



Bambisanani Partnership

Working Together, Learning Together



st.Mary's
Menzies




Mnyakanya
High School




Sawubona!

Report on St. Mary's visit to South Africa June 2015

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Fourteen adventurous students from St. Mary's Menston once again visited Mnyakanya High School, in the deprived Nkandla region of Kwa Zulu Natal. For the ninth year running they continued their exceptional work that sees the two schools working collaboratively and using sport to promote education, leadership, health and global understanding.

The Nkandla region is in the heart of Zululand and is extremely deprived with 90% unemployment, 60% adult literacy and one of highest HIV/AIDS rates in the world with one in three adults infected.

This year the visit was led by Catherine Chattoe and supported by Giles Wilkes and Tom Pringle, all St. Mary's teachers, along with Andrew Lockwood, a Professional Development Manager at the University of Leeds.

The student team were: Thomas Brady, Jessica Carroll, Chris Chavez Cronin, Ben Cheetham, Marienn Collins, Joseph Copsy, Dominique Cunningham, Will Giles, Niall Hogan, Hannah Jowett, Mitchell Lofthouse, Elliot Mulligan, Rebecca Still and Lucy Tindale.



Mairenn Collins teaching literacy at Ntolwane Primary School

The work this year was inspired by two factors. One major source of motivation came from the creator of the Bambisanani Partnership, David Geldart. David insisted that the work carried out during the 2015 visit must

'raise the bar' and 'we must stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before us.' On this instruction the St. Mary's students prepared curriculum lessons to teach the students from Mnyakanya. The lessons they delivered in South Africa were varied and included, how the heart works, surface area and volume, a music lesson that included thirty students and teachers playing the kazoo, bracelet making and an economics lesson that taught the South African students about production lines. All the lessons were engaging, interactive and delivered brilliantly by the St. Mary's students. It is without doubt that David's wish was granted. June 2015 saw the Bambisanani Partnership go from strength to strength and make an everlasting impact on everybody involved.

The second major influence on the visit was the up and coming Rugby World Cup. Again the St. Mary's students set to work planning a leadership course that would be delivered to thirty South African students. Rugby was used as a focus for the delivery of the course with Rounders and Handball being used to support it. The finale of the visit was for Mnyakanya High School to host a sports and literacy festival for over one hundred local primary school children, which they did with tremendous success. Developing leadership and inspiring students through sport and education was what the Bambisanani Partnership set out to do. Watching the performance of the South African students demonstrated that this had happened. The St Mary's students had delivered and made a real difference. They had empowered the young African students and given them a range of skills that will help them as they continue their journey through high school.



Playing handball at the Sports Festival

The visit to South Africa has clearly had a remarkable effect on the St. Mary's students:

HANNAH JOWETT

"I cannot possibly choose one highlight of the trip as everything we participated in and witnessed was in its own way remarkable. One specific memory that will stay with me forever is our first day at Mnyakanya High School. Where one South African learner saw that my lips were dry and called her friend over to share their Vaseline with me. This simple act of kindness towards a stranger they had just met really emphasises and summarises the loving nature of all the South African teachers, students and citizens we came into contact with.

Despite the difficult conditions people were living in, their continuous positive outlook on life and how appreciative they were for small things was truly inspirational. This has taught me an important lesson about the true value of things. On returning from South Africa I no longer worry about insignificant issues.

One key part that allowed my visit to South Africa to be so incredible was the dynamic between the students and members of staff who were on the trip. There were no cliques or divides amongst us and we all gelled. Some of my fondest memories from South Africa come from when all of the team sat outside at night time with no phones (due to the regular power cuts) talking about the day. The simplicity of this memory puts into perspective that it's the small things in life that can give you the most happiness.

Being part of the Bambisanani Partnership has taught me a lot about myself and the world around me. I have learnt that I am able to cope without my parents and other comforts such as hot showers and my own bed. The Partnership has also highlighted the importance of experiencing different cultures and traditions.

I feel truly privileged to have been involved in the Bambisanani Partnership. No amount of words will ever be enough to describe how truly amazing the visit was."



Hannah teaching the students of Mnyakanya the working of the heart

JOSEPH COPSEY

The first Friday morning we were all up and ready for 6:30am. Our driver, Vussi was already outside the guest house. That morning we went to the primary school which we would later be leading a sports day for. When we arrived we were immediately swamped by the primary school children, but there was one child who I remember particularly, his name was Perfect. He guided us around the school and took us to many of the year groups. One frequently asked question we received from the classes was “what is your favourite food”, our answers ranged from classroom to classroom as we were unsure ourselves. We also visited the reception class and sang, Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes. This is an experience I will remember for the rest of my life.

