

Bambisanani

Ten Years of Working Together and Learning Together



**Bambisanani:
Ten Years of
Working Together
And Learning
Together**

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Acknowledgment

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Zulu Proverb

This book is dedicated to all those who have contributed in any way to the development of the Bambisanani Partnership over the last ten years. Large or small, all contributions have been important and accumulative; together they have added greatly to the amazing Bambisanani story and helped make a difference in the world.

**Ubucwibi Obuhle Buhamba Ngabubili.
Isaga sesiZulu**

Leli bhuku ngilethula kubo bonke ababe nesandla ekuthuthukiseni iBambisanani Partnership eminyakeni eyishumi eyedlule. Okukhulu nokuncane abakuphose esivivaneni, kudlale indima enkulu, ekuphumeleliseni lo mqule weBambisanani, futhi kube neqhaza ekwenzeni umehluko ezimpilweni zabantu, emhlabeni wonke jikelele.



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Foreword: The Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE, DL

The Bambisanani Partnership, between St. Mary’s School in Leeds and Mnyakanya School in KwaZulu-Natal, has provided a wonderful ongoing experience for so many young people both in the UK and in South Africa. Sometimes there are moments in our lives when we have the opportunity to be involved in something that can have a significant impact. For many young people the Bambisanani Partnership has provided one of those moments.

Growing up, my father used to say to me that “Education gives you choices”. It was only when I was much older did I realise what he meant. It was much more than formal education, although that certainly helps. What he really meant was that he thought it was important to learn and understand more about the wider world. More specifically for me, it was the opportunity to be involved in sport and physical activity, the opportunity to travel and see the world that had a big impact on my own life. Sport is a thread that pulls people together and provides opportunities to make friends, learn about yourself and push yourself to your limits. Education and learning from others’ experiences can do the same. The Bambisanani Partnership encapsulates all of this, not least the power of sport as a force for good in the world.

It is significant that the partnership has grown in influence to incorporate other schools, universities and organisations in its important work. For so many young people to have the chance to be part of this project is individually empowering. It is the personal longevity of involvement for the individual that adds to the benefits. For the young people involved, what they experience and learn will have an impact not just on them but on others for the rest of their lives.

Developing a meaningful and ongoing relationship over ten years is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all those involved. This book tells a remarkable story and I congratulate the Bambisanani Partnership for all that it has achieved.

Tanni Grey-Thompson





Introduction

In 2006, as the then Director of Physical Education and Sport at St. Mary's Catholic High School, Menston, I visited South Africa as part of the British Council and Youth Sport Trust *Dreams and Teams* initiative to promote sport in the countries' most deprived areas. Who would have predicted that, as a direct result of that visit, St. Marys and Mnyakanya High School in KwaZulu-Natal would go on to establish and develop a unique partnership using sport to inspire and change the lives of young people in both countries?

The two schools named their collaboration the 'Bambisanani Partnership' – Bambisanani being the Zulu word meaning 'working hand in hand'. The partnership has subsequently gained international acclaim for its *'pioneering and inspirational work'* using the power of sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of South Africa's poorest rural regions. Ten years on the partnership has become a multi award winning charity which it is my great privilege to Chair.

Mnyakanya High School is situated in the rural and remote Nkandla region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The school, in the heart of traditional Zululand, was opened by Nelson Mandela in 2004 and is located in one of the most deprived areas of South Africa with high levels of HIV/AIDS, unemployment and adult illiteracy. The area has one of the highest rates of AIDS orphans in the world. Class sizes are in excess of sixty and the school has very limited resources. Despite all this, the school provides an oasis of hope in the area and many students walk two hours, each way, for the opportunity to receive an education.

Beyond the initial 'Dreams and Teams' initiative our vision was to develop an authentic, sustainable and effective partnership that would allow both school communities to work together and learn together in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration. Sport has driven the Bambisanani Partnership and has been the catalyst for whole school developments at both St. Mary's and Mnyakanya. Over the course of the past ten years the Bambisanani Partnership has become part of each school's identity. Teacher and student exchanges, joint learning projects involving almost all areas of the curriculum, have enriched teaching and learning at both schools and empowered the partnership. The Bambisanani Partnership is not merely embedded in both school communities it is now part of their DNA, part of who we are and what we believe in. This work is a constant reminder of our values, our purpose and the importance of interdependence in an ever changing and complex world.

The spirit of *Olympism* (using sport for the greater good) and *Ubuntu* (human kindness) has inspired this work and indeed has extended it to other schools, universities and charities, who have subsequently become part of the Bambisanani family.

This book, our fourth, provides a ten year chronology of key dates, actions and outcomes. I cannot claim to have written it as the stories and quotations are provided by members of the amazing Bambisanani team both in South Africa and the UK; it has, however, been a joy to compile it. Without question it is a story of challenge, determination and hope.

The Bambisanani Partnership will not change the world, but it has changed the world for some people. It is testimony to the unique power of sport and of education as to what can be achieved by working hand in hand in a genuine partnership. We have learned so much from our first ten years of working together; not least that we can achieve even more in the next ten years.

David Geldart, Founder and Chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership, January 2017

Isendlalelo

Ngonyaka wezi-2006, njengoMqondisi kweZokuzivocavoca neZemidlalo eSt.Mary's Catholic High School, Menston, ngavakashela eNingizimu Afrika njengenxenywe yokwakusungulwe iBritish Council neYouth Sports Trust Dreams and Teams, ukugqugquzela ezemidlalo kumazwe ngamazwe, ikakhulukazi emazweni antulayo. Ubani owayengaqagula ukuthi, ngalokho kuvakasha nje kuzokwakheka futhi kukhule ukusebenzisana phakathi kweSt.Mary's noMnyakanya High School okwaZulu-Natal, kusetshenziswa ezemidlalo ukukhuthaza intsha, kuwo omabili amazwe?

Eqinisweni nami ngangingazi. Lezi zikole ezimbili zaqamba lokhu kusebenzisana ngokuthi 'iBambisanani Partnership'-iBambisanani isho ukusebenza ngokuhlanganyela. Lokhu kusebenzisana sekuhehe amazwe omhlaba ngenxa 'yomsebenzi oncomekayo okhuthaza' ezemidlalo, ezemfundo, ezempilo, ukwamukelana kwezizwe ezahlukeni kanye nokuhweba. Kule minyaka eyishumi lePartnership isihlomule ngezindodla zemiklomelo.Lokhu kwenza ngiziqhenye ukuba uSihlalo wayo.

Isikole saseMnyakanya siseNdaweni yaseMaphandleni esiyingini saseNkandla, kwaZulu-Natal, ezwenikazi laseNingizimu-Afrika. Lesi sikole, esisenkabeni yezwe lakwaZulu, savulwa ngokusemthethweni nguDokotela Nelson Mandela, ngonyaka wezi-2004. Lesi sikole sikwenye yezindawo ezikhungethwe ububha eziseningizimu neAfrica. Le ndawo inesibalo esiphezulu sezintandane, isandulela ngculaza/ negciwane layo, ukungabibikho kwemisebenzi kanye nabantu abaningi asebekhulile abangafundile. Lesi sikole simumatha cishe izingane ezingamashumi ayisithupha egumbini ngalinye lokufundela.Lesi

sikole sinezinsizakufunda ezingenele. Nakuba bebhakene nalezi zimo ezinzima, lesi sikole siyithemba elikhulu le mpumelelo kubafundi bakule ndawo. Abanye abafundi bahamba amabanga amade okungaba cishe amahora amabili ngezinyawo ukuya nokubuya esikoleni, ngenhloso yokuphokophela imfundo.

Ngaphezu kokwaqalwa 'iDreams and Teams', injongo enkulu kwaku wukuthuthukisa ubudlelwane, nokusebenzisana okuneqiniso, okuzinzile nobunempumelelo, obuzoba nokufundisana, inhlonipho nokubambisana. Ezemidlalo zibambe elikhulu iqhaza ukuthuthukisa iBambisanani Partnership, nasekuthuthukiseni uMnyakanya kanye neSt Mary's. Eminyakeni eyishumi edlule iBambisanani Partnership, ibe semizweni kakhulu kulezi zikole zombili .Ukuvakashelana kwabafundi nothisha, izinhlelo zokufunda ndawonye, ezithinta yonke imikhakha yemfundo, konke lokhu kulithuthukisile izinga lokufunda nokufundisa kuzo zombili lezi zikole kanye nokubambisana. IBambisanani Partnership ISIYINGXENYE enkulu yalezi zikole, isingenye yezindlela lezikole ezaziwa ngayo futhi isiyinkolelo yazo zombili lezi zikole.Lo msebenzi uyasikhumbuzisa njalo ngesizigqaja ngakho, ngombono wethu nokubaluleka kokusebenzisana.

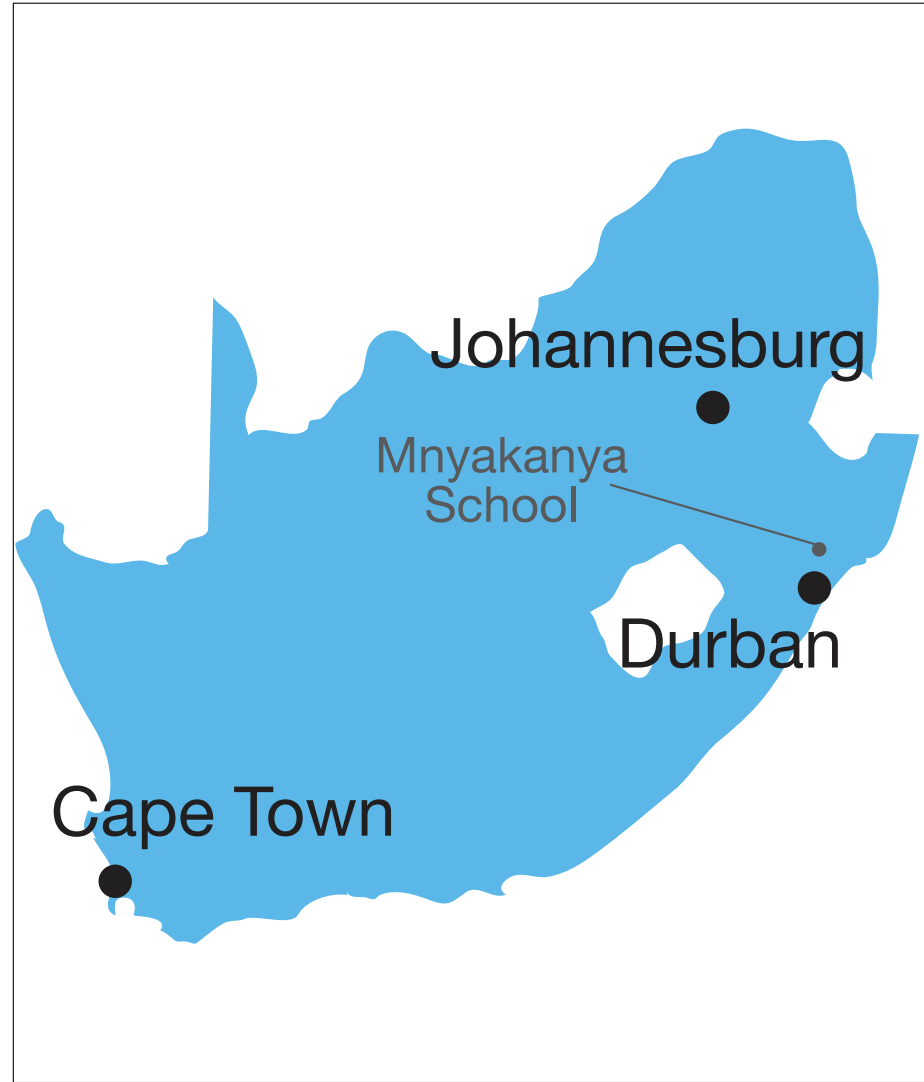
Umoya woSikompilo lwezemidlalo (ukusetshenziswa kahle kwezemidlalo) kanye noBuntu (ubulungiswa kubantu) kuwuthuthukise kakhulu lo msebenzi, kwaze kwakapakela nakwezinye izikole, amaNyuvesi kanye nezinhlangano zokusiza, esezibe ingxenywe yalomndeni weBambisanani Partnership. Leli bhuku, okungelesine, lichaza kabanzi ngosekwenzekile ngokulandelana kwezinsuku ezibalulekile,

izehlakalo kanye nemiphumela. Ngingeze ngathi konke okubhaliwe kusuka kimi, ngoba okuningi kucashunwe kulabo abababalulekile ababambe iqhaza kwiBambisanani, engxenyeni yaseNingizimu Afrika kanye naseUK. Kube intokozo enkulu ukuhlanganisa lo mqulu. Ngokungangabazi leli bhuku liwumqulu obe nenselelo enkulu, obe nokuzinikela kanye nethemba.

IBambisanani Partnership isishintshe izimpilo zabantu abaningi emhlabeni jikelele.Iyincwadi efundekayo ngokuqhakambisa ezemidlalo, ezemfundo kanye nekhombisa okukhulu okungazuzwa ngokubambisana. Sifunde okuningi kule minyaka eyishumi, sisebenza ngokubambisana. Sinethemba futhi lokuzuzwa okukhulu eminyakeni eyishumi ezayo.

Ibhalwe ngu-David Geldart, ongumsunguli nongusihlalo weBambisanani Partnership, kuMasingana wezi-2017.





Chronology 2006–2016

“The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is just tenacity.”

Amelia Earhart

October 2006: First Steps

The Bambisanani Partnership developed as a result of the British Council/Youth Sport Trust ‘Dreams and Teams’ initiative. In October 2006, David Geldart, Assistant Headteacher and Director of Physical Education and Sport at St. Mary’s visited South Africa as part of a Youth Sport Trust/British Council delegation to advise on the School Sport Mass Participation Programme which aimed to promote sport in South Africa’s eighteen most deprived areas. He visited Mnyakanya School which is situated in one of the eighteen areas, and stayed in a ‘converted’ classroom with the Principal, Mr Lucas Dube. He was the first European to visit the school and was welcomed unreservedly by both the school and wider community. The opportunity arose to meet with key decision makers in the community including the Zulu Chief, the Mayor, Municipality Officials, School Governors and representatives from the Department of Education and the Department of Sport and Recreation. David was in no doubt about the importance of these meetings:

“Friendship and trust are paramount in Zulu culture. The meetings helped establish this and much more. Without question a bond was created which has driven our joint work. My starting point was not to say what I thought but to ask questions, listen and learn. What emerged from these meetings were the key issues which ultimately informed our joint aims and objectives. Lucas played a most significant role in making all this happen.”









Whilst at the school, David provided training to the newly appointed School Sport Assistants from the area and taught students from Mnyakanya.

“The desire of students to learn is palpable; students in the UK have much to learn from Mnyakanya students who demonstrate quite unbelievable aspiration, motivation and commitment. One night, I saw a light on in a classroom and went over to investigate. I found two students in the room studying for the forthcoming matriculation exam. It transpired that the female student, Thembeke Luthuli, had walked two hours to school that day for a 7.30am start. At 2.30pm, the end of the school day, she walked home to make a family meal before returning to school to revise. She came back into school because her friend, Senzo Nzuzo, had a text book and there was an electric light. The students were studying science and informed me that they would work through the book probably finishing about midnight. Thembeke then had the two hour walk home over rough tracks in the dark. She would walk eight hours that day because she wants to be a nurse. Senzo informed me that his ambition was to become a teacher. Both students were back in school next morning for the 7.30am start.”



“The desire of students to learn is palpable; students in the UK have much to learn from Mnyakanya students who demonstrate quite unbelievable aspiration, motivation and commitment.”

It was evident to David just how much children in the local community loved sport, particularly football: *“My first experience of this was watching a group of twenty barefoot boys playing a ‘match’ on rough ground shared with cattle just opposite the school. What was remarkable was that they did not have a ball as such; instead they played with plastic bags wrapped together. Despite the poverty and deprivation, the children are so positive; every day I was greeted by the most amazing smiles. The total experience had a profound effect on me. There was no going back from this stage; it was evident then that we all had so much to learn from working together. As a Physical Educator I was drawn to two quotes from Nelson Mandela that would serve to inspire our partnership.”*



“Sport has the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Sport can create hope where there was once only despair. It breaks down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all kinds of discrimination. Sport speaks to people in a language they can understand.”

Nelson Mandela



**“Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world.”**

Nelson Mandela

David returned to Leeds determined to develop the partnership and to embed it as a major aspect of St. Mary's international work. The starting point was to 'tell the story' of the visit to students, teachers, support staff, parents and governors in an attempt to involve the whole school community:

"The initial reaction was 'what can we do to help?' This was important as clearly people recognised the vast material inequalities that exist between our two communities. Whilst the 'what can we do?' response is important, I tempered this with the question 'what can we learn?'"

November 2006: Mnyakanya Principal visits Leeds

The British Council and Youth Sport Trust made it possible for Mr Lucas Dube, Principal of Mnyakanya School, to visit St. Mary's. Following strategic meetings with the British Council and the Youth Sport Trust, he visited a number of schools in the St. Mary's School Sport Partnership experiencing a wide range of classes, showing a particular interest in teaching methods and student leadership. His warmth and charm captured the hearts of the St. Mary's community. Mutual trust and respect gave rise to a shared vision for the collaboration to develop an equal, sustainable and effective partnership that allowed the two schools to work together and learn together for the benefit of both communities and beyond.

Speaking at a special school assembly in his honour, Lucas made it clear to the St. Mary's community how important the partnership could be:

"This partnership offers the greatest hope to my community of improving the education of young people. It has the capacity to raise both aspirations and awareness. I challenge both school communities to still be working together in one hundred years' time. If we achieve this, we will make such a difference to so many people's lives."

Lucas returned home to share his experiences and to plan for future partnership work.



“This partnership offers the greatest hope to my community of improving the education of young people. It has the capacity to raise both aspirations and awareness. I challenge both school communities to still be working together in one hundred years’ time. If we achieve this, we will make such a difference to so many people’s lives.”

