning too, with most now qualified or in the process of completing their training.

Teachers co-operate with each other to try new things and engage the children.

Fun and laughter are normal, and although we have many challenges too, Sunrise is a happy place with children and youngsters growing in confidence, knowledge and ability.

At a National audit level we are exceeding targets and gaining recognition too. See later!



Fatou Saine Gaye, Guest Speaker

Skills Training Graduation

The end of Term 3 always gives us a chance to celebrate the transition of the successful Year 3 students who complete their course. This year we had 23 students who made this transition into the workplace.

Following their work placements in local businesses we asked "How many students have been asked to come back to work again after school has finished?"

The answer was 70%!



Our Theme for the event was "Skills for self-employment". This is a theme that is supported at a National level in The Gambia and our guest speaker was able to share her personal experience with the Graduates.

There is a tremendous amount of work to make the Graduation successful each year. The main challenge is providing food for around 200 guests, organised by Cookery and Hospitality Teacher Alimatou Jammeh



Skills Training gets a Seal of Approval

Since GETS took over the Sunrise Centre in 2011 we have been striving to accredit our Skills Training course and its teaching staff with the National Training Authority (now known as NAQAA). This involves quite a bit of documentation and formalisation of the courses on offer, plus upgrades to facilities, including gaining health certificates.

This is all complete now and we have received our certificate to show our accreditation, right at the end of term.



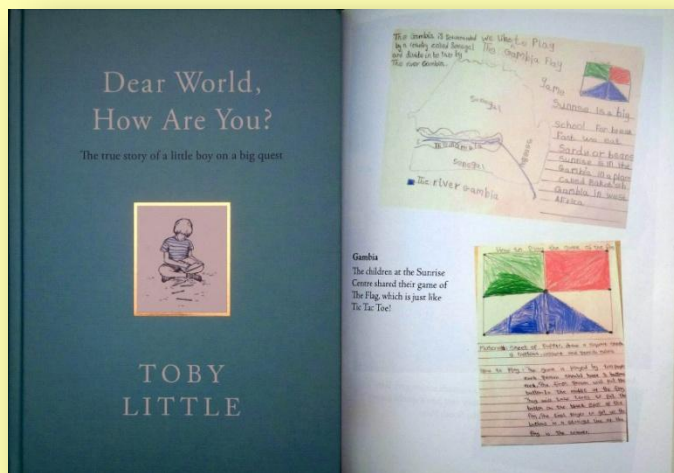
This award gives a real boost to graduating students because they can show that their learning has been audited to a national standard.



Our Accreditation covers the following Skills:-

- Tailoring
- Home Craft (AKA Tie n Dye and Batik)
- Cookery and Pastry

Sunrise Centre Appears in "World Wide" Book!



Toby's Book – Dear World, How Are You?

Back in 2013 we were contacted by a lady called Sabine Little from Sheffield. Her son Toby, then aged five, had decided he wanted to write a letter to every country in the world. Tony took a letter from Toby to the Sunrise Centre. The children of the then Nursery 2 class held a competition for the best response, which was won by Margret Mendy (then aged six). At the time, Toby had had answers from 112 countries.

Three years later he has over 500 and his letters and replies have been made into a book called 'Dear World, How Are You?'

We are delighted that a colour picture of Margret's letter and drawing and Mrs Sally Ceesay's instructions on how to play 'The Game of the Flag' have been included in the book! Toby is hoping to write to our school again, as he is now eight years old and no doubt his questions will have changed

A copy of Toby's book has been purchased and will travel with Tony out to the Gambia in November to be shown to the children then donated to the library. We will update you on the progress of Toby's next letter.

You can see more about Toby at www.writingtotheworld.com

Fundraising – after 50 Years Together



We were delighted to hear from supporters Gill and Ray Perkins who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary earlier this year. They were very generous in asking that friends sent money to GETS, rather than give them gifts on the day.

Thank you so much and what a lovely picture from their wedding day!

Fundraising - Try “Give as you Live”



Fundraising can be fun and tough but it can also be easier than you think. By signing up to **Give as You Live** you simply buy your normal on-line purchases via links on the Give as you Live site and your normal supplier sends a donation to your selected charity. If you use the GETS link on our home page www.getsuk.org then GETS will receive these donations. **Simple!**



Another new Lower Basic School Class

We are now beginning our new G5 class in our new primary school block. The children promoted from G4 are aged 10/11. Mr Ousman Jaiteh has been recruited as the fifth LBS teacher. Mr Jaiteh teaches at the nearby Bakoteh LBS in the afternoon. We have also recruited another Skills Training graduate, Fatoumatta Singateh, as a classroom assistant to work in the LBS.