After working with our groups on Friday afternoon, Monday and Tuesday, teaching them the rules and ways to coach handball; they led some primary school children in a sports festival. We were able to present all of the children with football shirts that we had brought with us. They loved it as we presented them. They couldn't believe it as we told them that they were theirs to keep. The primary school children were then led to areas for each separate sport. The older children that we had worked with previously then took them for a training session. It was extremely rewarding to see the people we had been working with succeed so fantastically. The students from Mnyakanya showed amazing leadership skills and delivered excellent sessions to the children. After this, we held a reading festival in the schools main hall. Each of us had a group of around 10 primary and secondary school children. We read several small books to the group and invited the older children to read some to them as well. One of the older children took an interest in one of the books that I had taken with me (Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl). He didn't manage to finish the book in time but because I knew how much he was enjoying it, I gave it to him to keep, on the condition that he read it to his brothers and sisters.



Joseph at the Reading Festival with the pupils from Ntolwane Primary School

REBECCA STILL

I'm going to start off by saying what I am about to write will not even begin to cover the full extent of my feelings towards Bambisanani and my time in South Africa and to just how astonishing it was.

As a life-long animal fanatic and not exactly the biggest people-person I expected the safari to be the highlight of my trip. I was proved wrong. The safari was great and also created lasting memories such as having to drive through a massive herd of buffalo, but every single aspect of the trip proved to be more amazing than the last.

Seeing the happiness and hope that the trip brings is truly inspiring. Mnyakanya students started dancing when they first saw us: at Zulufadder Orphanage, as the minibus pulled up all of the children came running to us and then completely surrounded the bus.

I have learnt and gained so much from the experience. I am now more appreciative. I have learnt to be more confident in myself and to have fun! They all have such free spirits in spite of the fact that they may have difficult home circumstances. Their laid back nature was apparent when Mnyakanya's head teacher danced at their award ceremony! At the end everyone was up dancing to the ridiculously loud music- some students tried to teach me to dance (tried being the key word). I have created stronger friendships with English students and new ones with South African, still talking regularly to one of the Eshowe students.

There are too many things to write about and the amazing experiences we had will never leave me, from their colourful culture to sitting at the guesthouse during a power cut.

All I can tell you is Bambisanani is a worthwhile trip and South Africa is definitely somewhere that everyone should visit which is why I am already saving up to go back!



Rebecca doing her work at Zulufadder

TOM BRADY

This summer's trip to South Africa was the highlight of my school experience so far and an experience I am sure none of the team involved will forget.

The 10 days trip didn't seem long enough at the time, and looking back at the many things we saw and achieved in such a short time period seems incredible. We were able to enjoy the trip as tourist; exploring the region's culture and history in Shakaland, as well as the extraordinary safari trip at Hluhluwe National Park. More importantly, I was able to gain great satisfaction from making a difference to the lives of individuals living in huts and having to walk miles to school. However, in this environment I also witnessed some of the most joyous scenes as we were met by constant

smiles and respect by all from Mnyakanya. The sports field for example was completely bare-no blades of grass, instead many shards of glass-the kids seemed to laugh at us as we tried to clear the surface whilst they played barefooted yet unconcerned. It is clear that the people of Eshowe need no material items for happiness- I am sure many in the UK will question how they can possibly be happy given their circumstances. This is a true inspiration for me and something I will look to achieve in my life.

I have also learnt to develop a perspective- in reality the vast majority of the problems I encounter are nothing to the South African students.

Finally the power of sport to unite became clear; my favourite memory from the trip was playing football with the AIDS orphans at Zulufadder; their football



Delivering the leadership programme to Mnyakanya students



Teaching an Economics lesson on production lines

LUCY TINDALE

The Bambisanani Partnership is one in which all of those involved can learn and develop new skills.

Whilst in South Africa, we spent most of our time working closely with the Mnyakanya High School students in order for all of us to develop leadership skills in sport. Initially, the St. Mary's students led the Mnyakanya students in sporting activities, including handball, rounders and rugby, teaching them how to teach such sports. This was an opportunity for us to develop leadership and communication skills. Following this, the Mnyakanya students practised leading a group of the British students before further advancing these skills in coaching primary school children on our final day together. Everyone involved was not only able to learn, but to have fun together.

As well as improving skills during our time together, we were able to learn about the different life style of the South African pupils. It was eye opening to see the enthusiasm of the students to participate and try their hardest, despite having to use a hard surface, which was covered with broken glass, cans and rubbish. Each day, the students came in smiling, excited to start the day. Even those who didn't have a pair of shoes to wear put all their efforts into the activities.