Lucas Dube

December 2006: Daring to Dream

By this time the two schools were working hard on partnership ideas and as a result of extensive consultation, the following aims and objectives were agreed that would enhance learning in both schools:

Aims:

- To use sport to promote education, health, global understanding and leadership
- To develop empathy, trust and respect for others through collaborative activities, celebrating cultural variety and richness
- To embed the concept of Global Citizenship and the importance of international links within whole school development planning and pedagogy

Objectives:

- To introduce and develop sport and physical education at Mnyakanya School
- To develop leadership courses and leadership opportunities for students
- To develop training opportunities for teachers and other adults
- To explore own and each other's cultural heritage and experiences
- To create opportunities for orphans to attend Mnyakanya School
- To establish an annual visit of staff and students to both schools
- To establish School Councils to develop a 'student voice' within the schools
- To engage in social enterprise activities to fund and support the work of the partnership
- To seek sponsorship from organisations and businesses to fund the work of the partnership
- To support Sports Assistants to deliver the School Sport Mass Participation Programme (SA)
- To explore opportunities to develop other curricular areas
- To work with external agencies and local decision makers to develop the partnership
- To raise awareness of the partnership's work through the media



December 2006: First Fundraising

The South African partnership was included in the St. Mary's annual Advent Appeal. More than £1,000 was raised to help fund orphans into Mnyakanya School. With regard to funding the orphans into school, a strict protocol was established with a range of conditions to be met to ensure transparency of the system. This was agreed between the two schools with the British Council holding the funding until evidence of the conditions being met was confirmed.

In addition to this, Sixth Form students, Katie Moran and Emily Tindall, organised a football shirt appeal with students and staff donating football shirts to be sent to Mnyakanya. The appeal went far beyond the school with members of the wider community also donating shirts. Former St. Mary's students from the band the *Kaiser Chiefs* donated their Leeds United shirts. More than 300 were sent to South Africa. This also brought about the first business support for the partnership with shipping company, Cardinal Maritime, contacting the school and offering to ship the shirts to South Africa at no charge.

Raising funds and raising awareness were now inextricably linked as far as the project was concerned. Most importantly twenty orphans began their education at Mnyakanya School in January 2007.



February 2007: Bands do it for Africa

St. Mary's is well known for its musical talent and Sixth Form students Greg Davis, Sam Prowse and Will Carder organised a 'Battle of the Bands' competition to raise money for the school's work in South Africa: funding orphans into school, providing much needed equipment and bringing students together to develop leadership skills in a variety of community projects.

Five talented St. Mary's bands played in the competition:

Storm Haven (Greg Davis, Sam Prowse and Will Carder)

Good Fall (James Jackson, James Holland and Jonny Forrest)

Fear Incarnate (Elliott Ibbetson, Jamie M'Kinlay and Ben Jarman)

The Swing Movement (Patrick Wanzala-Ryan, Ben Walker, Kieran Borrett and Joe Gamble)

Next Station (Mark Wanzala-Ryan, Chris Wanzala-Ryan and Joe Cox)

The bands played to over 200 students and staff and after almost three hours of music the panel of judges eventually named Good Fall as the winners.

Organiser Greg Davis was delighted with the event:

"As a school we are really behind the work in South Africa. We have all learned so much about what life is like for young people in the Mnyakanya area. We realise how fortunate we are in so many ways and some of our bands wanted to do their bit to try and make a difference. The event raised over £250 for our work in South Africa and I would like to thank all the students and staff who supported the event."



March 2007: First students visit South Africa

The British Council and Youth Sport Trust invited St. Mary's to take two students to South Africa as part of the *Young Ambassadors* project. Significantly, two Sixth Form students from a partner school in Leeds were invited to extend the South African link into the School Sport Partnership led by St. Mary's.

During the stay students, Libby Aspden and Jimmy Scott attended lessons and also had the opportunity to use and develop their extensive leadership skills. This involved coaching sport, teaching other curriculum areas and assisting David in providing a full day in-service training course to eighteen Sports Assistants from the School Sport Mass Participation Programme and teachers from Mnyakanya. The day was a tremendous success with Libby and Jimmy leading many of the sessions. Following this wonderful day, where Libby and Jimmy had very impressively taught a group of thirty adults, they were approached by some Mnyakanya students who asked if they would teach them Physics and, more specifically, the topic of 'vectors'. Both Libby and Jimmy did study Physics and agreed to teach them. What happened next was completely unplanned but remarkable nevertheless. By the time they had reached the classroom, word had spread that an extra science lesson was taking place and a group of six students had increased to thirty plus. It is worth remembering that this was after school and that most students would have at least a two hour walk home. With no preparation time and only a blackboard and a piece of chalk, Libby and Jimmy captivated their enthusiastic class with a highly effective lesson. With excellent subject knowledge, the Leeds youngsters were able to transfer their generic leadership skills into this very different teaching and learning environment. What made the session even more remarkable is that only one student in the class had a calculator. In the months to follow the

St. Mary's community was keen to address the calculator and other resource issues.

At the end of the one and a half hour session, the Mnyakanya students thanked Libby and Jimmy and then asked "will you now teach us Biology?" Libby and Jimmy did not hesitate and proceeded to teach a Biology topic for a further hour. The day had a profound effect on all concerned. The perspectives of students reinforced the enormous potential in our collaborative work:

"My world has just got bigger. I have realised that it is my duty to be a global citizen."

Libby Aspden, Sixth Form Student

"The experience in South Africa was life changing in ways that I could not have imagined. The experience has changed my outlook and perspective on life totally; I have learned so much and I am inspired to do more."

Jimmy Scott, Sixth Form Student

The visit provided further opportunities to meet with local decision makers, many of whom had visited Mnyakanya during the week to observe the partnership in action. Towards the end of the visit, ANC President Jacob Zuma (subsequently the South African President) invited the St. Mary's team to his home to personally thank them for their efforts and to encourage further development of the partnership.

"This is an exciting initiative that brings young people together to learn from each other in a global dimension. The young people and teachers are working together with tremendous effect; this programme has my full support and deserves every success."

Jacob Zuma

Whilst in South Africa the British Council invited two students from Mnyakanya and St. Mary's to participate in the Fair Play Sports Leadership Programme in the Johannesburg township of Soweto. The students from both schools worked together to plan and deliver a Sports Festival to primary school children from Soweto. The students worked together as a most effective team. Sport was the medium and developing young leaders was the intended outcome. This experience gave a glimpse of just what might be achieved in the future.



“My world has just got bigger. I have realised that it is my duty to be a global citizen.”

Libby Aspden, Sixth Form student



“The experience in South Africa was life changing in ways that I could not have imagined. The experience has changed my outlook and perspective on life totally; I have learned so much and I am inspired to do more.”

Jimmy Scott, Sixth Form student



April 2007: Preparations begin for first St. Mary's students to visit South Africa

Led by David Geldart and supported by fellow teachers Barbara Pounder and Richard Chattoe, nine students; Kirsty Ryan, Philip Ward, Emily Tindall, Katie Moran, Patrick Pounder, Hector Hall, Chris Spillane, Nicola Wilson and James Holland volunteered to visit South Africa in March 2008. The team of twelve worked tirelessly to raise all the necessary funding and also began to research South African history, politics and culture in preparation for the visit. In addition to this the team attended HIV/AIDS awareness sessions to gain a better understanding of the disease which has ravaged the Nkandla region of KwaZulu-Natal.



April 2007: Momentum builds with support from Kaiser Chiefs

General fundraising events for the partnership continued and included a mammoth CD sale, charity football matches and a pop concert all organised by students; again reinforcing the role of 'leadership' in this initiative.

Former students Nick Hodgson, Nick 'Peanut' Baines and Simon Rix from the *Kaiser Chiefs* were very keen to support the fundraising efforts.

"It is a brilliant job you are doing in South Africa; it would be so much easier to ignore these things. The impact on young people in both countries is amazing and we are happy to support this fantastic work."

Nick Hodgson, Kaiser Chiefs



May 2007: St. Mary's students showcase Zulu dance skills at International Festival

Following the first St. Mary's visit to South Africa and subsequent talks to staff and students, many Faculty areas at St. Mary's became interested in using the link as a catalyst for learning. The Performing Arts Faculty worked closely with a Zulu group (*Mighty Zulu Nation*) based in the UK, for several months on Zulu music, storytelling, dance and drama. So successful was this work that the Zulu group and St. Mary's students: Isabelle Ayers, Daniel Bendjelloul, Robyn Cullen, Alice Lonsdale, Nicola Lynch, Matthew M'Guire, Sam M'Kay, Rose Watters, Jessica Jackson, Matthew Teasdale, Rachael Sutherland, Siobhan Fisher, Joe Allen, Philip Clarke-Irons, Farrah Brookfield, Ella Thackray, Reserl Kusi-Mensah, Jozef Szczygiel, Bethany Harrison, Rebecca Harrison, Rachel Firbank and Marc Hill showcased their dance work at the Leeds International Festival to great acclaim.



June 2007: What do you want? What are you called? The emergence of *Bambisanani*

The exchange visits had given both schools a clearer picture of how the partnership could develop in the future. Based on the aims and objectives already established the two schools identified six specific “development strands” for the future that would require funding. These were:

- Developing joint curriculum projects
- Supporting exchange visits
- Supporting orphans into Mnyakanya School
- Providing additional resources for Mnyakanya School
- Developing ICT facilities, including internet connection at Mnyakanya
- Developing the infra-structure of Mnyakanya involving the building of flushing toilets, changing facilities, sports area and library

The target for the above was to raise £25,000 a year for the next four years. It was recognised that school-based fundraising was never going to be enough, so efforts began to engage the business community through a variety of meetings and presentations. At one such meeting a group of businessmen asked what the name of the project was. They were informed that it was the ‘*Mnyakanya High School, KwaZulu-Natal, St. Mary’s Catholic High School, Leeds, Partnership*’: not the snappiest project name it was agreed. As a result the two schools began to discuss a project name that would best encapsulate what the collaboration was about.

Discussions took place over several months but eventually the schools came up with ‘The Bambisanani Partnership’, *Bambisanani* being the Zulu word for “working hand in hand”. Having agreed a name, a logo was then designed by art teacher Helen Booth and students to symbolise the nature and ambition of the partnership. This process took months but was worthwhile as it gave the two schools a real focus and unique identity. As such, the *Bambisanani Partnership* officially emerged in October 2007.



July 2007: Feast Day Mass

The theme of the annual St. Mary's Feast Day Mass was *Celebrating our International Community*. Special guests at the Mass were members of the *Mighty Zulu Nation* who performed a most uplifting and emotional rendition of the 'Our Father'. Funds raised from the Advent Appeal were presented to the school's four charities during the Mass with a new addition of the Bambisanani Partnership. Members of the *Mighty Zulu Nation* received a cheque on behalf of Mnyakanya School to fund the education of orphans.



September 2007: Preparations begin for 2009 visit of students to South Africa

School Sports Co-ordinator, Barbara Pounder, together with Richard Chattoe and Amanda Twigg, began preparations for the 2009 visit. Significantly, the fourth adult was a local primary school teacher, Richard Parker, from one of St. Mary's School Sport Partnership schools. The party of four staff, together with fourteen students, embarked on a rigorous campaign to raise all the necessary funds for the visit.

Beyond fundraising, St. Mary's devised a comprehensive programme of activities to prepare students for their visit to South Africa. All students undertook research to gain a greater understanding of South African politics, Apartheid, Zulu culture, history and geography. Students also attended HIV/AIDS awareness and Zulu language sessions. Preparation time for a visit of St. Mary's students to South Africa is eighteen months, allowing sufficient time for the fundraising and learning required.

November 2007: With a little help from your friends

Discussions with the business community continued to develop with several companies agreeing to support the work of the Bambisanani Partnership: HSBC Bank, Lupton Fawcett Solicitors, BR Pharmaceuticals, Cardinal Maritime, Findell, Staples, William Sinclair & Sons, Nike and the Football Association all provided much needed equipment for Mnyakanya, which was shipped to South Africa at no cost by Cardinal Maritime. The Sisters of Mercy, Knights of St. Columba, Catenians, Verona Fathers, Rotary Club of Aireborough, community groups, church groups and many individuals, including Lord Patrick Carter, David Ross, Billy Hill, Frank Blake, Brian Jones, Jonathan Hind and Sarah Geldart also provided outstanding help and support. Former students such as Simon Rix, Nick Hodgson and Nick 'Peanut' Baines of the Kaiser Chiefs, Joe Sayers of Yorkshire CCC, Matthew Lewis, who plays *Neville Longbottom* in the Harry Potter film series and professional footballers Aidan White and Tom Taiwo, have all taken an active interest in the Bambisanani Partnership.

In South Africa, Rohini Naidoo and Thora Jacobs from the British Council and Prem Vayapuri, Athma Mararaj and Ayanda Ndlovu from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport and Recreation continued their outstanding support and development of the partnership.

Also in South Africa, the tremendous support of Rajes and Logan Govender of Consolidated Travel and Eshowe businessman, Graham Chennells could not be overstated. Their advice and genuine interest in the initiative have both inspired and motivated the partnership.

At St. Mary's the growing demands and potential of the partnership required additional ideas and expertise. Vital new team members from the school's support staff became involved: Jackie Ash (administrative and Health and Safety support), Anne Tindall, (administrative support), Jayne Dennill (financial services support as well as a working and personal knowledge of KwaZulu-Natal), Garth Dennill (Zulu language lessons), Liz Robertson (fundraising and Enterprise support), Leigh Leversha (website and publicity), Abigail Nixon (library and research support), Mike Gosling (photography), Adam Smith (photography), Craig Harrison (Audio Visual) and Duncan Baines (ICT, design and creative support).

The commitment and dedication of this diverse and multi-talented team has become an outstanding feature of the partnership; providing essential support, new ideas, challenge and growth.

A Bambisanani Award Certificate for "*Outstanding Support of the Bambisanani Partnership*" has been developed, which is formally presented to sponsors and supporters. The Kaiser Chiefs recently visited St. Mary's to receive their awards. Great effort is taken to keep all sponsors and supporters up-to-date with Bambisanani developments.





January 2008: Bambisanani Partnership gains Ministerial approval

Thanks to the work of Leeds City Council's International Relations team, word of the partnership had reached the KwaZulu-Natal Minister for Education, Mrs Ina Cronje. Mrs Cronje and a senior delegation of officials were subsequently invited to Leeds by Karen Murgatroyd from International Relations. The Minister and her delegation visited St. Mary's in January 2008. During the visit Mrs Cronje met students preparing for the March 2008 visit and was able to speak at length about the project which she fully endorsed:

"The Bambisanani Partnership developed between St. Mary's School and Mnyakanya School is truly outstanding. The partnership will inspire students and teachers in both countries. The focus on 'Leadership' is to be applauded and encouraged at every level. The exposure of young people to each other's cultures lets them know they are part of a bigger world in which they all have a role to play. The partnership encourages young people in both countries to take a broader view of life and to strive to be the best they can be. I have been so impressed by the commitment of St. Mary's staff and students to develop this international link."



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Ina Cronje,

Minister for Education, KwaZulu-Natal

March 2008: First St. Mary's students visit South Africa

Nine St. Mary's students; Kirsty Ryan, Philip Ward, Emily Tindall, Katie Moran, Patrick Pounder, Hector Hall, Chris Spillane, Nicola Wilson and James Holland and three teachers, David Geldart, Barbara Pounder and Richard Chattoe, travelled to South Africa.

During the visit the group stayed in Eshowe which is well over an hour from Mnyakanya School. 5.00am starts were the norm with the group having to be at Mnyakanya for a 7.30am start to the school day. The group had the opportunity to observe lessons, teach lessons (all subjects), coach sport and provide in-service training to teachers and Sports Assistants. Sports coaching sessions after school in the six sports of the School Sport Mass Participation Programme (Football, Athletics, Rugby, Cricket, Netball and Volleyball) attracted over 300 students every day.



Education Minister, Ina Cronje kept her promise of visiting the team when they were in South Africa by joining them for a meal in Eshowe with representatives from the Department of Education.





A major feature of this visit was to develop leadership skills in students from both countries. Twenty Mnyakanya students had been selected by the school to complete the *Bambisanani Sports Leadership Course*: Nduduzo Khanyilem, Khulekani Mthembu, Msindisi Nxumalo, Sphakamiso Ndlovu, Sabelo Ntombela, Kwanda Zakwe, Mthokozisi Dlamuka, Nokubonga Zuma, Nomzamo Zuma, Mlungisi Ntuli, Zinhle Zondi, Sinqobile Shange, Xolisile Mlotshwa, Xolani Ngcobo, Christopher Bhengu, Nondumiso Sibisi, Sindisiwe Ngcobo, Professor Sikakane, Ncengeni Bhengu and Senzo Zuma. The twenty students worked with St. Mary's students and staff throughout the week. Much of the delivery of the course was by St. Mary's students. The course culminated in students from both schools working together to organise the area's first ever Multi Sports Festival. The Sports Festival was the biggest event the area had ever seen. Ten primary schools from a twenty mile radius each brought fifteen students to the full day event. The event was attended by Mr Armichand Rajbansi the KwaZulu-Natal Sports Minister, and senior officials from the Department of Sport, Department of Education and other VIPs. Mr Rajbansi was able to witness twenty nine young leaders working together to deliver the Multi Sports Festival to one hundred and fifty primary school children. Mr Rajbansi commented:

“The Bambisanani Partnership is truly remarkable; it is bringing people together to gain greater understanding of each other's cultures. Sport has enormous potential for good in society and this initiative is certainly a great example of that. The Festival organised by young people for other young people is truly outstanding and sends a powerful message to the rest of South Africa.”

Prior to Mr Rajbansi addressing the VIPs, community members and Festival participants, David suggested to the Minister that there was spare land at the school that could be utilised for sport. He explained that a facility such as a *Multi-Use Games Area*, which could be used by both the school and wider community, would dramatically improve sports provision in the area. Later that day the Minister announced that a Multi-Use Games Area would be built at the school.



