



GETS News!

May 2019

Issue 36



Sunrise Registration under way

We always put out our Advert for the Sunrise Centre at this time of year and we are delighted at the response it brings, at least from the Nursery and Lower Basic applicants. Parents are keen to register and pay for places to get their children into Sunrise. We usually have reserve lists running, particularly in Lower Basic G1, where our Nursery N3 children take most places.

The Skills Training 1 application process takes a little more faith where the majority of applications come to us in the first weeks of the new academic year, once students find out about their exam results and choose alternatives, like our Skills Training.



75% have job offers - Well Done Skills Year 3



Having asked the students returning from their work placements in Tailoring or Hospitality; we were delighted that more than 75% will have the offer of a job after they Graduate from Sunrise.

This is a testament to the staff and students of the Sunrise Centre and we are clearly delighted at this result.

We have had excellent results in finding a first opportunity for Graduates and we hope that students continue to work to keep these places.

AGM 2019 – In Sevenoaks @12, Sat 31st Aug

To all of our friends, old and new, please consider joining us for our annual general meeting on Saturday 31st August.

The venue is - **Christchurch Hall, Littlecourt Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 2JG**

Lunch is provided, free, at 12pm and the meeting starts around 1pm.

It's a great chance to meet the trustees, other supporters and get a round up of the year's events. It also gives you a great opportunity to ask questions and have a say in how we spend your donations.

Please drop a note if you can come to our secretary, Sue: nelsonsue4@gmail.com



Raising Funds for GETS – Plant Sale at Wessex Archaeology

It is great to see funds being raised for GETS projects in The Gambia.

On this occasion the initiative came from Sue Nelson who advertised and organised a Plant Sale in the company where she works; Wessex Archaeology.

People were encouraged to bring their extra plants to sell on to others within the company making £80 for GETS Funds.

A simple idea that worked very well. Thank you!



Sewing Machine Update



From monies collected by our long term supporters Rudy and Yolanda Nachtegaal (left) and topped up by David and Valerie Allen (right) we have been able to increase our population of sewing machines to 20! When we split up our large class into 2 groups for Skills Training practical work, this will give us one machine each. This is a wonderful step forward from a time when nearly 40 students struggled with only a few machines in full working order.



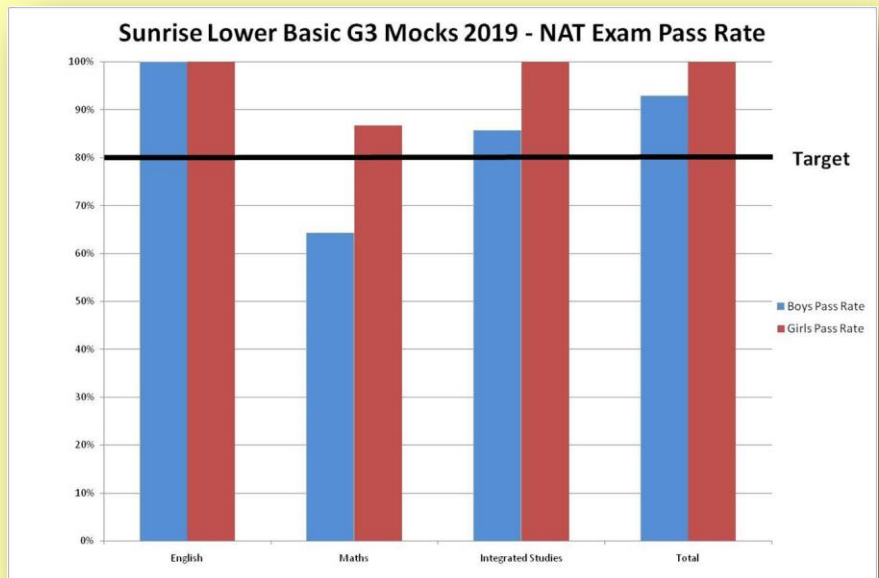
Thank you so much for your continued help, it really is appreciated by everyone at Sunrise.

NAT Mock Results Primary 3 – overall pass rate >90%

Each year either Lower Basic (or Primary) G3 or G5 do a Nationally Assessed exam paper to check standards across schools in The Gambia.

This year our boys and girls in Grade 3 have the challenge and they begin this process with a check on what they have learned in their Mock exams.

This is their first test under real exam conditions so quite scary really. Currently the boys have a bit to catch up in Maths but the teacher, Mrs Cham, says they've still got a bit of the syllabus to complete on Statistics which should fill the gaps here.

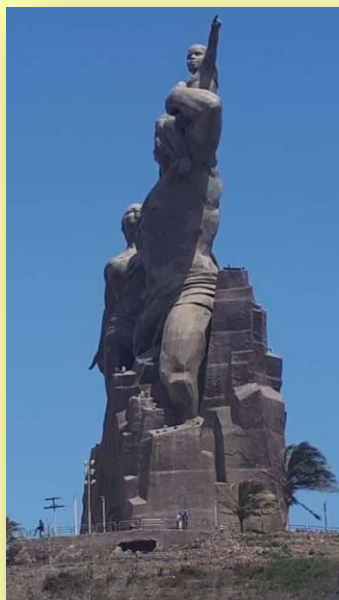


Pen-Friends at Acocks Green Primary School



Nursery 3 have been answering letters from a school in Birmingham, UK called Acocks Green Primary. The UK school has been studying Gambia and African culture. Year 1 primary children had sent scanned letters addressed to each of the Sunrise children in Nursery 3. The first of the replies have gone back to answer questions about favourite subjects, friends and games.

Staff Training – with Gambia College, Brikama



All of our teaching staff and assistants who have been with us for a while have been lucky enough to attend Gambia College to improve their skills and formalise qualifications.

One of the current students in teacher training is Mbacho Jallow, a classroom assistant from Nursery, who is on an Early Childhood Development course now and hopes to qualify this year.

Mbacho was able to go to nearby Dakar in North Senegal to see how that country works and educates its children.

Mbacho's visits included – The African Renaissance Monument (Left) with a wonderful view of Dakar, a Nursery school called Ecole de Franco Arabe, The National Assembly of Senegal and the Gambian Embassy in Senegal.



Can you help us do more?

GETS is achieving a lot but we could do even more with the help of you or your friends.

Could you :-

- Sponsor a child or young adult who has dropped out of education due to a lack of money for fees
- Sponsor a class or a teacher
- Send us cash to improve facilities or keep those we have in great shape
- Check our GETS Wish list and bring us something that we need – see www.gets-sunrise.org/Projects.htm
- Give us your time as a charity Trustee to run GETS and help set out our future plans to do more