Seeing students making the most of the few facilities that they had was inspirational.

The experience has taught me to appreciate all that I have much more and make the most of every opportunity, just as the South Africans do.



Lucy teaching a Maths lesson on surface area and volume



Delivering the leadership programme

NIALL HOGAN

The Bambisanani Partnership has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. The people we met through the trip and places we visited were inspiring. It was amazing to see the different culture in Kwa-Zulu Natal and how we were warmly welcomed into the Zulu way of life.

Every place we visited, the children wanted to perform for us and it was a real privilege for me when I was also able to perform for the pupils of Mnyakanya High School.

Being able to show them a little bit of my musical taste was a great opportunity for me. I was also able to do this through the music lesson that myself and Elliot taught. We finished the lesson with a rendition of the South African national anthem on kazoos, which we brought with us. I've never heard the national anthem played that way however it is something I will never forget. Even when we were doing our sports leadership programme in the afternoon I could still hear kazoos echoing around the school.

There are so many memories from the trip that have changed me. One of these was our visit to the Zulufadder Orphanage. They were some of the happiest children I've ever met. My Grandma and her friends knitted some hats for the children, seeing how appreciative they were of them has taught me a lot about how not to take things for granted.

Many of the people we met said about how much of an impact the partnership has on their lives, to see how sport can unite people was wonderful. It is also amazing how much of an impact they and the partnership has had on my own life.



Niall teaching the students of Mnyakanya to play the kazoo

MAIRENN COLLINS

We were welcomed wherever we went with such warmth over eight and a half thousand miles away: with dancing, singing, and care. South Africa may not be a rich country in terms of money but we found it is rich in its culture, landscapes and people. We worked in Mnyakanya High School delivering a sports leadership programme for students there.

For me, it was about how through playing sport together the differences in our language, culture and backgrounds were forgotten. It was about the eagerness of primary school children to read a book together. It was about not minding when the electricity and water went off because we're lucky to have these when we do, and you can see the stars brighter without anyhow. It was about meeting people like Poppi, who runs an Orphanage with complete faith, love and commitment to the children. I will never forget the sound of more than thirty kazoos buzzing through South Africa's national anthem, or the roof raising choral singing, guitar miming and rapping that formed the final concert the school played for us.

When you see how few material possessions they have out there, it was truly humbling for us all to receive a South African scarf which they had clubbed together to buy for us. Maybe I look like a bit of a tourist but I couldn't be prouder to wear mine.



Marienn teaching the three sciences

CHRIS CHAVEZ CRONIN

We met at 2:30pm in school on Wednesday 17 June, to start the journey that was over twenty four hours and seven thousand miles to the town we were staying- Eshowe, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa. On Friday we met the primary school students and then we met the Mnyakanya High School students, who we would be mentoring. At the weekend we went to Shakaland and learned about the history and culture of the area and on the Sunday we went to Hhuhluwe Game Reserve to find out about South African wildlife. The fifth and sixth day we spent mentoring and coaching the Mnyakanya students with the help of four Eshowe High School students. We could not have done as well as we did without the help of the Eshowe students. On the seventh day the sports and reading festivals were put on. It was great to see the students we mentored growing in confidence over the time we were with them and at the end leading a large group of primary school children very successfully. On the eighth day we were shown around Eshowe High School and were taught about the education system in South Africa. We then went to the Zulufadder Orphanage and it was amazing to see how happy they seemed although they had so little. On the ninth day we visited Durban and we were shown around the city, it was striking to see the difference between the rich and the poor. Overall it was an incredible experience.



Chris working at Zulufadder

DOMINIQUE CUNNINGHAM

The overwhelming feeling in South Africa was for me, 'wow isn't it beautiful?' At every turn there was a picture perfect scene just waiting to be appreciated, and each night the sunset failed to disappoint. The Hhuhluwe Game Reserve especially is a fine example, the breath taking landscape paired with the wild animals roaming the hills, create a unique atmosphere. This beauty however, was not exclusive to the landscape, but instead radiated from every person we met. There was no place I felt unsafe or unwelcome, the people, especially the children, welcomed us with open arms, frequently leaving us humbled and in awe.

Another amazing experience was witnessing the rich culture from a front row seat in a traditional mud hut. And how many people can say they 'voluntarily' took part in traditional Zulu dancing? The culture of South Africa is as expansive as it is interesting. Never have I seen something that is so engrained into the people of a country as these dances, everywhere we went a performance was put on for us.