“The Bambisanani Partnership is truly remarkable; it is bringing people together to gain greater understanding of each other’s cultures. Sport has enormous potential for good in society and this initiative is certainly a great example of that.”

Armichand Rajbansi,

Minister for Sport, KwaZulu-Natal

Most significantly, the twenty students who gained the Bambisanani Sports Leadership Award, have since gone on to run weekly after school sessions in all six sports for Mnyakanya students and are now in the process of organising a series of tournaments. As part of the visit, a Mnyakanya School Sports Council was established with the twenty Young Leaders taking responsibility for its development within the school.

The Bambisanani Partnership was officially launched during the visit by the British Council at an event attended by officials from the Government's Education and Sports Departments, students, their families, school governors and the local Zulu Chief.

Head of the British Council, Mrs Rohini Naidoo said: *"The Bambisanani Partnership is an outstanding example of how two schools can work together internationally. This partnership sends an important message to all schools about the benefits of working together."*

The St. Mary's community had also begun to sponsor twenty AIDS orphans into school. Speaking at the ceremony, Maria Zakwe, grandmother of a sponsored student said:

"My life has been about hardship and struggle. I cannot thank St. Mary's School enough for the opportunity it is giving my granddaughter, who now has a chance in life."

The St. Mary's team were able to bring with them much needed resources for the school, including calculators, art materials and sports equipment.

During this visit the partnership also managed to establish a new initiative linking senior citizens (normally grandmothers or great grandmothers) to the school to teach traditional Zulu craft skills to students. These traditional skills are slowly being lost, so this was a great way of both preserving them and celebrating Zulu culture. This was the first time that anyone from the wider community had worked with students in the school. The impact on both the students and senior citizens was fantastic and clearly had much wider benefits in terms of linking different generations. This 'community support' in the school is now a regular feature of school life. Profits from items sold go to support the aims of the Bambisanani Partnership.

Mr William Vilakazi, Acting Principal of Mnyakanya School said:

"This partnership has raised the aspirations of my learners and educators. We are motivated and inspired and my learners are doing better in school; more children are also attending school now. We have been amazed at the use of sport and leadership to educate learners. It works and is fantastic; it has made us think. It has been wonderful to see learners and educators from both countries working together."

On their return to Leeds, the St. Mary's team delivered a series of presentations in school and beyond to students, staff, school governors, parents and business sponsors and supporters. Throughout this initiative the St. Mary's team has sought to "inform and educate" the school and wider community in a relentless campaign of engagement through a wide range of media.









May 2008: St. Mary's footballers play for Africa

Footballers from Year 11 and Year 12 at St. Mary's played in a charity match in aid of the school's work in Africa.

The game, organised by Sixth Form student Michael Brown, was a tremendous success raising £120 for the Bambisanani Partnership in South Africa and BASIK (Building a School in Kenya) a charity established by another Sixth Form student William Normington. Players from both sides donated £5 each for the privilege of playing in the match.

Match Report: The game, whilst for charity, was none the less very competitive. The Year 12 side took the lead through Matt Turner and were 2 – 0 up at half time with a Dominic Marwood goal. The Year 11 team rallied in the second half with Leeds United star Aidan White scoring a wonderful goal having beaten four defenders to convert. Indeed White was unlucky not to score a hat trick, hitting the bar and having an attempt cleared off the line. Hayden Smith equalised for the Year 11 side with a well taken goal ten minutes from time.



With the game well poised it was fittingly decided by the organiser of the game, Michael Brown, with a clinical finish inside the six yard box. The game was played in a great spirit, officiated by qualified referee, fifteen year old, Bradley Taylor.

Organiser Michael Brown said: *"This fixture has now become an annual event at St. Mary's. There is considerable interest in the game and the result. It is great to use sport to raise awareness and funding to support our work in Africa."*



September 2008: Preparations begin for July 2010 visit to South Africa

Led by Richard Chattoe, preparations began for the summer 2010 visit of twelve students and four staff to South Africa. Two of the adults were not from St. Mary's. One was a teacher from a local primary school within the St. Mary's School Sport Partnership and the other was a business sponsor. Lisa Newton from Sacred Heart Primary School and Mick Russell, HSBC Premier Manager duly became 2010 team members engaging in all fundraising and preparatory activities. From the onset Lisa and Mick brought different skills, perspectives and experiences to the team which gave considerable added value.

October 2008: Open Day opportunities

The St. Mary's annual Open Day was attended by hundreds of people from the school and local community. Students preparing to visit South Africa, supported by Jackie Ash, Sports College Administrator, organised a mammoth CD and DVD sale with members of the school community donating unwanted items to be sold on the day. The sale also provided a valuable opportunity to educate and inform members of the community about the Bambisanani Partnership and raised almost £1,000 in the process.



March 2009: St. Mary's team visit South Africa

Following eighteen months of innovative fundraising, fourteen students: Matthew Houston, Danielle Hirst, Alicia Barber, Colette Bendjelloul, Sally Bridgewater, Hannah Brumfitt, Chris Doonan, Kathrine Garnett, Declan Kelly, Daniel O'Brien, Megan O'Sullivan, Hannah Pickering, Amy Powell and Melissa Ricard and four teachers: Barbara Pounder, Richard Chattoe, Amanda Twigg and primary school teacher, Richard Parker visited Mnyakanya for a ten day stay to further develop the partnership. On this occasion the visit was led by School Sport Co-ordinator, Barbara Pounder.

During the visit the St. Mary's team coached sport at Mnyakanya and taught a range of other curriculum areas including Maths, English, Science, Art, Dance and Music. The team also provided in-service training to teachers and sports coaches in the area. During the week the St. Mary's students mentored twenty Mnyakanya students to achieve the Bambisanani Leadership Award: Zandile Mthethwa, Amanda Bhengu, Ayanda Gcaba, Mandisa Mthethwa, Thokozile Mbambo, Nothando Ndlovu, Deneo Zuma, Msawenkosi Khanyile, Sbonelo Magwaza, Thembelani Gazu, Andile Nala, Mbali Ndlovu, Nontobeko Ngubane, Sphehlise Gazu, Kholeka Magwaza, Melokwakhe Nzuza, Ozias Shezi, Siyabonga Nzuza, Thabiso Magwaza and Khumbuzile Mzimela. Students from both schools worked together throughout the week to plan and deliver the school's first ever Sports Day.

Students were also able to further develop Bambisanani Enterprises. Bambisanani Enterprises is an enterprise project led by students from both schools. The initiative aims to develop entrepreneurial, business and commercial skills. The initiative is also developing and promoting traditional Zulu craft skills. Items made in the school and in the local community are sold in South Africa and in the UK with all profits going back to support the aims of the partnership.

An important aspect of the Bambisanani Partnership is the funding of orphans into school. As a result of fundraising by the St. Mary's community the number of orphans supported was increased from twenty to forty in 2009. To celebrate the sponsorship, a special ceremony took place during the week that involved the students being officially welcomed into school. The moving ceremony was attended by students and staff from both schools, grandparents of sponsored children, school governors, the local Zulu Chief, representatives from the Department of Education and Department of Sport and Recreation and the British Council.

Clearly the 2009 visit moved the partnership on considerably. Barbara Pounder, who led the visit, recounted:

"It has been my privilege to bring so many people together; people who now share memories that will live with them forever. Our partnership is about building capacity and leaving a lasting legacy. It has been overwhelming to see what progress has been made in the school since our last visit. The young leaders we trained last year have effectively run a school extra-curricular sports programme for the last twelve months with tremendous effect. The engagement in the Bambisanani Enterprises activities by students and the wider community is wonderful and is gathering momentum."



COLLEGE

	1	2	3	4
1	10	10	10	10
2	10	10	10	10
3	10	10	10	10
4	10	10	10	10

INGILU NATAL
SPORTS & RECREATION
EDUCATOR





“It has been my privilege to bring so many people together; people who now share memories that will live with them forever. Our partnership is about building capacity and leaving a lasting legacy. It has been overwhelming to see what progress has been made in the school since our last visit.”

Barbara Pounder



March 2009: National Award for Bambisanani Partnership

Returning from South Africa, the fourteen St. Mary's students were amazed to hear that they were to receive the inaugural Certificate of Excellence Award from the UK charity, the Diana Award. The Award recognises outstanding community based work by young people.

Esther Rantzen CBE, presented the Diana Award for Excellence to St. Mary's students Matthew Houston and Danielle Hirst who represented fellow students Alicia Barber, Colette Bendjelloul, Sally Bridgewater, Hannah Brumfitt, Chris Doonan, Kathrine Garnett, Declan Kelly, Daniel O'Brien, Megan O'Sullivan, Hannah Pickering, Amy Powell and Melissa Ricard at a prestigious event in London.

Esther Rantzen said:

"These young people are an inspiration. They demonstrate the outstanding difference that young people can make to our society. They exemplify the values of the Diana Certificate of Excellence Award, which will stay with them forever. The Bambisanani work is truly remarkable; it is making a difference worth making."

Speaking at the event Robin Gibb CBE added:

"The St. Mary's students represent a growing community of young people who will act as a force for good to build a society in which we would all like to live. They genuinely want to make a difference and the huge impact of their work in South Africa challenges existing stereotypes of young people by showing that they have the power to be positive role models."



June 2009: South African students and teachers visit St. Mary's

A group of four teachers; William Vilakazi, Mazet Zanele Langa, Pk Zondi and Zwe Mbambo and ten students; Chris Bhengu, Muthoko Dlamuka, Anna Mbambo, Nduh Khanyile, Siphakamiso Thamsanqa Ndlovu, Precious Nxumalo, Nondumiso Sibisi, Zamah Zuma, Sho Zuma and Wonder Zakwe, from Mnyakanya School visited Leeds. This was the first time that a group of students and teachers from the rural Nkandla region of KwaZulu-Natal had visited the UK. The Bambisanani Partnership always intended to create genuine 'two way' exchanges of students and staff but the visit to the UK was not without tremendous financial, bureaucratic and logistical challenges. However, following much hard work for a year, the visit did indeed happen and was a tremendous success.

The South African party received a fantastic welcome in Leeds, being special guests at both a Leeds Rhinos fixture and a Yorkshire County Cricket Club fixture. The visit also coincided with the Leeds International Youth Festival and the inaugural St. Mary's International Week, where the normal timetable was suspended and students worked on a variety of 'Global Dimension' themes.

At the International Youth Festival, the South African students, together with St. Mary's students, had the opportunity to work with students from China, USA, Poland, Sweden and the Czech Republic in a range of cultural, sporting and academic activities organised by Karen Murgatroyd from the International Relations team. The hosting costs of the South African team and other international students were covered by Leeds City Council.



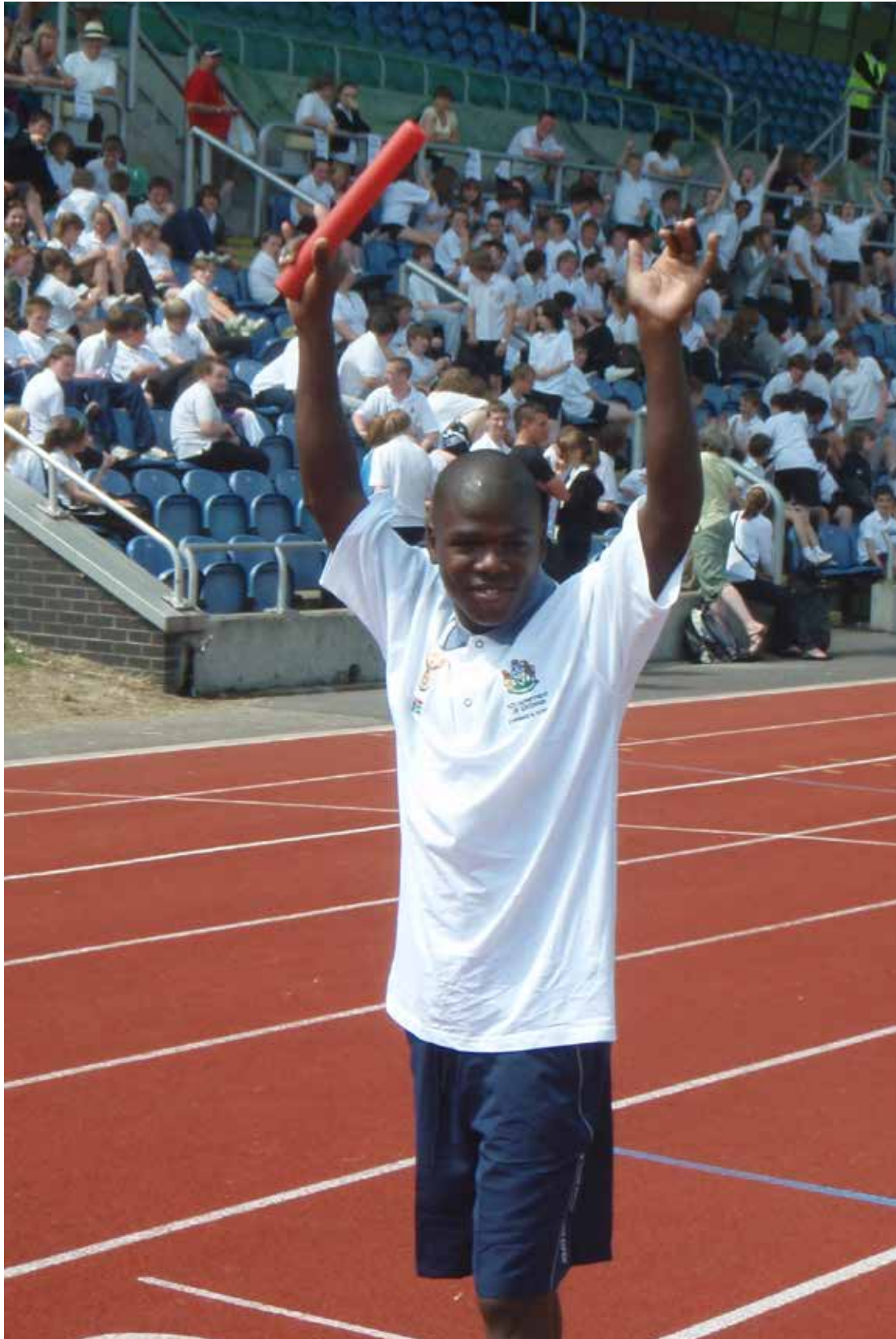
The students from Mnyakanya School launched the St. Mary's International Week at an Olympic style Sports Day for the entire St. Mary's community at the John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds. During the week at St. Mary's, Mnyakanya students and staff participated in International Week activities and had the opportunity to improve and develop their sporting and leadership skills. The students also had the opportunity to engage in a range of creative opportunities in Art and Music, contributing to the International Week mosaic mural and composing a Bambisanani anthem. Students from both schools produced a Speak Zulu DVD and South African teacher, Pk Zondi, produced a wonderfully detailed hand written booklet entitled 'A beginners guide to speaking Zulu' which she presented to St. Mary's at the end of the week.

The African students were also introduced to computing skills by St. Mary's students. At a special Bambisanani Reception, the group had the opportunity to meet with business sponsors and supporters from the wider community. The group also visited other local schools that support the Bambisanani Partnership.

Throughout the visit the Mnyakanya students and teachers were outstanding ambassadors for KwaZulu-Natal and indeed for South Africa.

William Vilakazi, Acting Principal at Mnyakanya School said: *"We have overcome many barriers to be in the UK and it is wonderful. Both students and staff are inspired and my community is inspired. We have been overwhelmed by the welcome we have received. Every day of the visit we learned so much and have grown so much. Three years ago it was said that such a visit would be impossible, but working with David and St. Mary's School in the Bambisanani Partnership we have done it and can do it again. The St. Mary's International Week is truly amazing, as is the school's genuine commitment to developing global citizens for the future. This visit has had an amazing impact on my teachers, my students and myself. We will all take back so many positive ideas and thoughts. It is difficult to express in words the importance of this partnership and the impact it is having."*





July 2009: Bambisanani Partnership represented at International Conference

Such has been the success of the Bambisanani Partnership that David Geldart was invited to Kenya by the British Council to contribute to a 'Connecting Classrooms' conference to share ideas with representatives from twelve African nations and local Education Authorities from the UK. At the conference David praised the commitment of the British Council to developing international links between schools and the potential benefits that this could bring to young people. He elaborated on the importance of developing sustainable partnerships and what the Bambisanani Partnership had achieved and not achieved in difficult circumstances. He also suggested to the British Council that their investment in this important aspect of education could be more focused, remarking: "With limited resources available the British Council investment in international school links needs to look closely at successful partnerships and share 'what works'. We need to invest in people and schools that are committed to the difficult business of developing meaningful and sustainable international links. We need to invest where there is every chance of success." He praised the *Connecting Classrooms* initiative, particularly the idea of schools supporting each other in local networks.

The *Connecting Classroom* initiative is intended to further develop UK/Africa links with schools and Local Authorities working strategically in support networks. The St. Mary's team agreed to support the development of this work in other Leeds schools and staff from Mnyakanya agreed to support other schools in Nkandla.

The Leeds schools have subsequently established links with schools in Ghana and South Africa. Teachers from Ghana and South Africa have since visited Leeds to establish a joint development plan. Both St. Mary's and Mnyakanya have taken lead roles in developing their *Connecting Classrooms* network. The special relationship between St. Mary's and Mnyakanya, the Bambisanani Partnership, is now a significant aspect and driver of the *Connecting Classrooms* initiative involving schools from all three countries working collaboratively.

At the Conference David offered clear advice for any school wishing to develop a meaningful and sustainable international partnership:

"Visit the country, experience the issues, see the potential and listen to all those involved, especially local decision makers. Do not be judgmental. Try and see the world through their eyes. Learn as much about the culture as you possibly can before you visit. Visit with an open mind, make friends and develop trust. Do not make your first visit armed with a plan other than this. To make this work, you will need someone who will be prepared to 'live and breathe' the initiative. They then need to be supported by a committed team. The initiative is not sustainable unless it becomes a whole school initiative. However, it should not be imposed on Departments or Faculties; much work is required to ensure genuine "buy in". The wider school community needs to be engaged: support staff, Governors and parents. The local community needs to be engaged, particularly local businesses. The work is time consuming and numerous barriers can make it frustrating. However, such a link has the potential to change how many of your students and staff see the world and their future role in it. Just in case you had forgotten, this kind of partnership will remind you why you became a teacher."