This brings the local staff employed by GETS in the Sunrise Centre to 30. All these people take a lot of managing!

GETS AGM goes to Macclesfield

We were pleased to see some old faces and some new ones at our AGM, held this year in Macclesfield. This was kindly organised by Barry Young and his wife Barbara.

We covered all the usual formalities, required of us by the Charities Commission and also shared some of our plans for 2016/17 and achievements from last year.

Sadly we had to say good bye to Maxine Beech who stands down as a Trustee to focus on her other challenges. Maxine has been brave enough to stand down as a Teacher too to give her the time to work as a Wedding Celebrant. Maxine has been helping GETS since she first worked on the newsletter in 2009 and has contributed immensely to our success, particularly around launching the Sponsor a Class initiative. We wish her good luck for the future.



Tony thanking Maxine with the AGM attendees



We are keen to hear from anyone who would like to get more involved and perhaps stand as a Trustee. GETS has achieved such a lot and we need people to help us take it forward.

For more information contact tony@gets-sunrise.org



Rob Wakefield on his Marathon run

– in Memory of Kare Jackson

Kare, the wife of one of our supporters, Karl Jackson, sadly passed away unexpectedly at a very young age but out of this tragedy has come a series of fundraising initiatives from family and friends. The latest is from Karl's good friend, Rob Wakefield.

Rob took on the Snowdonia Trail Marathon, completing it in just 6 hours and 13 minutes. He is pictured here passing the Llanberis railway station where the narrow gauge railway takes tourists 4.7 miles to the summit of Snowdon (around 3,500 feet). No ticket to ride for Rob though.

Sponsorship for Rob's incredible effort has brought GETS over £1,800 to date. Thanks to all concerned!

Most of the money that Rob raised came in via the mydonate web site. Rob's Site for any more donations - <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/robertwakefield1>

This charity donation facility has been set up by BT to allow a completely free way of giving to good causes. More from the GETS website www.getsuk.org



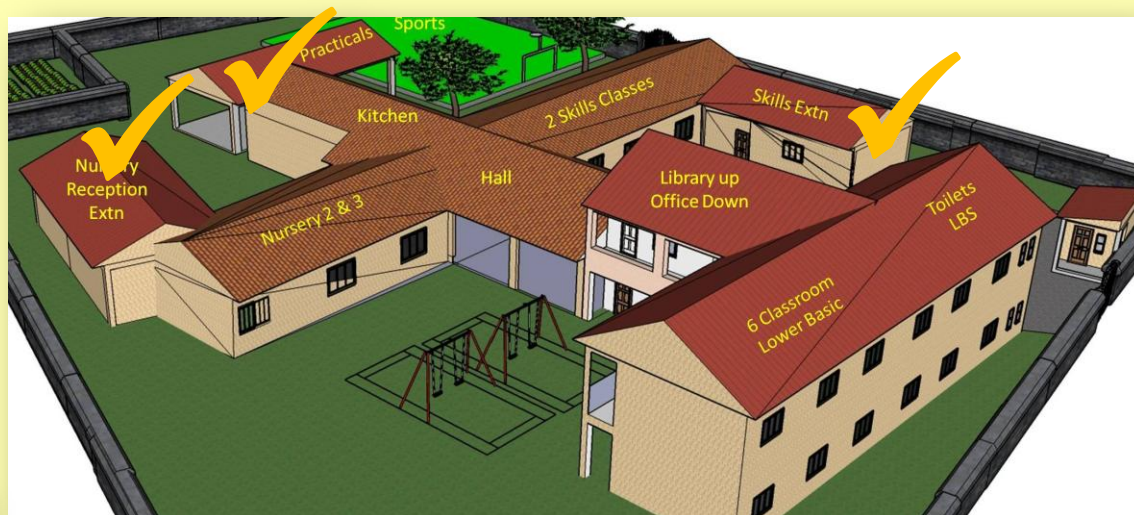
Project Work – Where are we now?

GETS had a very successful season in 2015/16, completing projects from the funds raised the previous year.

The Nursery wing increased the places by 33%. The new Skills Training classroom completed a general extension programme that allowed a 25% increase in places. The practical area modifications (Bantaba) allowed us to achieve our key goal of gaining NAQAA Accreditation.

In 2016/17 we are in the process of improving the school security, improving school water supplies and completing improvements to the library.

Our next project will be to build a new staff toilet block at the back of the kitchen. This is a requirement of Gambian Education authorities. We are looking for more cash to complete this important work.



Artist's impression of the Sunrise Centre – showing 2015/16 project completion