I have come to find that South Africa isn't the kind of place you visit, but the kind of place where you learn.



Dominique making bracelets

MITCHELL LOFTHOUSE

During my time in South Africa I learnt many valuable lessons and experienced many amazing events, however for me the one thing which stood out most was the attitude of the students at Mnyakanya High School, and their will to learn and better themselves. At one point I was talking to a boy, no older than thirteen, and he said he had aspirations to become a doctor once he had finished at high school. I later found out that this young boy had lost his parents earlier on in his life, and it was this which made me realise how self-motivated and determined he was, and how he wanted to have a positive impact on his community. This was inspiring to hear and it really does allow you to appreciate all you have at home, including the small things.

For me one of the most enjoyable parts of South Africa was Shakaland, where we learnt about the Zulu culture and how different Zulus live compared to ourselves. Another part which I enjoyed probably the most was on an evening time when everyone sat outside and just enjoying the peace and serenity that South Africa has to offer; it made for a more enjoyable time with friends. From this trip I will never forget the times spent in the primary school and high schools but most of all the orphanage where the young children are filled with life and wonder, they really are an inspiration to not only myself but everyone at home in England. All in all the trip has been the most memorable time of my life and I certainly won't forget any of it anytime soon.



Mitchell at Ntolwane Primary School

JESSICA CARROLL

Not only does the Bambisanani partnership leave an ongoing legacy over in South Africa of the work that two schools can produce when they work hand in hand together, but it also leaves a lasting impact upon those who return from the trip. Many obstacles were in place which could have potentially obscured the learning of the pupils from Mnyakanya High School; such as the language barrier between ourselves and them from Zulu to English, or the lack and availability of appropriate teaching space and learning resources, not to mention the playing field outside, which was covered in glass. However watching these young people persevere (under the many difficult circumstances which they face) to learn and develop their knowledge and skills with any opportunity given was completely inspiring.

Personally for me the highlight of the trip was the visit to Zulufadder Orphanage. We were greeted with a sea of smiling faces and these grins lasted for the entirety of the time that we visited. It is incredibly humbling to watch what the impact that one small act of kindness can have upon these young children, their appreciation for such little that they have is beyond compare. I have never underestimated the impact that something as simple as a smile to give out can return such an uplifting feeling in response. The experiences that I have had and the memories that I have made upon this trip will stay with me for a lifetime.



Jess in the classroom

The Mnyakanya students also highlight the positive impact the Bambisanani Partnership has on those who are involved in its work.

“Bambisanani Partnership is a great project. My life changed from the first time I met with St. Mary’s friends. They are so kind and full of love. They made us know what is good for our future, that I wished to be a good leader in future. We were trained to be young leaders, with a hope to see us as future leaders. We were so happy about T-shirts and sports equipment they gave us. We have used this equipment at school. They gave us many gifts, like library books, which help us to get more reading skills and get more information to write school projects and homework’s. Thank you very much to St. Mary’s.”

Ngubane Nokubonga



Mnyakanya students demonstrating their leadership skills

“We had absolute great time with St. Mary’s team in 2015, getting to know more about them and making friends with them. The sports we played with them were so fun, though we didn’t understand some of them but they did demonstrations and we were able to play effectively with them. Their visit helped us a lot by developing the love of sports and passion for sports. They taught us how a leader should communicate and treat people in a good way. The excitement that was written in their eyes brought me hope that everything is going to go smoothly #BecomingaGreatLeader!

Sthabile Zuma

“Bambisanani is an engine of knowledge .St Marys friends are brave and also kind. From first day I met them, I enjoyed their company and learning from them. They were like brothers, sisters or family. When you see us with them, you can tell yourself that may be we are from one family. We communicated comfortably with them, we enjoyed playing with them and learnt many different leadership skills from St. Mary’s friends.”

Mbambo Siphesihle

I must say that, we as Mnyakanya High School are very lucky to have the Bambisanani Partnership. This is the opportunity of a life time to us. This Partnership involves the learners from UK and their teachers arriving in our school and making friends with us. We learnt to play different games, and shared ideas. I would like to say that we appreciated their visit in 2015, and they are always welcomed here at Mnyakanya. We are always very sad to see them going back. We had an extraordinary experience in the year 2015.

Ntanzi Lungelo

“Bambisanani Partnership is a great project. All people from UK are so kind. They make us comprehend all different sports. We as young leaders of 2015 learnt a lot from St. Mary’s. They are so kind and honest. They taught us, how to be a good leader. I am glad because, now all trained young leaders are young leaders in different sports codes, that we participate in, during school sports. Thank you very much to Bambisanani Partnership.”