September 2009: St. Mary's and Mnyakanya students meet in Wales

The outstanding leadership skills of students from St. Mary's and Mnyakanya were further recognised when Nduh Khanyile, Bethany Harrison and Rebecca Harrison were invited to attend the UK Schools Games in Cardiff as volunteers. Nduh's considerable leadership potential was 'discovered' whilst being mentored on the Bambisanani Leadership Award course by St. Mary's students in March 2008. Rebecca said: "It was unbelievable to see Nduh again at this international event where students from around the world were responsible for making sure the whole thing was a success. Everyone got on really well and did a great job. Sport is great for bringing people together." Nduh added: *"In the last two years I have become a Bambisanani Leader and visited the UK twice; I have been honoured by these opportunities. I was nervous about travelling to Wales on my own so it was fantastic to meet my friends from St. Mary's there. I was so proud to represent South Africa and the Bambisanani Partnership at the UK School Games."*

October 2009: St. Mary's gain International School Award

The BBC's George Alagiah presented St. Mary's with the Department of Education/British Council's *International School Award* at a ceremony in London. The award is highlighted in the Department of Education's international strategy as *'a major prize for excellence in this field'*. The school was awarded the honour in recognition of the highly innovative international and community schemes it has pioneered and for incorporating Global Citizenship as a key aspect of learning in the school.

Both staff and pupils have developed diverse links with schools and youth projects all over the world including South Africa, Australia, Kenya, Ghana, China, India, Peru, France, Germany, Belgium, USA, Ireland, Italy and Poland. Exchange visits, International Study weeks, joint learning projects, video conferencing and more traditional methods of correspondence have encouraged collaborative working and enabled St. Mary's students to gain a greater awareness and understanding of other cultures and global issues.

"Receiving this award is a great honour, but this is only the start of our ambitions." said the school's International Coordinator Catriona Simms, who added: *"Young people love to learn from each other. Through all our initiatives we aspire to help our students become true global citizens and appreciate the variety of cultures and customs from all over the world. Our work in South Africa, the Bambisanani Partnership, has helped drive Global Citizenship and innovation at St. Mary's and is a significant factor in us gaining this prestigious award."*

January 2010: More than one hundred and fifty students apply to go to South Africa

Over one hundred and fifty students applied for fourteen places to visit South Africa in July 2011 causing David Geldart to remark: "The partnership has captured the imagination of our students like nothing else. Because of travel, accommodation and safety constraints we are restricted in the numbers we can take; it is devastating that not everyone can go. We need to do more to fulfil the tremendous desire of students to support our work in South Africa. I would like to develop a Bambisanani Award scheme and other learning opportunities that everyone can participate in. We need to explore gap year and other volunteering opportunities beyond school. All the students that apply to go to South Africa want to make a difference in the world; they are remarkable and inspiring young people."



February 2010: Connecting Classrooms

Following earlier work in Kenya and subsequent correspondence between teachers and advisors in Leeds, South Africa and Ghana, the British Council's *Connecting Classrooms* initiative began in earnest.

St. Mary's supported two other Leeds schools to develop links: Beechwood Primary School and Corpus Christi High School. Working with Jenny Hill from Education Leeds, these schools, together with three schools from both South Africa and Ghana, wrote a joint development plan that would literally connect classrooms in all the schools. Sport was again a key catalyst for this work.

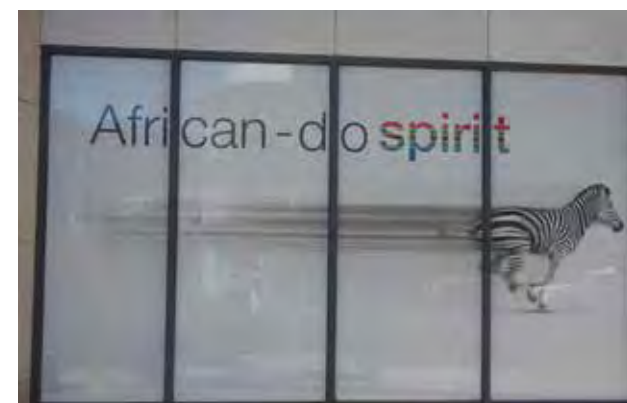
The first part of the development was to invite teachers and advisors from both South Africa and Ghana to spend time in each of the Leeds schools. Tony Moodley, Musa Xulu and Ntombi Zwane from South Africa and Paul Appiah, Frederick Kwadwo Asare and Mary Baaretin from Ghana had a wonderful time visiting St. Mary's, sharing experiences with both staff and pupils. Geography teacher Ged Hooley expressed his joy with the visit: *"It was fascinating to have teachers who had experienced Apartheid speak to students; we were captivated by the stories we heard. It was a wonderful learning experience."*

Bob Sugden, Head of Humanities added, *"We already have a wonderful partnership with Mnyakanya School in South Africa which we will extend through this initiative and I am excited at the prospect of developing a new link with Sefwi Wiauso Senior High School in Ghana."*

As well as visiting lessons and talking to teachers, the African guests also had the opportunity to watch the school production of *'Jesus Christ Superstar'*.

Tony Moodley, Education Advisor from South Africa said: *"St. Mary's has pioneered some outstanding work in South Africa and we are all keen to learn from that experience. We have had a wonderful time at St. Mary's and it is clear that there are tremendous benefits in this project for all schools involved."*

The nine schools involved agreed that the new collaboration should have its own name and unique identity. Following much discussion the group agreed to refer to their partnership as the *Noboa Project*, 'Noboa' is a Ghanaian word meaning *'working together'*, and traditionally referred to farmers cooperating and sharing good practice for the benefit of all.



March 2010: Bambisanani goes Classical

A feature of fundraising for the Bambisanani Partnership has been student led events. Sporting and musical events, together with a range of sales have raised both awareness and much needed funding. Such events were instrumental in the development of the student led business: Bambisanani Enterprises.

Led by former student Sally Bridgewater, St. Mary's staged its first ever classical music concert in aid of the Bambisanani Partnership. Around fifty performers and volunteers worked hard for weeks to make the concert happen and it was a resounding success.

The evening opened with a sensitive rendition of 'Stranger on the Shore' played by Ashley Francis-Roy on clarinet and ended two hours later with an exhilarating performance of Monti's 'Czardas' played by violinists, Oliver Wales, Sarah Daramy-Williams and Sally Bridgewater. Other highlights of the night were Duncan Fraser's storming 'Prelude in C sharp minor' by Rachmaninov, fourteen year old Sarah Daramay-William's breathtaking 'Meditation' by Massenet and 'Adiemus' by Karl Jenkins performed by four of St. Mary's most talented singers: Mary-Kate Cawley, Rachel Addison-Child, Annie Layfield and Tom McNulty accompanied by Duncan Fraser on piano. There were also other outstanding performances from Caitlin Fraser, Francesca Bridgewater, David Bridgewater, Gregory Weir and Ian McTeer.

Sally Bridgewater, the organiser of the event, knows that the partnership is about far more than providing material things for Mnyakanya. As a former pupil of St. Mary's she had the chance to go on one of the annual visits to South Africa in 2009: *"While we were out there the St. Mary's students were able to mentor small groups of South African students to help them become young leaders in their community and together we organised the school's first ever sports day. It was fantastic to gradually become friends and see the students develop their confidence, but I am sure that we learnt more than they did. Despite the difficulties they face in achieving their ambitions, all the students always seem to be enjoying life and their optimistic attitude is inspirational. Without the leadership skills the partnership has taught me I would never have dreamt of organising such a big event."*

David Geldart was full of praise for Sally and the other students responsible for organising the concert: *"A major aim of the Bambisanani Partnership is to develop young leaders both at St. Mary's and in our partner school in South Africa. This concert was completely organised by students. Sally Bridgewater has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in creating this wonderful concert. More than thirty other students assisted Sally in the organisation and also demonstrated excellent leadership skills. All too often young people get a bad press and this does not reflect what I think is the more accurate picture of young people who are concerned about others and are prepared to make a difference."*



June 2010: International Week: World Cup crazy

The World Cup in South Africa proved to be a wonderful catalyst for learning in both schools. At St. Mary's the normal timetable was collapsed for the annual International Week with all subject areas using the World Cup as a stimulus for the teaching of lessons. The week, coordinated by Catriona Simms, was a tremendous success as highlighted by a student who said: *"It was great, all our lessons had something to do with the World Cup. We still had all our normal subjects like Maths, English, RE, Technology and Science, but we did it in a way that was related to South Africa, Football or the World Cup. In PE we had our own World Cup competition where we represented the qualifying countries; it was good because we learned more about those teams and we played for a replica of the World Cup that two weeks later would be played for by students at Mnyakanya in their own World Cup competition. Learning was interesting and fun."*

International Week also involved more than six hundred students and staff at St. Mary's in discussions and debates relating to possible rule changes that could improve the World Cup competition. Fifteen recommendations were subsequently forwarded to FIFA Headquarters.

The young entrepreneurs of Bambisanani Enterprises took full advantage of the World Cup by organising a range of events and activities including the screening of matches at school and, with the wonders of digital technology, they 'transported' St. Mary's students and staff to South Africa to be pictured at a World Cup venue with the World Cup!





During International Week, and mindful that not all children in South Africa go to school, students joined the '1 Goal - Send my Friend to School' campaign to help raise awareness of the plight of millions of children worldwide who are denied a basic education. International Co-ordinator, Catriona Simms mobilised students to organise a petition which was delivered to 10 Downing Street by Sixth Form Student Manager, Patrick Kirkham and Year 8 students Joseph Copsey, Eliza Palumbo, Imogen Geoghegan and Kai Coultas. The efforts of St. Mary's students were acknowledged by the Prime Minister who subsequently wrote a letter of support to the school. Patrick said: *"The United Nations Millennium Goals cited the right of all children to at least a basic education. Education should not be an act of charity but an entitlement. We know from our work in South Africa how important this is. Our petition included the names of all students at St. Mary's. It was a great opportunity to be able to deliver this to 10 Downing Street to remind politicians of their responsibility and how much of an issue this is to young people."*

Following International Week and with World Cup fever still in the air, three separate St. Mary's visits to South Africa were planned for the summer (UK) of 2010.



July 2010: St. Mary's visit to South Africa

Richard Chattoe led a team of four adults; Lucy Watson from St. Mary's, Lisa Newton from Sacred Heart Primary School and Mick Russell, Premier Manager, HSBC Bank and twelve students; Rebecca Harrison, Alex Jewell, Tom Loughlin, Lorna O'Sullivan, Lisa Melvin, Isabelle Scott, Kate Shelly, Sam Thomas, Alex Threapleton, Phoebe Tyrie, Chris Whiteley and Kim Wu.

Whilst in South Africa, the group taught a variety of lessons, many of which were World Cup related, at Mnyakanya and Ntolwane Primary School. As well as coaching sport, the St. Mary's students mentored twenty Mnyakanya students in Sports Leadership: Sphehile Shezi, Sibongeleni Majola, Mzwanele Nzuzo, Mbuyiseni Ndlovu, Nompumelelo Nzuzo, Lamlele Shezi, Ntombikhona Mthethwa, Thembani Mbanjwa, Sizwe Zuma, Thembani Gebani, Wendy Dlodla, Amanda Bhengu, Zandile Mthethwa, Mholi Hlabisa, Ncengeni Bhengu, Londiwe Ntuli, Mandisa Mthethwa, Philisiwe Ndaba, Khethokwakhe Bhengu and Manqoba Nzuzo. At the end of the week, students from both schools organised a community football and netball tournament involving over three hundred children. The football event enjoyed a particularly high profile with the enthusiasm and success of the South African World Cup still resonating in the country and local community. The students were simply buzzing with excitement for an opportunity to raise the replica World Cup trophy and to play with a replica World Cup match ball just as their fellow students at St. Mary's had done only weeks earlier.







Mandela Day:

High Commissioner opens Library at Mnyakanya

One of the aims of the Bambisanani Partnership over the last year was to develop a library facility at Mnyakanya. With support from the British Council, the library was officially opened during Richard's visit on Mandela Day by the British High Commissioner to South Africa, Dr Nicola Brewer, who travelled all the way from Johannesburg especially for the occasion with a number of VIPs including David Cordingley, Director of the British Council in South Africa. The timing was perfect, as a key focus of Mandela Day this year was to get people to volunteer to buy books and read to children in rural areas. Assisted by St. Mary's students, Dr Brewer led an amazing literacy activity with VIPs and members of the wider community reading and discussing books with learners from Mnyakanya.

It is hoped that the library will not only provide a much needed resource for learners at the school, but also provide a platform for the development of Bambisanani 'Literacy Leaders'. Literacy Leaders will be students from Mnyakanya who will support weaker readers within the school and local primary school. It is also the intention that the Literacy Leaders will eventually work with non-reading adults in the community.

At the opening ceremony the High Commissioner voiced her praise for the work of the Bambisanani Partnership:

"The Bambisanani Partnership is a flagship in terms of international co-operation between schools. The focus on developing young leaders in an increasing number of areas is empowering to all concerned. This partnership is proving to be a genuine catalyst for change. This partnership demonstrates that young people who have passion, commitment and desire can make huge and sustainable change. This partnership is making one of the most significant differences I have seen and I am inspired."

David Cordingley also praised the work of the partnership:

"I am extremely impressed with the work of the Bambisanani Partnership; it has clearly made a significant impact on both South African and British students. The St. Mary's student leaders have empowered the Mnyakanya students in leadership and to take on leadership roles. The Bambisanani Partnership is inspirational and something that other schools should aspire to develop."

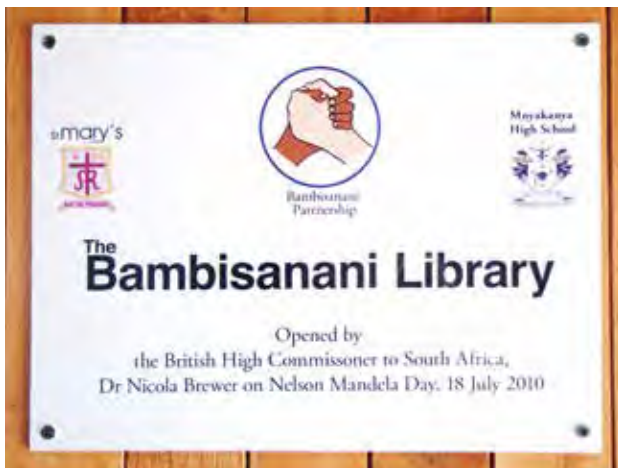
Via the Eshowe Rotary Club an application has been made to access additional books for the library from the Oprah Winfrey Foundations *Books for Africa* initiative. A similar application has also been made to the *Books Abroad* initiative. The Rotary Club of Aireborough has also agreed to supply dictionaries for the library.



“The Bambisanani Partnership is a flagship in terms of international co-operation between schools. The focus on developing young leaders in an increasing number of areas is empowering to all concerned. This partnership is proving to be a genuine catalyst for change. This partnership demonstrates that young people who have passion, commitment and desire can make huge and sustainable change. This partnership is making one of the most significant differences I have seen and I am inspired.”

Dr Nicola Brewer,

British High Commissioner to South Africa



Whilst staying in Eshowe, the group visited Eshowe High School. The school is a well resourced and highly successful, similar to St. Mary's in many ways. The contrast with Mnyakanya School could not be greater in material terms but an interesting link was established which it is hoped will be of benefit to all three schools in the future. As with a visit to Durban, on the way to Eshowe, it was interesting and important for students and teachers to experience that not all of South Africa is poor, far from it. Such contrasts proved to be a tremendous catalyst for discussion and debate amongst students.

During the 2010 visit, Richard and the group also provided in-service training to teachers and Community Sports Coaches. Having three years' experience of visiting and working in South Africa, Richard also undertook a review of the School Sport Mass Participation Programme for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport and Recreation.

A new element of the project in 2010 involved working with Ntolwane Primary School, close to Mnyakanya. One particular day involved Lisa Newton, primary teacher from Sacred Heart Primary School, Ilkley and four students leading some Grade 2, 3 and 4 classes:



"I taught a lesson to sixty two students at Ntolwane Primary School called 'My typical day'. Prior to going to South Africa I had got my Year Six children to write about their typical day in England. I shared these with the South African children and then got them to tell me and write about their typical day. This opened my eyes up even further and it was great to have some insight into what happens beyond the school gates. For example; one girl wrote about having to get up at five o'clock in the morning and go and collect water from the river, come back and use this water to wash and then clean the house. She made breakfast for her brothers and sisters, ironed her uniform and polished her shoes before setting off on a three mile journey to school. The St. Mary's students were fantastic in their leadership work; they were so mature, responsible and effective. The experience of visiting and working in South Africa has been the most incredible thing that I have ever done. It has proved to be a wonderful catalyst for learning in my own school since my return. I want to do more of this incredible work."





Richard also enthused about the work of students from both countries:

“I witnessed students develop their ability to plan, organise, manage and lead a number of activities to a very high standard. This required patience, tolerance and reflection. This was even more amazing due to the barriers of language, culture and experiences between the students. As a teacher, to witness this work in action, resulting in life changing skills, greater confidence, communication and empathy was remarkable. Armed with new found leadership skills the group of leaders from both countries jointly organised a large sporting event for their peers. The event was a huge success and great evidence that the students had remarkable ability, creativity and leadership qualities.

I was also struck by the way that the school learners, staff and community welcomed us with such positivity and warmth. Despite being a community that had been subjected to the evils and intolerance of apartheid they opened their arms and made us feel at home. Their sense of energy and motivation for development and support was simply breathtaking. This was a community who embraced us as their partners. During my time in South Africa it has been evident that resources and significant support is limited. However, the people and in particular the learners are so motivated to learn. It is clear that education is key if we are to break the cycle of rural deprivation and poverty that their families have endured for years.

