

April 2011 Newsletter

For those interested in more regular news about EducAid's activities, please refer to: www.educaidsierraleone.blogspot.com

Creative ICT use is continuing to develop

Some long term friends of EducAid, Lily Johnson (as the Mellor Rose Queen a couple of years ago Lily raised more than £5000) and her dad, Richard (regular marathon runner) got themselves trained and geared up for the event and came out to Sierra Leone last month. The idea was to spend some time working with some of the students on some slightly less commonly accessed technology and to further develop the growing enthusiasm in the ICT department. The result: a moved Lily and Richard team, a couple of quite moving radio programmes and a new radio club in both Rolal and Lumley.

The youngsters are developing their understanding of what is possible in terms of ICT. There are few young people in Sierra Leone who access computers regularly and the majority, if asked, would think of a computer only as a glorified typewriter. The EducAid students are starting to be able to do a lot more than that and we aim, as the numbers of machines available grows and we access further opportunities of the radio/audio editing variety, to get them closer to a global standard of expectation and thinking. For many of our young people, we hope that ICT will be the means to break out of the class bounds and poverty that would otherwise bind their futures.



Lily working with the Radio Club in Rolal, producing a programme on local life.

Link:

<http://www.communityalbums.com/music/educaid-rolal-today>

EducAid has lost two students to TB and there are a number of our young people undergoing the life-saving treatment at the moment. In Lumley the team produced a programme on TB. EducAid.

Link:

<http://www.communityalbums.com/music/tb-can-be-cured>

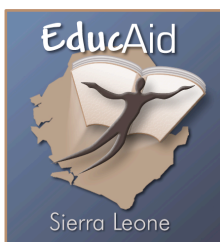


ICT room – Lumley, Freetown.

It's crowded and hot, but the Lumley ICT room is humming with creative activity. Everyone has IT access twice a week; we hope that it will one day be possible to do it every day..

Moses Tholley (2nd EducAid graduate from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone) is running the department, Jimiyke Koroma, BH Sesay, Ishmael Sillah (all EducAid graduates) with Ndola Koroma and Michael Charley are training staff and students in a variety of applications and new ways of thinking using ICT.

We are extremely appreciative of the schools and organisations that have helped us increase our capacity to this point. If anyone is reading this and has access to second hand computers in decent nick, please let us know. We need significantly more to give full access to all 1700 students in our care!



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Patron Alex Ross.

Thank you to all of you who continue to donate to EducAid. None of our activities are possible without your generosity.

If you would like to sign up as a regular donor [e.g. £10 per month pays for education and food for one student] or make a one-off donation, please go to

http://educaid.org.uk/EducAid_Sierra_Leone/Donate_to_EducAid.html

Prayer corner: Please continue to pray for EducAid and for Sierra Leone.

Please pray for:

- EducAid staff and students to continue with courage in their battle against poverty and corruption.
- Funds to continue to be sufficient to meet the ever-growing needs in this largely forgotten country.
- For God's protection against illness and unnecessary death.



Magbeni – great initiative

Wonderful to see the cooperation between staff, students and the administration: completely unprompted Magbeni is working on a solution to the lack of space for its growing Women's Project and girls' sleeping quarters. The team has set to with bricks made by the students. Before the rains begin in earnest, there will be a new girls' dormitory and female staff quarters.

Construction will also start in the next few days of the 2nd floor of the Rolal Senior Secondary School. This will accommodate a teacher-training block facilitating the possibility of helping other schools improve the quality of their delivery too – another exciting development.

EducAid Professionals:

EducAid primarily runs secondary schools. One challenge we face is to let our top talent complete their time with us without being able to help them into the next stage. For our best students (not just academically able but with a willingness to put their education to good use for the country more generally) we try and help them, after a year or two of service as junior staff within the schools, to access tertiary studies. This is not cheap and it is very frustrating to encounter the level of corruption in most institutions here. Thanks to a number of friends of EducAid who provide one-on-one bursaries to individuals within this category, it has been possible to help over 50 youngsters into colleges across the country. In addition to this, a small group in the UK is putting together a network of professionals who can help graduates on into professional postgraduate studies. The first to benefit from this scheme is Mohamed Sannoh (for more information go to:

http://www.educaid.org.uk/EducAid_Sierra_Leone/Mohamed_Sannoh.html)



Mohamed Sannoh graduated with an accounting degree last year and now serves as accountant to EducAid. Here he is hugging his new CIMA text books – passport to the next stage in his development!

If you are interested in helping youngsters in this way, please contact swithun@educaid.org.uk or miriam@educaid.org.uk

Third EducAid fundraising bike-ride....

£20,000 – 2007 – London to Paris.

£40,000 – 2009 – Paris – Brussels.

2011.....somewhere in France on the second weekend in September.

Total raised ?.....up to you!

If you are up for a challenge or could help with collecting sponsors for other participants, please contact Janet Broadhurst on JanetBroadhurst@aol.com for a sponsor form and / or participation details.