Khanyile Thabani



Leading



Learning to become leaders

ZULUFADDER

The St. Mary's team devoted some of their time to helping out at Zulufadder Orphanage and Day Care Centre. Zulufadder is an organisation that supports and cares for HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Kwa Zulu Natal. The St. Mary's team spent time singing, dancing and reading with the children from the Orphanage. The visit to Zulufadder was a hard-hitting reminder of the disparity between our world and theirs. However despite the hardship St. Mary's discovered that people working together can make a difference, and that the good work of the Bambisanani Partnership must continue.



Ben Cheetham reading to the children



Mitchell sharing a big read



Welcoming us with their singing



Dominique enjoying reading a story



Learning the English alphabet at Zulufadder

ELLIOT MULLIGAN

Elliot Mulligan remembers his time at Zulufadder:

As the coach pulled up to the orphanage, streams of children ran out and ran alongside us. The woman who runs the orphanage, Poppi, also ran out to greet us and they all started singing, 'Oh this is a happy day'. Once we opened the coach doors, all the children started running towards us, eager for us pick them up, to carry them and give them hugs and high fives. When someone says the word 'orphan' or 'orphanage', most people automatically think negative, unhappy thoughts, but at Zulufadder orphanage there was not one unhappy face. We all immediately gathered in the playground outside the orphanage and formed a circle, where we played different games. We then split off into various groups and sat down on the ground and read different stories. In my group, I tried reading a story to five young children, but after a couple of words they would repeat back what I had just read. This meant that I only had time to read a few stories but the children enjoyed it.

We then went over to the main hut, and after a game of football outside, we entered and were treated to a show put on by the children, and we reciprocated with a little performance of our own. Poppi then got up and explained, in Zulu, how grateful everyone was for the gifts we had brought. At this point, a little girl of about five or six, called Iona came to sit on my knee so she could get a better view. As I went to give her a bracelet I had brought, she refused and instead gave me a bracelet she had on her arm already. I now believe this was the kindest thing anyone has ever done for me; this little girl had nothing, no parents, no toys, and she had given me what was probably one of her only possessions. After this moving encounter, we all made our way to the coach and said our goodbyes. The children surrounded the vehicle and stuck their hands through the windows and said/ shouted their goodbyes.



What makes a good leader



Elliot reading with the children

TEACHER REFLECTIONS

For the teachers too, the visit had a profound effect.

Giles Wilkes:

"I have been incredibly fortunate to assist with the Bambisanani trip twice now, this past year allowed me to see the impact the previous years set of pupils had on those in South Africa. I was amazed as nothing quite prepares you for the impact that so evidently results from the work that has gone on. What appears to be a small act of kindness is so much more. A smile, is so much more than 'just a smile' a helping hand is so much more than 'just a helping hand.' This past year was no exception, the leadership shown initially by the St Mary's pupils was outstanding, and this was reflected in the South African students who delivered a faultless and exceptional sport and reading festival. The compassion and love shown by the two sets of pupils thousands of miles apart was nothing short of awe inspiring. Singing together, laughing together, dancing together and so on is what makes this whole experience so rewarding.

A truly humbling experience to be part of."

Tom Pringle:

"This was my first visit to South Africa so I was filled with both excitement and trepidation as I joined the team on the ninth annual Bambisanani visit. I have learnt and gained so much from my time in South Africa. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to learn about Zulu life and South African culture and to observe wildlife in its natural habitat. I was honoured to be able to deliver the leadership programme to a group of young African people that received me with such joy, kindness and gratitude. The Bambisanani Partnership highlighted to me how, with determination, commitment and teamwork, people can make a positive difference to people's lives and can change things for the better. I was overwhelmed by everyone I met in South Africa, and was left humbled and full of admiration for the inspirational young people I had the privilege to meet. I am delighted to be returning to South Africa in 2016 and look forward to 2017 when I will be leading the visit. It is a project that I am passionate about and want to be part of this unique partnership that is, Bambisanani.

Andy Lockwood:

Bambisanani 2015. Where do I start!

"What can I say about one of the most amazing experiences of my life and definitely the best of my career. Well I have broken it down into four key areas."

South Africa and its people:

"I am not going to lie, before the trip I didn't really know what to expect. I had taken advice, experience and guidance from a variety of people about South Africa; the country and the people. Well I can confirm everything that was said. The country is simply stunning, I can close my eyes now and see the drive to Mnyakanya. Rolling hills and the untouched landscape. Just wow. The people are just of the greatest quality. Happy, humble and excited by possibilities. The children we worked with just highlighted that every day. Smiles and an eagerness to learn. Sport is a powerful currency. I learnt so much from their outlook, attitude and the way they think about family."