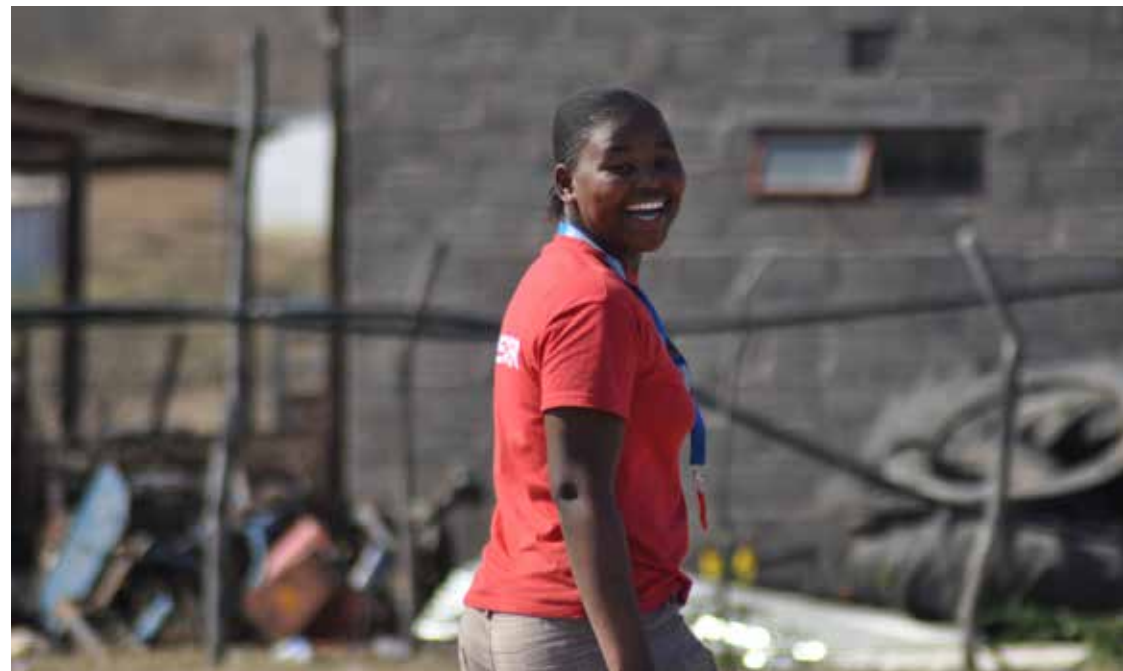
I recall the moment that grandparents who had lost their own sons and daughters, cried with joy upon their grandchildren receiving the uniforms and access to education that the partnership provided. One grandmother danced and sang in celebration and praise; in this one moment I realised what a difference we could all make.

As a teacher I have taken great heart from the progress, development and personal growth made by both the St. Mary’s and Mnyakanya High School students. The students from St. Mary’s, many with little exposure to a world outside England and indeed West Yorkshire, in some cases developed beyond all recognition and have become more confident, self-aware, tolerant and respectful people as a direct result of their time in South Africa. The Mnyakanya High School ‘learners’, initially quiet and shy, have developed enormous courage, confidence and the skills of inspirational young leaders.

I have witnessed a number of inspirational moments in my sixteen years as a teacher, but my time in South Africa and the development I observed will be difficult to emulate. My time in South Africa has proved to be hugely rewarding, emotional and a truly inspirational experience; one that has opened my mind and thoughts as a teacher, husband, parent and individual.”

HSBC Manager, Mick Russell, who made a significant and unique contribution on the visit, had no doubts of the benefits to young people:

“I was proud and privileged to accompany a party of twelve students from St. Mary’s, to South Africa to visit Mnyakanya High School. I have been involved with the Bambisanani project for many years through my work as a Premier Bank Manager with HSBC Bank. Whilst the experience was very hard work, the students had developed new skills in that they were now effective in teaching leadership both as individuals and as a team. These are very transferable skills that can be carried forward into their future lives and careers. Not only that, it was a great joy to see the South African students growing in confidence, culminating in them passing on their new-found skills to their fellow students in school. I have been so inspired by what I have seen and remain totally committed to this remarkable and life changing initiative. The students from St. Mary’s are a credit, not only to themselves and the school, but also to the international community.”





LEADER

Laurie's Legacy

A heartwarming development in the 2010 visit was the introduction of the 'Laurie's Legacy' project. Aware of the principles of the Bambisanani Partnership, Patrick and Gillian M'Cauley; a couple who had recently lost their son Laurie, contacted St. Mary's to provide annual sponsorship for a Bambisanani learning project at Mnyakanya in memory of their son. Lawrence Michael Fergus M'Cauley (Laurie) had died only weeks before. The project is in memory of their son who loved life, and who was passionate about literature and football. Patrick and Gillian also donated Laurie's amazing collection of football shirts from around the world that he had acquired throughout his life:

"We are donating these shirts in memory of our son, Laurie who died tragically on 19 June 2010, at the age of thirty one. Over the years he had built up a splendid collection of football shirts. Whenever we went on holiday it was always with clear instructions from Laurie which shirt to bring back. As well as European shirts, there are no fewer than thirteen Celtic shirts. Laurie was a staunch Celtic fan who never missed their televised matches and loved to make the occasional trip to Glasgow to cheer them on at Celtic Park. There are also five Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) shirts. Laurie was partly of Irish descent and always supported the Republic of Ireland football team. Laurie was a kind and caring man with a keen sense of social justice. He would be pleased to know that his beloved collection of football shirts would be put to good use to benefit others. We would like to donate annual prizes for a competition in Laurie's memory; we would like it to be called 'Laurie's Legacy'. We invite the children to write a text inspired by one of the shirts. This would encourage them to engage in a little research. The text could concern the team, the town/city in which they play, the country, football in general in that country, a famous player or players from the team. Another competition could be for football performance – we suggest for 'the most improved player'. One year Laurie won such an award. We hope your players enjoy wearing Laurie's shirts and gain pleasure from playing the game he loved."

Laurie's treasured football and Gaelic football shirts now serve as a wonderful catalyst for an international learning project at Mnyakanya. The project has been warmly embraced by the Mnyakanya community. A plaque is to be mounted at the school in memory of Laurie that will serve as a focus for excellence and endeavour. *Laurie M'Cauley Awards* will be presented annually at Mnyakanya. Patrick and Gillian have also funded books for the new school library.

Laurie studied English Literature at University and once wrote this short text entitled the '*Book of Life*':

**Turn the page
and the knowledge
will blind you.**

**Close the book
and embrace the darkness
of ignorance.**





July 2010: Teachers go to South Africa

In January 2010 St. Mary's applied for funding from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (Teachers' International Professional Development) to support a staff visit to South Africa. By May the funding had been approved for four members of staff: Gerry Sayers, Claire Andrews, Amanda Twigg and Hannah Davies, to go and work at Mnyakanya High School during their summer holidays.

The aim of the visit was:

'To develop the work of the Bambisanani Partnership between St. Mary's and Mnyakanya as a whole school initiative in line with the school development plan'.

Having already established a solid partnership with Mnyakanya High School, it was planned that the visit would enable the teachers to further develop the links and allow them to focus on staff development through the following objectives:

- To develop several aspects of education, including: a global dimension to learning, enterprise education, leadership, volunteering and community cohesion.
- To develop the Bambisanani Award. The award to operate at three levels - bronze, silver and gold, incorporating a global dimension to learning, enterprise education, leadership, volunteering and community cohesion, with all students in both schools eventually having access to the award.
- To establish closer links with staff and students from both schools.

Following three months of planning and preparation Amanda (Group Leader), Gerry, Claire and Hannah travelled to Eshowe for a ten day stay. During the visit the St. Mary's staff had an exceptionally fulfilling and

rewarding experience, working with the students at Mnyakanya High School and Ntolwane Primary School.

"It was both humbling and eye-opening to witness the pupils' joyful spirit and appreciation of learning."

Gerry Sayers

During their time at Mnyakanya the staff were able to observe general school life and lessons, enabling them to collect data and information to use on their return. They also taught lessons in Physical Education, Geography, Drama and English. Amanda, Gerry, Claire and Hannah had a range of fascinating and challenging experiences, including cows on the field during PE and goats walking into a Geography lesson!

The team worked with a 'focus group' of twelve students and two members of Mnyakanya staff to develop a Bambisanani Award system for their school. The focus group was extremely motivated by the idea and came up with a range of suggestions for the new award. Significantly, the teachers and students from Mnyakanya will now continue to work together to develop and initiate the award in their own school.

"We had a life changing experience leaving us with the desire to do so much more to enable students at Mnyakanya to access education at all levels. This is an amazing programme which we will work hard to roll out as a whole school initiative."

Amanda Twigg

The St. Mary's staff were warmly welcomed by the staff and pupils at Ntolwane Primary School. On visiting the first classroom of five year olds all forty of the pupils stood up with smiling faces and in unison said:

"GOOD MORNING EDUCATORS".

Meeting the Headteacher, Deputy and students at

Ntolwane gave the St. Mary's team further insight into how the feeder school could possibly be incorporated into the work of the partnership in the future.

Throughout the visit the four staff were also thrilled to be able to meet more local people and experience traditional Zulu culture in the areas surrounding Mnyakanya High School. They visited a local village that made clay pots and were invited into a 'rondavel' (traditional round, grass topped dwelling) where they were taught how to grind millie meal and make straw mats as well as visiting a schoolgirl's home and meeting her family.

"Even after seeing all the pictures and meeting some of the staff from Mnyakanya High School when they visited St. Mary's, I really didn't know what it would be like. But I needn't have been nervous at all. It's hard to talk without it sounding like a cliché, but I have never experienced anything like it in my life. The students were an absolute joy to work with. Our small focus group was incredibly excited and enthusiastic the whole time. I would simply urge anyone to go and see it all for themselves!"

Hannah Davies

The visit was a tremendous success as the teachers were able to further enhance relationships with the staff and students at Mnyakanya and Ntolwane, the Eshowe Rotary Club and local people in the area, as well as initiate a new project across both partnership schools. The four members of staff returned to Leeds to begin work on the new Bambisanani Award.





July 2010: Sally's Amazing Adventure

Sally Bridgewater is a most remarkable young woman. As a student at St. Mary's she visited Mnyakanya with the school in 2009 and vowed to return at the earliest opportunity. Sally created this opportunity by having a 'gap year' before going on to take her place at Cambridge University. During her gap year she raised funds for her visit to South Africa and funds to support the partnership. Filled with a passion to make a difference in South Africa, Sally reinforced the strong Bambisanani focus of developing Leadership Skills in her own inimitable way. During her gap year she wrote her own training programme for a four week course for learners from Mnyakanya School to become 'Learning Leaders'.

"I have had a passion for learning how to learn ever since reading Tony Buzan's 'Mind Set' series during my GCSEs. Buzan provides answers to the fundamental questions which schools often forget to ask; how does my brain work and how can I use it best? Once students are equipped with some basic learning tools, they can apply them to any area of knowledge.

Using Buzan's books, I designed a course to develop and enhance the learners' natural memory, note-taking and study skills. In the final week we would focus more on leadership skills and how to teach others how to use their brains. I knew I was being very ambitious and idealistic, but I didn't expect just how much I would have to adapt my plans."

Sally set off for South Africa in August 2010 but after only three days at Mnyakanya, there was a national Public Servants strike which involved teachers in all schools. Faced with a potential disaster following a year of preparations, Sally's own leadership skills were utilised to the full due to the circumstances. All schools were closed but Sally was determined to teach her 'Learning Leadership Course' to any learners who were prepared

to listen. Sally found a venue to deliver her course; a tiny Lutheran Church that she described as a 'haven':

"In some ways the strike made things harder, but also better. For example, the school authorities were unable to help me to enforce attendance, so while one day I would teach eight learners, another day only three would come. But at least I could be certain that the ones who did turn up were truly dedicated. During what was potentially an extended holiday, they walked for four hours a day just to hear what I had to say. Their commitment to learning is an inspiration and a privilege to experience.

Twenty five learners and members of the wider community participated in the course: Nompumelelo Cele, Sabelo Dlamini, Mthokozisi Dlamuka, Ignatia Dlundla, Nokulunga Gcaba, Anele Hlongwane, Nduh Khanyile, Philani Khuzwayo, Msawenkosi Kwanyile, Mbali Magwaza, Phumzile Magwaza, Ndumiso Maphumulo, Alex Mzobe, Andile Nala, Nokwanda Nala, Jabulile Ndawonde, Sanele Ndwandwe, Neliswa Ntuli, Nkululeko Nzuza, Nosipho Shange, Lamlile Shezi, Sphosethu Sthole, Kwanda Zakwe, Thobile Nsibande and Sabelo Ntombela.

Despite everything, we got all the way through my planned course. I am tremendously grateful for how hard my team worked to assimilate all the strange new concepts I threw at them, which were very far removed from the traditional educational methods used in South Africa. The strike ended three days before the end of my visit, which in a way was an even bigger challenge than the strike itself had been. The teachers were desperately trying to work out how to cover all the missed work before exams started in November – most of them had not even met me yet and didn't know why I wanted to take their learners from their precious lesson time to work on a mysterious 'Learning Leadership' project. Yet even amidst the chaos, we managed to create and perform a 'showcase', which we gave on the last day to the two youngest Grades. We provided entertainment (I tried out my new Zulu-dancing skills), and I presented each Learning Leader with a T shirt, letter and gift. But my proudest moment came during the drama, when we had our chance to explain

to the other Mnyakanya learners what the Learning Leaders were all about. Watching my students speak up loudly and confidently before the crowd, articulating and explaining foreign concepts better than I ever had – there isn't a word to describe how good that felt."



In her final days with her 'Learning Leaders', Sally got them to formulate and articulate their vision for the future:

We, the Learning Leaders, wish to see a future at Mnyakanya High School where:

- all learners enjoy learning
- all learners respect each other, their education and their brain's limitless potential
- all learners have confidence in their ability to learn
- there is a positive learning environment in which learners are encouraged to ask questions and contribute their ideas
- the development of learning and leadership skills is an integrated part of the school curriculum
- all learners pass their exams

Sally was described by Acting Principal of Mnyakanya, William Vilakazi, as: *"...the most incredible young lady I have ever met. Her vision, determination and sheer bravery has to be seen to be believed. My learners, educators and I have found her to be an inspiration. We are all better people for knowing her. The world needs people like Sally."*

Most significantly, working with local businessmen and Bambisanani supporter Graham Chennells, Sally has established a programme that can be followed by other gap year students who wish to work at Mnyakanya and indeed other projects in the Eshowe/Nkandla area. Graham has agreed to arrange accommodation and transport during such visits.

Before leaving South Africa for the UK, Sally also found time to travel to Soweto in Johannesburg to teach music!

David Geldart, like William, was immensely proud of Sally:

"As a teacher, it is has been my great privilege to work with some truly remarkable students over the years. In all that time, I have never met anyone quite like Sally. When she joined the St. Mary's Sixth Form three years ago, she was a shy student who lacked confidence in her own ability. The South African experience helped shine a light on her remarkable talents and she has grown rapidly since that time. Sally is not just a leader, she is a pioneer, a truly amazing person, who has gained the highest respect from students and teachers alike in both countries. Her humility and humanity cause many to reflect on their own lives. At the age of nineteen, she has achieved more than some people will achieve in a lifetime."

Sally was subsequently nominated for the Young Person of the Year Award in the UK.



October 2010: Jewell donates rare signed football shirts

Former professional footballer, now football manager, Paul Jewell generously donated two prize possessions from his Testimonial Year to raise money for the Bambisanani Partnership. Paul, whose daughter Alex visited South Africa as a member of the St. Mary's Sixth Form in July 2010, donated football shirts from Manchester United and Celtic signed by all the players in the 1998-99 season. The Manchester United signed shirt is from their most successful season ever when they won the European Cup, FA Cup and the Premier League title. The Celtic shirt represents the famous Henrik Larsson era. The shirts were professionally framed for auction by Art Works in Otley, at no charge, in order to support the work of the partnership.



November 2010: Death of Sbonelo

November saw the death of Mnyakanya student Sbonelo Magwaza after a short illness. Sbonelo was an outstanding young man who had successfully completed the Bambisanani Leadership course with St. Mary's students. During the summer 2010 visit Sbonelo led an amazing and emotional FIFA World Cup 'Waka Waka' group dance event in the School Hall. Both communities were devastated by the news of his death and in consultation with Sbonelo's family have agreed to introduce the *Sbonelo Magwaza Award for Outstanding Leadership* in both schools to be presented annually. The memory of Sbonelo will live on inspiring and motivating others for generations to come.



December 2010: Diana Award for St. Mary's students dedicated to Sbonelo

The students who visited South Africa in the previous July: Rebecca Harrison, Alex Jewell, Tom Loughlin, Lorna O'Sullivan, Lisa Melvin, Isabelle Scott, Kate Shelly, Sam Thomas, Alex Threapleton, Phoebe Tyrrie, Chris Whiteley and Kim Wu received the prestigious Princess Diana Certificate of Excellence for their "remarkable and inspiring work in KwaZulu-Natal".

Maggie Turner, Chief Executive of the Diana Award said: *"The Certificate of Excellence acknowledges groups of young people in the UK who deserve to be publicly recognised for the outstanding contributions they make to their communities. The recipients will motivate and inspire everyone with their stories about their unique contributions to society. The Bambisanani Partnership epitomises the new Diana Award for Excellence with the young people involved going the "extra mile" to make a difference for others."*

Speaking on behalf of the group Sam Thomas said: *"It is a great honour to receive this award and we would like to dedicate it to our friend, and outstanding young leader, Sbonelo Magwaza from Mnyakanya who died recently."*



December 2010: Bambisanani Enterprises branch out

This was a busy time for Bambisanani Enterprises. For the previous six months the group consisting of Alice Duggan, Charlotte Armitage, Callum Ronan, Kavindu Appuhamy, Olivia Metcalfe, Mairenn Collins, Ed Knox, Ben Allan and Adam Vorley had worked on two specific ideas. Firstly, to design a multipurpose greetings card that by definition could be used for any occasion from Christmas to Birthdays and Anniversaries. The students, with support from Liz Robertson, had the cards commercially produced.

