

Notes from the Kenya Parents meeting on Wednesday 24th February 2010

Please combine these notes with the PowerPoint from the meeting. The information contained below covers most of the information passed on at the parents' meeting.

Slide 2 – The vision and the purpose of the trip

The purpose of the trip is to further support our partner schools in Kenya by visiting them in 2011 and offering our assistance with building new classrooms, teaching lessons and supporting their education.

Slides 3-8 – Pictures of classrooms before and after our trips

Slides 3-6 show typical classrooms at Lumuli Primary School as they were in 2006 and 2007. Over the last three years The Weald School has raised over £100,000 through charitable activities such as the sponsored walk and this money has been used to build 16 brand new classrooms (slides 7 and 8).

Slide 11 – The location of our project

The schools we support are located in and around Kitale, a town of around 70,000 people in the western area of Kenya near the border with Uganda.

Slide 12 – The Itinerary

This slide details the proposed outline of the trip. Please note that this is provisional and will remain provisional until after the flights have been booked. The latest possible return date for the trip will be the 13th August.

Slides 13-26 – Photos from previous trips

These photos show some of the tasks our students will be undertaking during the trip. The main thrust of the trip will be to build new classrooms but we will also be involved in supporting lessons, and every student on the trip will be expected to deliver a lesson during our two weeks in schools.

Slide 27 – The Practicalities

The trip will cost £1750 as explained in this slide. This is currently a provisional total and will be confirmed in due time when exact prices for flights and accommodation are known. This price does not include the cost of vaccinations, malaria pills and any special equipment that will need to be bought (e.g. a mosquito net).

Furthermore, each student will be expected to raise a further £250 in funds for the Classrooms for Kenya charity (the “£250 challenge”). This money will be used to buy the bricks, sand and cement that we will use in 2011 to build the new classrooms. This £250 should be raised through sponsored events and other fundraising opportunities and these are to be organised by students in their own time. **Please note** – students are also invited to raise funds towards the cost of their trip and this can be done after their £250 challenge has been completed. For example, if a student organises a sponsored event and raises £400 they are entitled to put £250 into the Classrooms for Kenya charity (thus completing their £250 challenge) and then put the next £150 towards the cost of their trip, **as long as they stated this to their sponsors when asking for sponsorship**. This means that the harder our students work, the more they earn towards their trip.

Gift Aid forms can be downloaded from the Classrooms for Kenya website, www.classroomsforkenya.org.uk. Please note that these forms can only be used for the £250 challenge and not for any trip payments. £250 challenge payments should be made to Classrooms for Kenya and can be made via cheque or online by clicking on “Donate” at the Classrooms for Kenya website. Trip payments should be made via ParentPay to The Weald School (see below).

There will be a team building weekend in late June or early July (provisionally the 1st – 3rd July). This weekend is compulsory as we will use it to cover health and safety, cultural training, basic bricklaying and other essential information.

Concerning the numbers that will be allowed to go and how they will be selected, the final trip number will be decided when demand is known. It is important to note that the trip leaders will consult with heads of year and our pastoral records when selecting the correct students for this trip. If a student’s health or discipline record is a cause for concern then they may not be allowed on this trip.

Slide 28 – Vaccinations

Each student is required to see their doctor to discuss travel vaccinations (this won’t need to be done until January 2011 onwards). The doctor (or travel nurse) has the final say on which vaccinations each student needs and each student must follow their advice. Students are often asked how far away from a decent medical clinic they will be (this information is important when considering the risk

from Rabies) – students will always be within 2-3 hours' drive of good medical facilities. The private clinics in Kitale (within 30 minutes' drive of each school and our accommodation) will be able to deal with the majority of health issues and, the last time we checked, they stock Rabies immunoglobulin.

Concerning dietary needs, many of our previous team members have been vegetarians and this hasn't been a cause for concern. However, anybody with other dietary needs is invited to come and discuss them with Mr Richards.

Slide 29 – What to do next

If, after considering the cost and all the other implications, a student is keen to come then we need a completed application form and a deposit of £250. This deposit is to be paid via ParentPay by logging on using the parent's login and clicking on "My payment items". The Kenya trip will appear in the list on that screen.

Please note that if a student's circumstances change and they pay the deposit but then find that they are unable to go then, as long as this is confirmed before the end of November 2010, at least 90% of the £250 deposit will be refunded.

After paying the deposit and returning the application form students are asked to wait for us to confirm numbers and their place on the trip. The trip can be paid for in instalments (please ensure that the minimum is paid by the dates specified on the PowerPoint) and please note that the minimum payment allowed in any one transaction for this trip is £250. Parents can pay by cheque as well – please note the student's name and form on the back of the cheque.

Will Richards (trip leader)
February 2010