The St. Mary's Students:

"Where do I start! If a school is a reflection of its students then St. Mary's is one of the best around. The 10 days with the gang were great, all of them intelligent, insightful and genuinely really good people. Seeing their growth throughout only enriched my experience. Any university would be lucky to have them as students in 2016/17. Please come to Leeds!"

The staff:

Well if you didn't know it already St. Mary's, you have some pretty special teachers! Mrs Chattoe, Mr Wilkes and Mr Pringle are some of the best teachers I have had the pleasure to work with. That is shown in no small part by the respect and rapport they have with the students. They worked tirelessly over not only the course of the 10 days of the trip but also the months leading up to it. You are very lucky to have them!



Finally, what a very special project!

David Geldart's words ring true. "You just need to go out there and experience it". Well I certainly did that!

The project is unique in both its unwavering commitment but also the impact it has on everyone who has the privilege to be involved. The way it is integrated into the life of St. Mary's and Mnyakanya is truly special. The impact it has is exceptional, developing leadership, confidence and life skills. It is without doubt life changing for students in the UK and South Africa. It

has left its mark on me and I will be doing my upmost to support, advocate and develop the partnership in any way possible. It is the very least I can do.

See you all in 2016 with the University of Leeds team!

Staff at Mnyakanya High school recognise the importance of the project.

Mazet Zlanga:

“Bambisanani Partnership has played a big role towards developing our learner’s talents, boosting their self-esteem, and teaching them to be more independent. It has also developed their communicating skills around the school and out of the school, building new relationships and learn how to sustain those relationships. We have learned to respect each other’s culture which is part of UBUNTU and different lifestyles. We have learned how to appreciate others in a way that respects our differences. We have learned and been able to compare our education systems and learn from each other. We still believe that there is a lot that we are going to teach and learn from each other by God’s grace ‘SIYAPHAMBILI’ (we going forward)”

AWARDS CEREMONY

After the successful sport and literacy festivals we ended our visit with an emotional yet joyous awards ceremony. Several students were recognised for their achievements.

The first three awards were about remembering people and honouring their lives as well as celebrating success.

The Laurie M^cCauley Award for Most Improved Player was presented to Xolani Ndaba.

The Laurie McCauley Award for Creative Writing was presented to Silindokuhle Manyoni.

The Sponela Magwaza Outstanding Leader Award was presented to Standiwe Magwaza. This same award will also be presented to a St. Mary’s student. Karl Verspyck will receive this award in December 2015 at the St. Mary’s A-level Presentation Evening.

The John Paul II Foundation for Sports Awards were presented at the ceremony. The foundation was set up to promote value driven sport. Monsignor Vladimir Feltzmann, Chief Executive of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport, said ‘Good values and sport are a winning combination and together they can create special opportunities for those that follow.’ The foundation and the Partnership promotes both of these. These awards were issued to students from Mnyakanya High School and Ntolwane Primary School.

The John Paul II Foundation for Sport: Ntolwane Sportswoman of the Year Award was presented to Sinalo Tshobas.

The John Paul II Foundation for Sport: Ntolwane Sportsman of the Year Award was presented to Sibani Zuma.

The John Paul II Foundation for Sport: Ntolwane Sports Leader of the Year Award was presented to Lulama Zungu.

The John Paul II Foundation for Sport: Helping Others Achieve their Potential Award was presented to Neliswa Xulu.

The John Paul II Foundation for Sport: True Spirit Award was presented to Andile Mlamb.





Twenty four Mnyakanya students also received the Bambisanani Leadership Award after successfully completing the course. These were:

- Magwaza Ngcebo
- Mbambo Siphesihle
- Sithole Luyanda
- Ngubane Nontethelelo
- Zuma Sthabile
- Mlambo Andile
- Zuma Nokwanda
- Khoza Mzamo
- Ntuli Fikisisa
- Mbambo Nonzuza
- Magwaza Zanele
- Zuma Vuyokazi
- Magwaza Sthandiwe
- Xulu Zimisele
- Mdunge Nokwanda
- Nala Nobuhle
- Mbambo Seluleko
- Magwaza Celokuhle
- Ntanzi Lungelo
- Jali Samkelisiwe
- Mavundla Gcinile
- Mpanza Ntando
- Shange Nhlakanipho
- Magwaza Nomcebo



OUR TIMELINE PROMISE

During the ceremony the 2015 team presented Mnyakanya High School with nine posters, that depicted all the major events and any 'firsts' that had happened in each of the first nine years of the partnership. The posters were presented at the celebratory assembly. The intention behind this new idea is that events and memories will be created each year. The poster will then be designed collaboratively between the two schools at the end of each year. The following year the poster must be presented to Mnyakanya High School and added to the timeline display. This idea was set up to ensure sustainability for the partnership. We now have to make sure that we meet up every year to present the poster and continue to highlight the good work of the partnership in a timeline display that can be viewed in the main hall at Mnyakanya High School.