Secondly, the group developed the idea of Bambisanani Gifts where you buy a present for someone but the actual present goes to support education at Mnyakanya. Recipients get a special Bambisanani Card telling them that a gift has been bought for them and that the gift is helping make a difference for a child at Mnyakanya. More than thirty gift possibilities were made available at different prices ranging from £5 (pencil case and pens for a student) to £1000 (supporting a student into Higher Education). Examples of other gifts include football (£10), library book (£15) and sponsoring an orphan into school for a year (£50). As with Bambisanani Cards the idea is that the gifts could be bought for different occasions throughout the year. Bambisanani Enterprises Board Members launched the two new products to the whole St. Mary's staff before presenting to students groups. Acting Headteacher Catherine M^cMahon said:

"Bambisanani Enterprises is just wonderful; the students are learning so many valuable skills in the process."



December 2010: Christmas Messages between schools

Over the past few years the two schools have developed the tradition of forwarding a Christmas message to each other. The messages are indicative of the closeness and warmth of the Partnership:

Christmas message to the Mnyakanya School Community from St. Mary's

As I write this message to my friends at Mnyakanya the temperature is below freezing here in the UK. St. Mary's School has had to close today because of exceptionally high levels of snow. So I think of my friends in South Africa and feel warm.

Christmas is a time for us all to reflect on our lives and our contribution to others. I am reminded at this time of a wonderful quote from the American Civil Rights Leader, Martin Luther King:

Life's most important question is: What are you doing for others?

Sadly, there are many aspects of life that have become more selfish over the years. The Bambisanani Partnership is about two communities working together and learning from each other. This spirit of mutual respect and support continues to grow as our work develops. It is hard to believe that it is almost five years since my first visit to Mnyakanya. I remember how warmly I was welcomed by the Mnyakanya and wider community. I made friends on that visit that are friends today and will be friends forever. The amazing educators and learners from Mnyakanya are never far from my thoughts. I am so proud of what the Bambisanani Partnership has achieved - we have achieved it together. Both communities have learned so much from each other.

All the students in my school have the utmost respect for you. They have learned so much from your determination and commitment to learning. They have learned so much from you particularly how you look after people in the community, especially the young, old and the vulnerable. You are inspiring my learners and my educators.

How pleased I was to hear that the Library and Sports Area opened this year. I hope both are being well used, developing healthy bodies and healthy minds. I am delighted that you continue to develop amazing young leaders. I am proud of the fact that young leaders from St. Mary's and Mnyakanya work together so effectively. This is the spirit of Bambisanani - working together hand in hand. The World Cup competition you organised this year sounded amazing. I loved the photographs of you with the 'World Cup'.

Thank you so much for looking after my educators and learners that visited you this year. They all returned home more thoughtful and better people for the experience. They talk about you all the time. Thank you for doing so much for us. You possibly do not realise how much your kindness and friendship means to us.

You will be aware that a young man called Laurie McCauley, from the St. Mary's wider community, died this year aged thirty-one. You may also be aware that Laurie's parents have donated his much loved collection of football shirts from around the world to serve as a source of learning for Mnyakanya learners. His parents have heard so much about Mnyakanya School and would like Laurie to be remembered in such a positive way. His parents are going to donate an annual prize for the best piece of research and writing based on the wonderful collection of international football shirts. They would like this to be known as Laurie's Legacy. They would like to donate another prize for the most improved footballer as Laurie once won such an award and was so proud of it. Again this would form part of Laurie's Legacy - Laurie's name living on to inspire learners in the Mnyakanya community. I hope that you will respect the wishes of Laurie's parents and embrace Laurie's Legacy. His parents would also like to donate some books for the library.

Laurie loved literature and studied it at University. I was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Sbonelo Magwaza. My community felt your pain and we said special prayers for Sbonelo at St. Mary's. My educators and learners worked with Sbonelo on the Bambisanani Leadership Programme and were devastated by the news. He was a wonderful young man who will be sadly missed. I believe that his name should live on at Mnyakanya and that he should continue to inspire young leaders for generations to come. To that end we have consulted with Sbonelo's family and would like to create an annual award for outstanding leadership in his name - The Sbonelo Magwaza Award for Outstanding Leadership.

With Laurie and Sbonelo we are united in grief. We will not forget them and their legacy will be to inspire others.

Speaking of the visit, it is my intention to lead the party of St. Mary's educators and learners to Mnyakanya in 2011. It will be three years since my last visit and I have missed you all. I am looking forward to it very much.

I look forward to joint learning projects taking place with learners from both schools over the next year.

So at this Christmas time the St. Mary's community and I are thinking of you. We pray that God will watch over you and look after you.

Continue to seek opportunities to do things for others. May God bless you all at this holy time.



Christmas message to the St. Mary's School Community from Mnyakanya

Christmas season means a time to care, love, share and enjoy with best friends. It is a great time to remember all the happy memories that have gone by. We have been sharing all our good, bad and ugly feelings since we met over the past five years.

Bambisanani Partnership has opened many closed doors and opportunities for two schools. Our school community have benefited in many ways through our partnership.

Our learners can now compete in different sports codes on a new multi-use sports area and access information in the new library and in our new computer hub. Orphans are like any other learners with mother and father because of the school uniform you provide annually for them.

All I have mentioned is through the Bambisanani Partnership. Our partnership has a tremendous impact in Mnyakanya's community.

I won't forget the little individual gifts you gave us. We know very well that they are minor to you but great to us. We truly appreciate them and thank you once again for that; they make a huge difference in our lives.

Your staff members and students who visited us the past five years have demonstrated commitment, passion and professionalism in all aspects of life. During the hot weather of South Africa they displayed talent and all qualities of a good leader; you are all stars to me, keep up the good work.

We also thank you the way you welcomed and treated us during our first Bambisanani trip to UK in 2009. If you were not on our side we wouldn't have visited you. It was enjoyable, successful and we experienced many things. Although it was challenging to us we learned so much from you.

We have also been through difficult times with you this year but remember that "unity is the power". You demonstrated it. The death of Sbonelo Magwaza touched both schools but sometimes we need to accept things as they are. We thank you for the condolences and we heard of the special prayers you said at St. Mary's for him. Some of you who visited us this year will remember him well leading the group dancing 'FIFA World Cup Waka Waka dance' in our school hall.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of Laurie M'Cauley from your community, his loss again touched us in Mnyakanya, even if we didn't meet with him but his work is known to us. We would like to thank the M'Cauley's for donating his much loved collection of football shirts from around the world and we will use them as incentives of learning in our school. We also appreciate the annual prizes and books they are going to donate in order for Laurie to be remembered in a positive way. I can assure the M'Cauley's that we will respect their wishes and embrace Laurie's legacy. May Laurie and Sbonelo's souls rest in peace.

It was also wonderful to be visited by Sally Bridgewater this year, she taught us new learning techniques which helped our learners a lot during the final examination to use their brains effectively. It was unbelievable and amazing to see a brave and energetic young lady who continued with her work while we were on public servants strike. She really inspired many of our learners. I am not forgetting your female educators, who also visited Mnyakanya. They taught us to be self-confident, to be strong and to be positive in life.

Your strength, patience, love, support and especially your time has made us better people.

We are looking forward to seeing David, your staff and your students in 2011.

So at this Christmas time, may you succeed in every step of your way. I hope that we are able to recreate happy memories in years to come.

Viva Bambisanani, long live Bambisanani Partnership. Have a happy Christmas and happy New Year. May God bless you all.



January 2011: Students prepare for 2012 visit

Places for the July 2012 visit to South Africa were massively oversubscribed by students. The standard of application was extremely high and the following students were offered places: Hannah Armitage, George Barber, Ruth Bevan, Joseph Doonan, Marek Haluszczak, Ryan Houston, Natalie Meachin, Beth Pounder, Holly Charles, Maisie Sammon, Declan Smith, Liam Ward, Cait Hanstock and Emma Williams. The students immediately began their fundraising and education programme in preparation for the 2012 visit which will take place just before the start of the Olympic Games.



February 2011: William Vilakazi elected Chair of Nkandla *Connecting Classrooms*

Following the sad death of Dumisani Zunga, Principal of Magqama High School, William Vilakazi was elected as Chair and Cluster Co-ordinator of the Nkandla *Connecting Classrooms* initiative. Nkandla has six schools involved in the initiative: Mnyakanya High, Magqama High, Emthungweni High, Ntolwane Primary, Halambu Primary and Khomo Primary.

Dumisani had played a crucial role in developing the *Connecting Classrooms* initiative at the British Council Conference in Kenya in July 2009 with David Geldart, Jenny Hill, Paul Appiah and Tony Moodley. In the first year of the project, Dumisani had made an outstanding start in engaging schools in his local community as well as developing international links with schools in Leeds and Ghana.



February 2011: Guiseley Gig

Thirteen year old Bambisanani Enterprises Board member, Mairenn Collins, organised a concert in aid of the partnership. Mairenn demonstrated tremendous leadership and maturity by booking recording artist, singer song writer, Emily Maguire to perform at the event. With support from her father Tim, Mairenn organised and coordinated every aspect of the event; artist, venue, publicity and marketing. The evening was a tremendous success with over one hundred people enjoying Emily's performance.

Mairenn was delighted with the evening which raised almost £400 for the partnership: *"Emily is my favourite artist, she has a beautiful voice and writes thought provoking music. It was wonderful that Emily and her bassist, Christian Dunham, were prepared to play for us. I learned so much from organising the event and I was so pleased that everyone enjoyed it."*

David Geldart had nothing but praise for Mairenn: *"I cannot quite believe a thirteen year old student could organise such an event; there was so much to do and so many factors to consider. Mairenn is a remarkable student. The future of Bambisanani is assured with such talented and enterprising young people willing to make a difference."*



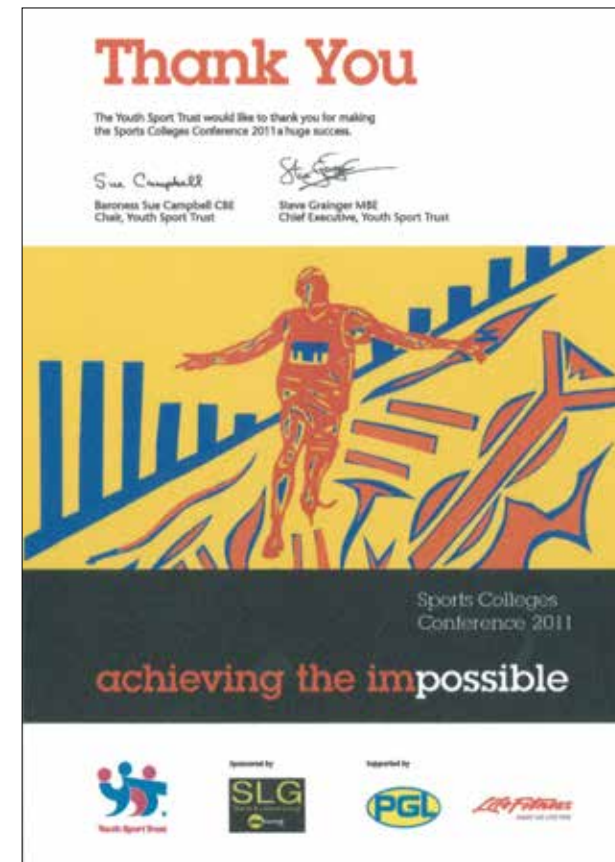
Photograph courtesy of emilymaguire

February 2011: Bambisanani at *Achieving the Impossible* Conference

David Geldart and William Vilakazi were invited to give a joint presentation of the work of the Bambisanani Partnership at the prestigious Youth Sport Trust Sports College Conference. The title of the conference was *'Achieving the Impossible'*. Lisa McHendry of the Youth Sport Trust said: *"The presentation was inspirational and gave delegates a wonderful insight into the outstanding Bambisanani Partnership which is having a significant impact on learners and educators in both countries. Both schools have achieved what many thought was impossible."*

For William this was his first ever International conference. William said: *"It was an honour to represent my country at this important event. It was great to tell our story to people from around the world and to have such a warm and enthusiastic response."*

For David the event was particularly significant: *"The fact that we were asked to do a joint presentation was really important to the partnership. The Youth Sport Trust was instrumental in starting our partnership and has provided tremendous support. They worked so hard to ensure that William could be at the conference. Five years on from those first steps who would have thought that we would be sharing our work on such an important stage. I am delighted that people are interested in what we do, in how we do it and why we do it. The conference has given us the opportunity to reflect on the past and also to consider where we go in the future."*



March 2011: Partner schools go to South Africa

Inspired by the Bambisanani Partnership, teachers from two Leeds schools, Sarah Lanforth from Beechwood Primary and Sue Keating from Corpus Christi College, together with two teachers from Ghana visited South Africa as part of the *Connecting Classrooms* initiative; the *Noboa Project*. During the visit they spent time at Mnyakanya School and saw first-hand the impact of the Bambisanani Partnership. Sarah and Sue also visited the other five schools in the Nkandla Connecting Classrooms cluster to gain an understanding of the schools, their contexts and to discuss joint learning projects with teachers.

“It was amazing! It was an exhilarating and hectic schedule with six school visits and the planning meeting plus a wonderful visit to the Zuma homestead to meet with the first lady of South Africa.

Everyone was amazingly friendly, especially the children, and I don’t think I have ever felt so welcomed and been made to feel so special. We were treated to displays of singing (incredible voices with no musical accompaniment), Zulu dancing, school tours and lesson observations.

An aspect of the visit that I had not expected was the stories of the teachers. We met teachers that were hugely dedicated, who only saw their own families in the holidays or possibly at weekends.

The Noboa project, as we refer to it, linking schools in Leeds, Ghana and South Africa, has been able to build on the success of the Bambisanani Partnership. It was fantastic to have representatives from three different countries sitting round a table together discussing best practice

ideas for teaching and learning. Through our increasing communication and collaborative planning the project is becoming more firmly embedded in the curriculum of the schools involved, transforming the teaching of Geography and other aspects of the curriculum into something more real, relevant, motivating and exciting.

This project has had a tremendous impact in my own school giving a real context to our work on South Africa, Ghana and the once difficult concept of global citizenship. It has given my students something real and exciting to discuss with their families and has opened up a world that was previously much more closed. In the past Seacroft was the extent of our pupils’ understanding of community: with each year of this project the impact for our own pupils is enhanced and the effect of this will only be fully realised in years to come.

It was a real privilege to visit South Africa and I am inspired to extend the project.”

Sarah Lanforth

“The visit was a very humbling experience. I was particularly impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of both learners and educators, even in the face of the most difficult obstacles. Learners who so value their education, that they walk miles each day to get to school and then work diligently, sometimes until the early evening, are truly an inspiration.

The educators we met were keen to share their lessons with us and to listen to feedback from partner colleagues following lesson observations. The visit was an incredible opportunity to share in the culture and aspirations of our partner schools. I thank our partner schools in Nkandla for their incredible hospitality.”

Sue Keating



“The visit was a very humbling experience. I was particularly impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of both learners and educators, even in the face of the most difficult obstacles. Learners who so value their education, that they walk miles each day to get to school and then work diligently, sometimes until the early evening, are truly an inspiration.”

March 2011: Student Ambassadors meet to plan work between schools

Two students from each of the six schools involved in the Leeds/Bradford *Connecting Classrooms* cluster: St. Mary's Menston, Corpus Christi College, Challenge High, Beechwood Primary, St. Nicholas Primary and St. Mary's Horsforth Primary came together to discuss ideas for joint learning projects with partner schools in South Africa and Ghana. The event was hosted by Sarah Lanforth at Beechwood Primary School who had just returned from a visit to South Africa.

Building on the previous year's focus of '*Uniting through Sport*' the student ambassadors discussed ideas based on promoting '*Health*' through active lifestyles and diet. The students propose to share playground and local games, dances, recipes and food diaries.

The students demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm for devising the learning projects and their leadership roles. At the same time similar meetings were taking place in both Ghana and South Africa, again with students taking a lead role in proposing projects to improve children's health across all three countries; these ideas forming the basis of collaborative learning projects for the Noboa Project in the year ahead.



March 2011: KwaZulu-Natal Education Minister visits St. Mary's

Senzo Mchunu, Minister for Education for KwaZulu-Natal visited St. Mary's whilst on a fact-finding tour to Leeds, organised by the Leeds City Council International Relations team. At the school the Minister met Board Members of Bambisanani Enterprises and students preparing to visit South Africa as well as attending a range of lessons where he was clearly impressed with what he saw:

"I had heard so much about St. Mary's and the Bambisanani Partnership before my visit. What is evident is that St. Mary's 'walks the walk as well as talking the talk'. There are so many aspects of teaching and learning from St. Mary's that I intend to explore further. Sport is a key feature in the life of this highly successful school. Developing young leaders through all aspects of school life is fascinating as is the genuine commitment to global learning. The Bambisanani Partnership is simply magnificent, it is much more than an international school link; it is achieving real global learning in both schools and is inspiring others in the process. St. Mary's is a wonderful place of learning. The enthusiasm of the educators is mirrored by the learners. My visit has been a most positive experience and I look forward to remaining in contact with the school and indeed to meeting St. Mary's educators and learners in South Africa."



“Sport is a key feature in the life of this highly successful school. Developing young leaders through all aspects of school life is fascinating as is the genuine commitment to global learning. The Bambisanani Partnership is simply magnificent, it is much more than an international school link; it is achieving real global learning in both schools and is inspiring others in the process.”