The presentation of the first nine posters at the celebratory assembly.



DIANA AWARD FOR MNYAKANYA STUDENTS

During our visit we were privileged to meet with the seven students from Mnyakanya High School who were celebrating international acclaim as they were in receipt of the prestigious Diana Award. The students were recognised for their outstanding work in the wider community with the 'Child Care' organisation. They have been caring and supporting victims of abuse or those with HIV infection.



The photograph shows from left to right, Xolile Makhoba, Ayanda Mkhize, Thobeka Mkhize, Nonkululeko Nala, Nonjabulo Langa, Nomfundo Shangase and Noxolo Zuma who are all deserved recipients of the Diana Award.

SIMPHIWE NDLOVU

A significant highlight of the 2015 visit to South Africa was the opportunity to meet with Simphiwe Ndlovu.

Simphiwe successfully completed the Bambisanani Leadership Award in 2011 and decided that he wanted to become a teacher in order to serve his community. After three exceptionally hard years of study with few resources, Simphiwe gained a place at University to begin a teacher training programme. St. Mary's and the Bambisanani community, together with friends in South Africa, are helping to support Simphiwe in his next three years at University.

It was great to have Simphiwe help us deliver the leadership course and assist with the sports and literacy festivals.

Simphiwe said:

"I knew that I wanted to be a teacher when I completed the Bambisanani Leadership Programme. I was really motivated to succeed in my studies at school to gain entry to University. To become a teacher is my dream.

"With this financial support I can now put all my efforts into studying rather than worrying about whether I can afford to take up the place. I want to be one of those good teachers that the world needs. God has showered me with blessings which includes Mnyakanya, St. Mary's and the Bambisanani Partnership."

The Bambisanani Partnership has recently provided twelve hours of training for teachers to be able to use tablets to enhance teaching and learning across the curriculum at Mnyakanya High School.



St. Mary's students meet Simphiwe Ndlovu



St. Mary's staff meet Simphiwe Ndlovu

St. Mary's continued to help resource the Library at Mnyakanya High School. Books generously donated from other schools within The Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust were taken out to South Africa and added to the collection previously donated by the Chief Executive of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport, Monsignor Vladimir Feltzmann.

TABLETS AT MNYAKANYA

The computer giant Intel contributed to the training costs and the following week thirty more tablets, provided by the Bambisanani Partnership, were to arrive at the school for students to use in lessons.



Training the teachers to use the tablets to help deliver more effective lessons

Mrs Pk Zondi at Mnyakanya School said *“The two days of training was excellent and the teachers participated enthusiastically – it opened another page in our minds. It was easier than we thought and we are now confident to use the devices with our learners who are very excited at this new opportunity. We thank the Bambisanani Partnership for making this possible”*

Mr Tony Moodley, Chief Education Specialist for the Department of Education in Kwa Zulu Natal added *“I would like to thank all involved with the Bambisanani Partnership for pursuing this project. The training has been a great success and we hope that this will now be a springboard to fully utilize digital technology in the teaching and learning process.”*

David Geldart said *“This initial training and the tablets are a starting point for us. More training and hardware will hopefully follow but our goal is to establish full internet connectivity at Mnyakanya. We have made the all-important first step and look forward to even more significant developments in this area in the year ahead.”*



Thank you for the tablets

CHARITABLE STATUS

September 2015 saw the schools work in South Africa gain charitable status.

David Geldart was clearly delighted with the news:

“Quite rightly it is a long and rigorous process to become a registered charity but our new status will enable us to have an even greater impact in the future and ensure our long term sustainability. Our proven track record and ambitious plans for the future were important factors in us gaining charitable status; special thanks must go to all those that have been involved in the partnership over the past nine years. This is a really exciting time and all of us involved cannot wait to get started on developing our work further both here in the UK and in South Africa. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin Emsley, Duncan Milwain and Jack Irwin at Solicitors, Lupton Fawcett Denison Till in Leeds for not only their long term support of the partnership but specifically for helping us with the legal aspect of becoming a charity.”