Senzo Mchunu,

Minister for Education, KwaZulu-Natal

March 2011: Sir Trevor Brooking receives Bambisanani Award

Sir Trevor Brooking, FA Director of Football, has been a long term supporter of the Bambisanani Partnership. Whilst on a visit to St. Mary's to formally open a new football facility the former West Ham and England star was presented with the Bambisanani Award Certificate by Year 8 student and Bambisanani Enterprises board member Mairenn Collins.

Sir Trevor noted: *"St. Mary's is an outstanding Sports College which is using sport in a variety of ways to realise wider educational aims and improve the quality of people's lives. The school's work in South Africa is an exceptional example of this. I am delighted to support this remarkable initiative."*

Whilst at St. Mary's Sir Trevor donated two signed replica shirts from his FA Cup wins in 1975 and 1980 to raise funds for the Bambisanani Partnership.



March 2011: Return to South Africa

Following an invitation from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, David Geldart returned to South Africa to evaluate the work of the partnership and initiate further developments. During his time in South Africa, David held review and development meetings with all stake holders associated with Mnyakanya School including: local Zulu Chiefs, Governors, Senior Management, Department of Education Advisor and students. Meetings also took place with local primary schools from the *Connecting Classrooms* partnership.

The Zulu community went to great lengths to welcome David back following a three year absence. They praised the work of the partnership and St. Mary's commitment to the project. Community members referred to the physical, psychological and emotional impact of the partnership and all agreed that the partnership was making a remarkable difference and that everyone concerned should strive to reach the next level.

It was agreed that developing young leaders should remain a key focus of the partnership. The importance of developing literacy skills with reference to reading and writing in English was discussed at length and it was agreed to develop further the idea of *Literacy Leaders* who could support the teaching of English at both Mnyakanya and local primary schools. It is important to note that whilst English is a second language for Zulu children their examinations in all subjects are eventually taken in English. The importance of developing good English skills early in Zululand schools had been a point well made to David by his colleagues Sarah Lanforth, Lisa Newton and Hannah Davies following their visits to South Africa.

The importance of developing significant joint learning projects at St. Mary's and Mnyakanya was accepted as a key element of the partnership going forward. Discussions took place about a possible joint art and writing project based on the theme of *The Power of Sport*. It was agreed to launch and support competitions in both schools with the best work to be included in a book to be produced just before the start of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In a subsequent meeting, Eshowe Rotary Club agreed to support the competitions at Mnyakanya with funding for materials and expertise.

During his visit David was able to see first-hand new facilities at Mnyakanya that had been inspired by the partnership including the Multi Use Games Area, Computer Lab and Bambisanani Library. In the library students spoke of their joy of being able to access books for general interest and study. When asked about what type of additional books they would like to see in the library, students were very clear and remarkably consistent in their responses. Three key areas of interest emerged in the following order of priority. Firstly, books about the rest of the world, particularly the UK, Yorkshire and Leeds. Secondly, books to support all areas of academic study particularly Science, Maths, English and Business Studies. Thirdly, books on sport, particularly football, netball and the Olympic Games.

David also visited Eshowe High School to explore the possibility of this well-resourced school becoming involved in the partnership. At a meeting with Principal, Andre van Schakayk and his Deputy, Hedimarie Bentley,

David explained the aims of the Bambisanani Partnership and the benefits that St. Mary's had gained from working with Mnyakanya. David offered Andre four places for his students on the St. Mary's Leadership course in July at Mnyakanya. During the same visit Andre invited St. Mary's students to attend lessons at Eshowe and meet with members of his student Rotary group. Andre also invited Mnyakanya to the annual Eshowe School football tournament. An important link was established with Eshowe High School which has tremendous potential for the future.



Whilst in Eshowe, David visited Umfolozi College, a vocational skills centre, offering courses in bricklaying, carpentry, garment making, plumbing, agriculture and computing. The college also provides accommodation and 90% of people that complete the three month courses manage to find employment. Graham Chennells, who was instrumental in establishing the college, outlined possible ways that Mnyakanya students could access the courses. Graham subsequently invited William Vilakazi, from Mnyakanya to the college to make him aware of possibilities and also agreed to continue discussions with David with regard to potential Bambisanani bursaries.

In another possible development for the Bambisanani Partnership, Graham introduced David to Silvia Hellesvik and Nick Phillips of the Norwegian based charity Zulufadder. Zulufadder supports and cares for HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children by providing schools, orphanages, homes, day care, food, clothing and educational resources. David was invited to an amazing orphanage and day care centre and discussed a range of possible links between the work of Zulufadder and the Bambisanani Partnership, particularly leadership and volunteering opportunities.

In further meetings with Graham Chennells, David discussed the possibility of developing bespoke volunteering opportunities in Zululand for adults associated with the St. Mary's community. Graham agreed to coordinate all arrangements in South Africa including transport, accommodation, meals and the particular volunteering experiences required on a non-profit basis. The intention is that programmes will be flexible and unique to the requirements of the individuals or groups involved. David and Graham agreed to pursue this exciting extension to the partnership by creating volunteering opportunities for adults who may wish to make a difference in South Africa.

As his time in South Africa came to an end David reflected on the progress made: *“For all the right reasons I have not been to South Africa for the past three years in order to give my colleagues the opportunity. I probably left it too long between visits and recognise that real development meetings cannot easily be achieved when you are also responsible for a group of students. The visit has reinforced the vital nature of meeting face to face and developing personal relationships in this type of partnership. All this takes time, particularly in Zulu culture where trust, understanding, respect and friendship must come before agendas, targets, outcomes and performance indicators. How refreshing this is once you start to see the world through African and not European eyes. The developments agreed this week could not have been achieved by phone or by email, they have taken considerable ‘African time’ but this has been time well spent. Our project will move on significantly because of this visit. The advent of new joint learning projects with Mnyakanya, developing Literacy Leaders, linking with Ntolwane Primary School, creating volunteering opportunities for adults, engaging with Eshowe High School, Umfolozi College and Zulufadder all offer added dimensions to our work, many of which will be included in our July visit.”*

The importance of the visit was acknowledged and appreciated by all associated with the partnership:

“I am continually amazed by David’s passion and personal commitment to this project. This passion, as seen on this visit, will certainly infuse the necessary spark required to take such demanding and important work forward. It is the kind of passion that can inspire and galvanise others into supporting and developing the partnerships forged. The additional links established on the visit offer tremendous promise.”

Tony Moodley, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education



May 2011: European partner schools show interest in Bambisanani Partnership

For many years St. Mary's has been involved with the British Council's Comenius project aimed at developing knowledge and understanding of European culture, language and diversity. The initiative promotes the development of life skills, active citizenship and lifelong learning. St. Mary's is engaged in collaborative learning projects with schools from Spain, Poland, Ireland, Sicily, Belgium and Germany.

In recent years, visiting schools to St. Mary's have been given the opportunity to learn about the Bambisanani Partnership. This session has proved extremely popular with European schools and a presentation is now always requested. Many of the schools have asked how they can support the partnership.

The Comenius group of schools meet regularly and at one such meeting, teachers from Sicily suggested to European colleagues that at their next meeting St. Mary's could give a presentation about the work of the Bambisanani Partnership. This was agreed and a St. Mary's team was invited to speak at the next Comenius conference, held in Belfast.

Supported by the St. Mary's Comenius representative Alison Mastin, teacher Barbara Pounder and student Sam Thomas, who had both visited South Africa in July 2010, gave an outstanding presentation highlighting what life is like for one of South Africa's poorest communities and the impact of the Bambisanani Partnership at both St. Mary's and Mnyakanya. Barbara and Sam stressed the learning opportunities for all concerned in such a partnership.

Delegates were full of praise for the achievements of the partnership and it was agreed to explore possibilities of the Comenius partnership collectively supporting and engaging with the Bambisanani Partnership in the future.



July 2011: St. Mary's team make great strides in South Africa

This visit of four staff and fourteen students was led by David Geldart supported by Lucy Watson from St. Mary's, Peter Latham from Prince Henry's School, Otley and Mick Russell, HSBC Bank Premier Manager. The students were: George Brabin, Georgina Byrne, Jamie Carter, Jessica Connolly, Eleanor English, Torquil Hall, Freya Kew, Ciara Hanstock, Harry Minchella, Robert Neesam, Brogan O'Connor, Gemma Pennock, Patrick Smith and Alessandra Valle-Metaxes.

A key aspect of this year's visit was to develop a relationship with the well-resourced and highly successful Eshowe High School situated approximately an hour away from Mnyakanya. To that end, four students from Eshowe were invited to join the Bambisanani Leadership programme for the week with St. Mary's and Mnyakanya students. Chesslyne Lucas, Hilary Walker, Wendy Mchunu and Nkosikhona Mthebu joined the team and added a very positive, new dimension to the project.

During the visit the St. Mary's students, supported by the Eshowe students, mentored twenty Mnyakanya students on the Bambisanani Leadership Course. An aspect of the course was for students from all three schools to jointly organise and deliver a Multi-Skill Sports Festival and a Literacy Festival for four local primary schools.

The mentoring programme was a tremendous success, as were both festivals. Students from St. Mary's, Eshowe and Mnyakanya taught reading and sports skills to over sixty children from Ntolwane, Halambu, Khomo and Kwamanqondo Primary Schools at a festival on the final day of the visit.

Ntolwane teacher Moses Xulu hailed the work of the St. Mary's, Eshowe and Mnyakanya students: *"What we have witnessed today in the Literacy and Sports Festivals is almost beyond words. The primary school learners have been inspired, as have their educators, by the young leaders. It is difficult to express the importance of being able to speak and read English and the young leaders have been so effective; the use of sport to reinforce language development is fantastic. If I had not seen the events of today I would not have believed it. It was wonderful to see the St. Mary's, Eshowe and Mnyakanya students working so well together; they are a powerful team, so mature, confident and effective."*

The intention is that the young leaders from Mnyakanya will continue to work with Ntolwane and the other primary schools to support the teaching of both reading and sports skills. The extensive sports and reading materials provided by the St. Mary's community and sponsors for the festivals were left with the primary schools. It is hoped that the leaders from Mnyakanya will ultimately support adults in the community who would like to learn to read.

The development and progress of the Mnyakanya students during the leadership course was outstanding. Bambisanani Leadership Awards were duly presented to the following students at a special ceremony by their student mentors from St. Mary's and Eshowe: Celumusa Mhlongo, Ngiphile Buthelezi, Sihle Nzuzo, Nomfundo Nzuzo, Nothando Khanyile, Nokulunga Sikhakhane, Sakhiseni Ndlovu, Samkelisiwe Mabaso, Nomalanga Zuma, Nokuphila Mpanza, Ntombifuthi Thusi, Nokukhanya Buthelezi, Kwanele Mahlshama, Mfundo Magwaza, Snehlanhla Khanyile, Sifiso Gcaba, Nombuyiselo Nzuzo, Lungile Mthethwa, Simphiwe Ndlovu and Sneathemba Mkhize.



Speaking on behalf of the Mnyakanya student leaders, Nokulunga Sikhakhane explained: *“We are so proud to be Bambisanani Leaders. We have learned many things about leadership and we now have the confidence and motivation to do more in our community. We have loved working with the St. Mary’s and Eshowe students and learning from each other.”*

The impact of the experience on the Eshowe students was also interesting and most significant: *“This week has been a real eye-opener for me. I was not aware of Mnyakanya School before this and the rural area where it is situated. I have learned so much about my own country and the day to day challenges that some people face. I am so proud of what we all achieved together at the festivals. It has been a fantastic opportunity for all of us.”*

Wendy Mchunu

“This week has been the best week of my life. I have learned so much about leadership, mentoring and the importance of teaching literacy in rural communities. I have also learned how important sport can be in bringing people together. I have made some wonderful friends and I have been inspired. My outlook on life has been changed by all of this.”

Chesslyne Lucas

Whilst at Mnyakanya, St Mary’s students also taught a range of subjects and activities to students including: Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Economics, Psychology, English, Dance, Football and Cricket. In one after school session more than two hundred Mnyakanya students (25% of the school population!) stayed behind for extra lessons provided by St. Mary’s students. This is even more remarkable as many of the Mnyakanya students walk more than two hours to and from school each day.

The St. Mary’s team brought with them much needed equipment for Mnyakanya School including books for the Bambisanani Library opened a year ago, calculators, stationery and resources for art, science, sport and health education. St. Mary’s supports forty individual orphans at Mnyakanya and these students were provided with the uniforms and equipment they need for the year ahead.







Bambisanani
Leader

Bambisanani
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Leader

William Vilakazi from Mnyakanya said: *“The Bambisanani Partnership continues to inspire with the young leaders making a most remarkable impression. The joint learning projects that we are developing in art and creative writing using sport are fantastic and are raising the aspirations of young people from both communities. The Library, opened last year, is an amazing resource for my learners and educators. The Library will support the development of ‘Literacy Leaders’ which has been introduced on this visit. The young leaders developed through this programme continue to make a significant impact at Mnyakanya and increasingly in the wider community. The orphans supported by St. Mary’s are all thriving and taking full advantage of the opportunity that they have been given.”*

In a new venture for St. Mary’s, the team also developed the relationship with the Norwegian based charity ‘Zulufadder’ at one of its orphanages a few miles from the town of Eshowe. Zulufadder is a small organisation that supports and cares for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children throughout KwaZulu-Natal. The St. Mary’s team brought a range of equipment for the orphans and spent time singing, dancing and playing sport with the children as well as serving meals. They also met Zulufadder staff and volunteers including the incomparable Popi Buthelezi, a Zulu lady who has devoted her life to working with orphans. She is the Playschool Manager and personifies devotion, dedication and enthusiasm. Popi had a profound effect on the St. Mary’s team causing them all to reflect on and discuss her significance as a genuine role model and inspiration compared to the so called celebrity role models that many people admire in the UK.

The group also had the opportunity to meet two other inspirational people: Nick Phillips, Managing Director of the Zulufadder Children’s Trust, and Silvia Hellesvik who had moved from her native Norway to become Zulufadder’s Project Manager. Nick highlighted the importance of the Bambisanani Partnership and welcomed a link with Zulufadder: *“The pioneering work that the Bambisanani Partnership is doing developing young*

leaders in South Africa should not be underestimated. You are making a bigger difference than you think. The fruits of your labours may continue to emerge for years, which is the nature of developing a leader. You are making a massive impact. You are a tremendous advert for young people. You have caused me to think how Zulufadder might develop young leaders in the future. Zulufadder will always welcome you to South Africa and we look forward to working with you in the future.”











The visit to South Africa clearly had a tremendous impact on the St. Mary's students:

"They say that you should never judge a person until you have walked a mile in their shoes. My time in South Africa has taught me that this is true. I now have a greater understanding and empathy." Gemma Pennock

"This trip was an amazing experience for me. It taught me so much about myself, friendship and the world. The only way we can overcome problems facing the modern world is through creating relationships, like we have done, through partnerships like ours. This is the only way we can make a difference and really change the world." Ciara Hanstock

"I now fully understand why the Bambisanani Partnership is so important. This visit has been the most rewarding time of my life. It is a spectacular country and the people are so genuine. It has been such an amazing time; my eyes have truly been opened." Patrick Smith

"Visiting South Africa has been the best experience of my life." Eleanor English

"This adventure has changed my aims and goals in life. It has made me realise the change one person can make in influencing someone's life. It has given me a totally different outlook on world issues." Freya Kew

"My horizons have been broadened. I leave KwaZulu-Natal with a sense of achievement, knowing that I have gone some way to making a difference. I cannot imagine the full effects of the work we have done because much of what we have done is about giving people skills for the future. For this reason I will definitely go back." Robert Neesam

"This amazing week has taught me that anyone and everyone can make a difference in the world if they really want to." Torquil Hall

"The people I met throughout this incredible journey have altered my perspective on life. In our culture we take far too much for granted, constantly wanting more and never appreciating necessities. Those I encountered on this visit were grateful for everything they had. Even though many suffered unimaginable hardships, they managed to lead their lives with the largest smiles on their faces, a quality which I deeply admire and will never forget." Georgina Byrne

"The visit to South Africa has been the best experience of my life; I have learned an unbelievable amount about South African culture, history and politics. I have learned so much about the importance of leadership and about myself. It has widened my perspective on life. It has given me a greater appreciation of many things especially good health, education and opportunities we simply take for granted." Brogan O'Connor

"There is one word and one word only that can describe this experience and that is 'UNBELIEVABLE'. No matter how it is described to you there is no way you can comprehend just how amazing it is unless you do it yourself." Alessandra Valle-Metaxas

"The experience has been amazing; it has really made me think about the world and about life." George Brabin

In recent years St. Mary's has invited colleagues from partner schools to join them in South Africa. Peter Latham joined the team for the 2011 visit which had a profound effect on him:

"I was unsure what to expect and approached the venture with an open mind and heart. I was amazed at what a diverse and beautiful country South Africa is and how open and friendly our hosts and the people of the Zulu nation are. Massive problems exist, especially in the remote areas and it was pleasing to see the infrastructure moving forward in some of these areas. The partnership has moved a long way since its inception in 2006; the pupils of St. Mary's were quite incredible. Their compassion, friendliness, patience and vision left me agog."

The friends they made, the relationships with the South African students and their team work was nothing less than outstanding. They were great ambassadors for their school and country. The lasting impression that I will have is that I think we brought some happiness to the children we worked with and they were so joyful, relaxed and happy in our presence. The orphanage in particular was an incredible experience; so many beautiful, loving and undemanding children who were so pleased to see us. I conclude by saying a huge thank you to St. Mary's for giving me this opportunity. It was an unbelievable experience and an absolute pleasure to be part of the team. I hope the partnership continues to go from strength to strength."