St. Mary’s Headteacher Darren Beardsley said:

‘We see this as the beginning of a new chapter for the partnership and this is a further demonstration of our commitment to global learning, bringing together young people from different countries.’

There was also national praise for the achievement. Baroness Sue Campbell, CBE and Chair of the Youth Sport Trust said:

“It is wonderful news that the Bambisanani Partnership has become a registered charity. For the past nine years staff and students at St. Mary’s and Mnyakanya have worked tirelessly to create an amazing partnership that has used the power of sport to promote wider educational goals in a genuine international collaboration. Becoming a charity demonstrates the commitment of both schools to global learning which will now lead to further opportunities to involve more schools and young people in both countries in this inspirational work.”

Tessy Ojo, CEO of the Diana Award added:

“I am delighted that The Bambisanani Partnership has become a registered charity. This is further recognition for the hard work and commitment of all the staff and students who have been involved in the partnership, both at St. Mary’s and also Mnyakanya High School. We have been honoured to work with the Bambisanani Partnership over the past five years, helping shine the spotlight on over one hundred incredible young people who have selflessly dedicated their time to improving

the lives of others in one of South Africa's poorest rural communities. We are delighted that the Partnership have been granted charitable status and we look forward to celebrating many more young people, who continue in the footsteps of Diana, Princess of Wales."

The Founding Trustees of the partnership are Mrs Katie Campbell, Mr Darren Beardsley, Mr Duncan Baines, Mr David Geldart, Mrs Diane Maguire and Mrs Barbara Pounder.

In addition to celebrating charitable status the Bambisanani partnership has enjoyed success in the form of a prestigious award.

AIREBOROUGH ROTARY AWARD FOR BAMBISANANI



Rotary International have honoured St. Mary's groundbreaking work in South Africa with one of its highest awards, the Certificate of Appreciation. The school's work in South Africa has gained world-wide acclaim using sport to promote education, health, global citizen and leadership in one of South Africa's most deprived rural areas.

The special Awards Dinner was organised by the Rotary Club of Aireborough with representatives from Rotary Clubs throughout the region attending. The award was presented to the Founder of the Bambisanani Partnership, David Geldart and Mrs Catherine Chattoe, the partnerships Coordinator at St. Mary's, by Mrs Hazel Haas, District Governor of Rotary International.

The District Governor explained the background of the award and praised the exceptional humanitarian and educational work of the Bambisanani Partnership.

"When the Rotary charity, the Rotary Foundation was created, it was decided to create a Paul Harris Award in recognition of the Founder of the organisation. The Certificate of Appreciation is the equivalent award

when given to an organisation of which St. Marys School and its Bambisanani Partnership are such worthy recipients. Led by David Geldart the amazing partnership has achieved remarkable outcomes and epitomises the Rotary motto of 'Service above Self'. The Bambisanani Partnership demonstrates just what can be achieved even in the most difficult of circumstances. It is wonderful to hear that the partnership has recently become a registered charity and I am sure it will go from strength to strength and inspire others in the process."

In his acceptance speech David Geldart said *"It is a wonderful honour to receive this prestigious award from Rotary International. We began the Bambisanani Partnership nine years ago and we have worked closely the Aireborough Rotary Club and Eshowe Rotary Club in South Africa from the very beginning. The help, advice and genuine interest in the project from the two Rotary Clubs has been nothing short of amazing. We would not have achieved all that we have achieved without their help and I would like to thank all the Rotarians involved for their tremendous support and guidance."*

UNIVERSITY LINKS

Formal links have now been established between The Bambisanani Partnership, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University. Catherine Chattoe is delighted with these additions to the partnership and is looking forward to moving the partnership forward with two such formidable institutions.

Catherine Chattoe was delighted with the visit and the triumphs of the Bambisanani Partnership this year.


"The visit to South Africa in June 2015 was a tremendous success. I cannot praise my colleagues, Giles Tom and Andy, enough for what they achieved. Throughout the year they always made the most generous, considered, unique and selfless contributions: to them I am forever grateful. The St. Mary's students responded in ways that continually restored my faith in young people. The Partnership is truly special. When I see the impact of our work on young people and adults in both countries, outlined in this report, it is clear that despite many difficulties and frustrations the Bambisanani Partnership is making a real difference to some people's lives. Working with St. Mary's staff and students and people from South Africa as part of the Bambisanani Partnership has been truly enlightening. It is an experience I will take with me for the rest of my life.


Special thanks must go to all our supporters for their outstanding contribution to this project."



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