David Geldart added: *"We had a fantastic team and I cannot praise them all enough for what they achieved. My colleagues Lucy, Mick and Peter made the most wonderful and unique contributions and the students responded in ways that continually give me so much faith in young people. We took on a range of new challenges that have really moved the project on. The work on developing literacy was incredibly successful. We have developed links with a range of additional organisations and individuals who we can work with for mutual benefit. This visit also helped establish a range of joint learning projects which both schools will be engaged in over the next year. The possibility of creating adult volunteering opportunities in South Africa has also moved a step closer. Without question the partnership has moved on this year, which has created even more opportunities for the future."*



August 2011: Mnyakanya play in first Football Tournament

As a result of the developing relationship between Eshowe High School, Mnyakanya and St. Mary's, Eshowe significantly invited Mnyakanya to play in the annual 7 a side football tournament based at the school. Mnyakanya entered their U16 boys team which included Ngcobo Zakhele, Cebo Bhengu, Nkululeko Khanyile, Bongumusa Jali, Scelo Zungu, Mbesuma Ngcobo, Sbhongiseni Ndlovu, Ndlovu Mbuyiseni, Zenzele Sithole and Ndlovu Sboniso.

Playing in a kit donated by Bradford City FC, Mnyakanya were unbeaten in the group stage of the competition:

Mnyakanya High v Flexton High 2-1 Eshowe High v Mnyakanya High 0-1 John Ross High v Mnyakanya High 2-3 Mnyakanya High v Richards Bay High 5-0.

In the semi-finals Mnyakanya beat Empangeni 2-0 to reach the final. In the final, a physically exhausted Mnyakanya team was beaten by Isandlwana 4-1. It was a remarkable achievement for Mnyakanya to reach the final and this was widely recognised and appreciated by opponents and spectators alike. Indeed it was three Mnyakanya players who were named as the players of the tournament: Bongumusa Jali, Nkululeko Khanyile and Cebo Bhengu.

William Vilakazi was extremely happy with the team: *"They were fully very excited as it was their first time to participate in such a competition, moreover to compete with learners of different race on a real pitch. They were committed and as serious as if they were playing in the World*

Cup. They told me that they wanted to show their talent in order to be invited again to the competition. We were very proud of our boys' performance, it was amazing. They were really motivated by the exposure of competing with other races at such a high profile event. We thank Eshowe High School so much for this wonderful opportunity and hope that we can return next year with more teams."

The coach of the Mnyakanya team is the school's Security Guard, Bernard Magwaza, who said: *"I am so proud of the team; they proved that they have talent. We have gained many ideas from St. Mary's about football which we tried to put into practice. We trained hard for this competition and played well. We made many friends at the tournament. We gained the respect of our opponents and the spectators. We have grown in confidence; we now know that we can compete at this very high level. The team looked fantastic in the kit donated from Bradford City and I also looked professional in my tracksuit from Manchester United. This has been a great experience and a wonderful opportunity."*



September 2011: Young People of the Year Award for Sally

Former St. Mary's student Sally Bridgewater was honoured by gaining second place in the national Young People of the Year Awards at a prestigious ceremony at Peterborough Cathedral. Now studying music at Cambridge University, Sally was described as 'inspirational' with her outstanding work in South Africa, India and the UK being highlighted as an exceptional example to others.

Interviewed at the event, Sally said: "I'm very pleased and very surprised to gain an award, especially after seeing all the young people who have been nominated. There are some amazing stories. I just wish it did not have to be a competition. Everyone deserved to win."

My journey began a few years ago when Mr Geldart gave an assembly about Mnyakanya School in South Africa. The photos he showed and the stories he told spoke of an amazing place full of hopeful people, but also of harsh poverty. After over a year of raising money I went to South Africa with a team of fourteen sixth-formers. The Bambisanani Partnership left an imprint on each of us – we certainly learnt more than we taught. I knew that somehow I had to go back.

I planned my gap year around helping others through sharing my two main passions: music, and creative ways of learning. I worked in a local classical music shop to earn enough money to travel to India for two months, and back to South Africa for six weeks. In India I worked for a well-established charity called The Association of People with Disability. Back in the UK I pressed ahead to organise my friends and family to perform in a charity classical music concert to raise money for the Bambisanani Partnership. We

used St. Mary's main hall and a team of at least thirty pupil volunteers helped to make the evening a huge success. As I took a bow with my violin I felt this was the best way I had ever used my music.

I had been surprised by how enthusiastically people in India had responded to my learning techniques, so for my return to Mnyakanya High School I decided to prepare and teach my own 'Learning Leadership' course. The aim was to give a small group of students not only the skills necessary to study more effectively, but to teach these skills to others. It proved more challenging than I expected with one of the biggest obstacles being the national strike - all the schools across South Africa were closed for most of the time I was there. But thanks to my friend Jabu, I continued to teach in a tiny church. By the end of the month I watched proudly as my dedicated students presented these new ideas to the rest of the re-opened school.

Whilst in South Africa I also spent time at the Melodi Music Trust in Soweto where I observed how the lives of township teenagers are being changed by learning to play orchestral wind instruments to an astonishingly high level. Without this focus and support many of them would automatically slip into their surrounding social norms, including drugs and violence. The project inspired me to learn to conduct and to continue to build on my music and leadership skills; if I can set up a similar project either in the UK or abroad after I've finished my degree, how many more people could I help?"

As well as continuing to support the Bambisanani Partnership in South Africa, Sally is a volunteer for a Cambridge University student support service and also volunteers with Cambridge Music Education Outreach Service with local youngsters.

David Geldart said: "She is an inspiration to others and an outstanding role model. I am delighted that her exceptional talents and achievements have been recognised in the Young People of the Year Awards."

Sally received a £400 prize as part of her award, half of which she donated to the Bambisanani Partnership.



September 2011: Bambisanani *Power of Sport* Competition launched

In a major joint learning project between St. Mary's and Mnyakanya all students at both schools were invited to enter Art and Writing competitions based on the theme of the 'Power of Sport'. All entries were due by April 2012 with special awards to be presented for the most outstanding work for different age groups in both schools. A book would also be produced to commemorate the competition and celebrate students' work and the partnership. The competitions are excellent examples of how different curriculum areas can use sport and global awareness to enhance teaching and learning. At St. Mary's the competition was part of the *Headteacher's Challenge* to all curriculum areas to use the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to inspire students.

Sarah Simpson, Head of Art and coordinator of the Art Competition, voiced her enthusiasm for the project: *"The power of sport has always been celebrated through art. This competition will provide St. Mary's and Mnyakanya students with the exciting opportunity of working together to celebrate what the power of sport means to them through producing a fantastic, inspiring and varied collection of artwork in the run up to the 2012 Olympics."*

English teacher, Nessa Whitehurst, coordinator of the Writing Competition echoed the enormous potential: *"With the Power of Sport project we encourage students to reflect on the life-changing potential of sport: as a career goal, as an expressive outlet, as a national ambassador and quite often for developing countries as a real opportunity for creating options in their lives where before there were limitations."*

It is fitting then that we set students the challenge of harnessing such a complex concept into the art of writing; the best work being an expression of the passion, the energy and the heartache that surrounds sport. Formats for these pieces include personal accounts, formal match reports, profiles of sporting heroes, poetry, newspaper style articles and fictional pieces. The potential is vast. We anticipate that the end result will be a competition that will not be seen as an in-house task; but instead an international collaboration that will go some way to building in our wonderful young people a sense of awareness, a sense of concern and overall a sense of the responsibility to challenge current world inequality."

**THE
POWER
OF SPORT
2012**

"Sport has the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Sport can create hope where there was once only despair. It breaks down racial barriers. It fights in the face of all kinds of discrimination. Sport speaks to people in a language they can understand."
Nelson Mandela

Creative Writing and Art Competition based on "The Power of Sport"

The best pieces of work from St. Mary's and Mnyakanya School will be included in a book to be produced just before the start of the Olympic Games in July 2012.

For further information please see: Learning Platform banner

All entries will receive a special certificate

Bambisanani Partnership | St. Mary's | Mnyakanya High School | SPORTS

October 2011: Bambisanani Award launched

Following considerable discussion with students and teachers at St. Mary's and Mnyakanya the Bambisanani Award was launched. The award will ultimately be available to all students in both schools at three levels: Bronze/Ithusi, Silver/Isiliva and Gold/Igolde. To gain the awards students have to successfully complete independent learning projects on Leadership, Global Citizenship, Enterprise, Volunteering and Community Engagement.

Students have been very positive about the award and indeed have played a significant role in developing it. *"It was a great experience and privilege to be involved in the development of the Bambisanani Award. Some of my ideas have been taken on board like using the Zulu names for Bronze, Silver and Gold and using a wide variety of ways to assess the learning of individual students."*

Callum Ronan

"I have really enjoyed working towards the Bambisanani Award. It has motivated me to learn different things in different ways. I have learned so much about the culture of South Africa. For my project I have researched South African food and cooking. It is great that the award is open to everyone."

Myles Hanlon

Hannah Davies, Bambisanani Award coordinator said:

"I think the award is a great chance for students who want to open their minds and do something different, something creative and inspiring out of the classroom. So far, the students involved have impressed me with their resourcefulness and independence. They look at things with fresh eyes."



October 2011: Bambisanani Partnership selected for Global Advocate Exhibition

The Leeds Development Education Centre is an educational charity that works in partnership with international development agencies and organisations to raise awareness of sustainable global development issues amongst young people and adults in the UK. The charity, which has an outstanding reputation for developing educational resources, has invited the Bambisanani Partnership to be of part its Global Advocate Exhibition, showcasing inspirational stories of ordinary people who are advocating a more just world. The active learning exhibition will tour schools and also be available on DVD.

“It has been inspiring to hear about a school partnership not based on charity, but on equality, respect and sustainability. There is clearly a deep desire to learn from each other and walk forward together.”

Hannah Dalrymple, Awareness for Fairness Coordinator,
Leeds Development Education Centre

David Geldart responded: *“It is an honour to be involved in such an important exhibition and education programme. Part of what we want to do now is to get more schools involved in genuine global learning projects that are sustainable, equitable and effective.”*



November 2011: International Diana Award for Bambisanani Partnership

Fourteen students from St. Mary's who visited South Africa in July became the first in the UK to receive the new International Diana Award for their outstanding work developing the Bambisanani Partnership. Students Brogan O'Connor and Torquil Hall travelled to London with teacher Lucy Thornton and Mick Russell from HSBC Bank to receive the prestigious award on behalf of the rest of the group: George Brabin, Georgina Byrne, Jamie Carter, Jessica Connolly, Eleanor English, Freya Kew, Ciara Hanstock, Harry Minchella, Robert Neesam, Gemma Pennock, Patrick Smith and Alessandra Valle-Metaxes.

At the British Council Awards Ceremony, held at the HSBC headquarters in Canary Wharf, Maggie Turner, Chief Executive, of the Diana Award said: *"This new award, supported by the HSBC Global Education Programme, will allow us to celebrate the incredible work of young people globally and recognise those that act as a force for good. The Bambisanani Partnership is an outstanding project and the young people from St. Mary's are exceptional role models: highly motivated, selfless and prepared to make a difference in the most difficult of circumstances. Their work in South Africa is inspirational and perfectly reflects the values of the International Diana Award."*

Speaking on behalf of the students Brogan added: *"It is an honour to receive this amazing award on behalf of the rest of the team. Teamwork is fundamental to our success in South Africa and we hope that this award encourages teams of students from other schools to work together on global projects. We look forward to hearing about young people from around the world being recognised by this special award."*



December 2011: A Review of the first five years of working together took place

Extracts from the Review:

Making a difference: School impact

Five years on from the initial visit to South Africa, the Bambisanani Partnership is now firmly embedded in the work of both schools.

The impact of the partnership has gained national and international acclaim. It was both significant and symbolic that half a decade from the start of the partnership, David Geldart and William Vilakazi were invited to speak at the prestigious Youth Sport Trust, Sports College 'Achieving the Impossible' Conference.

At St. Mary's the wide engagement of students and staff has led directly and indirectly to significant whole school change. Ofsted inspectors have been fulsome in their praise of the Bambisanani Partnership with respect to its contribution to developing Leadership, Community Cohesion, Enterprise, Volunteering and the Global Dimension. It is significant that the 'Bambisanani Partnership' features strongly in the school's Development Plan which is indicative of its whole school status.

"The Bambisanani Partnership is a true partnership. It is a genuine reciprocal arrangement with St. Mary's gaining

a great deal from the relationship. I am new to St. Mary's, but have been struck by the passion for the project with young people giving their best with their lives changed forever. A phrase we use with our students is 'leadership through service', the partnership does just this. At St. Mary's, we provide an education rooted in Christian values. The partnership enables us to live these values in a way other partnerships do not offer. I believe that we are just at the start of the relationship that will continue to develop links which will last for many years."

Robert Pritchard, Headteacher

"The Bambisanani Partnership is a truly outstanding example of a symbiotic International School collaboration. Issues such as Global Citizenship, Interdependence, Human Rights, Social Justice and Diversity are brought to the fore and have the ability to shift long-held values, attitudes and perceptions. If only more schools could develop partnerships of this calibre, the world would become a much more tolerant place."

Catherine McMahon, Senior Deputy Headteacher

"The Bambisanani Partnership is part of what we are as a school now. It reflects our values and constantly reminds us of the true purpose of education. It is a powerful force that has the potential to make us think and act differently."

David Geldart

The influence and impact of the Bambisanani Partnership led to the review and development of several whole school initiatives at St. Mary's.

The extensive review has resulted in a new whole school Global Dimension Policy. The new policy, entitled "Many Cultures, One Community", sets out a co-ordinated approach to all aspects of International/Global dimension work, outlining the roles and responsibilities of all Faculty and Pastoral areas. Again, inspired by the Bambisanani Partnership, part of the new policy includes a commitment to plan an annual 'International Week' with the normal timetable suspended.

This outstanding commitment to International/Global Dimension work has subsequently resulted in St. Mary's gaining the International Schools Award.

The Bambisanani Partnership has also inspired a whole school approach to developing young leaders in all Faculty areas, which includes some outstanding work by students in teaching, mentoring and coaching roles. Outstanding leadership of young people is recognised and celebrated in Awards Ceremonies for all year groups. This emphasis on developing young leaders at St. Mary's has also led to a new motto for the school – *Leadership through Service*.

Significantly, all Faculty areas at St. Mary's have utilised the Bambisanani Partnership to enhance teaching and learning in particular subjects and to promote Global Citizenship.





The Bambisanani Partnership has taken Enterprise Education to a new level at St. Mary's. The student led business, Bambisanani Enterprises, has been highly successful in both raising awareness of the partnership and funding. Student volunteers have raised significant funding through a range of activities including whole school events. Board Members have been successful at importing Zulu crafts and selling them at a variety of venues. More recently they have developed new aspects of the business including Bambisanani Gifts and Bambisanani Cards. The Board Members, significantly from different year groups, have been mentored by a number of Bambisanani Business supporters including Andrew Smithurst, Managing Director of Cardinal Maritime who said:

"The Board Members of Bambisanani Enterprises and other volunteers are gaining real life experiences of the business world. They are involved in key aspects of business and are clearly learning important transferable skills in the process. They are serious about what they do and have real purpose. They are very impressive young people who are making a difference."

The work of Bambisanani Enterprises has also been praised by the Yorkshire Young People's Enterprise Forum who featured the work of St. Mary's and Mnyakanya students in their annual review as an 'outstanding example of young enterprise.'

Such is the success of the Bambisanani Partnership that in July 2009 St. Mary's was invited to Kenya by the British Council to contribute to a Connecting Classrooms conference to share ideas with representatives from twelve African nations and Local Education Authorities from the UK. The work is intended to further develop UK/Africa links with schools and local authorities/districts working strategically in a support network. The St. Mary's team is supporting five other Leeds/Bradford schools (Corpus Christi College, Challenge High, Beechwood Primary, St. Nicholas

Primary and St. Mary's Primary) to develop partnerships in South Africa and Ghana. This collaboration has been named the *Noboa Project* by the schools involved. Teachers from Beechwood Primary and Corpus Christi College have subsequently visited South Africa.

St. Mary's staff have spoken about the Bambisanani Partnership at a variety of national conferences on behalf of the Youth Sport Trust, British Council and the HSBC Education Trust. The work of the partnership has been used in national case studies by the Youth Sport Trust, *Get Set* London 2012 and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games.

A significant strength of the Bambisanani Partnership is that the wider communities of both schools have been engaged. In Leeds the wider community has been made aware of the aims of the Bambisanani Partnership and just how much both school communities have to learn from each other. A most significant bond has been created with a range of businesses, organisations, charities, community groups and a small army of committed individuals who are now actively involved in supporting the Bambisanani Partnership. Many of these supporters are regular visitors to St. Mary's and are increasingly involved with students in the wider work of the school.

"Engagement with the wider world is an essential part of any outward looking and progressive school. Our Bambisanani supporters have added a new dimension to the life of the school, they give us another perspective – this has been a tremendous development. Students and staff meet other adults in school who are not teachers – it has broken down barriers and had a very positive impact on all concerned."

David Geldart



At Mnyakanya School, the engagement of the wider community was essential for the initiative to even begin; such is the nature of Zulu culture. David's initial visit enabled him to meet all the local decision makers. This process ensured genuine 'ownership' of this project which has helped sustain its growth.

William Vilakazi, the Assistant Principal at Mnyakanya, has played a vital part in the development of the Bambisanani Partnership. William believes that the impact of the partnership has been most significant:

"The impact of the partnership with St. Mary's has been unbelievable. Despite considerable communication problems and other difficulties we have managed to develop and sustain the wonderful Bambisanani Partnership. Materially we have gained so much as a direct result of the partnership: Multi Use Games Area, Library and much needed resources for teaching and learning. Educators and learners from Mnyakanya have had the opportunity of a lifetime to visit the UK. Many people here said that the visit would be impossible but David said we could do it. Together we proved it could be done. The visit to the UK was an eye-opener to me; I was able to realise who I am and understand that there is nothing that can exist alone or in isolation. We need each other in this world to survive; as we say in the partnership: 'interdependence is better than independence or dependence'. This is the spirit of Bambisanani that drives our work.

We have enjoyed the wonderful visits from educators and learners from St. Mary's. We have seen the wonderful power of sport to bring people together and have much wider benefits. We have realised how sport can be used to promote discipline, health, leadership, international understanding and general education. We have learned how developing young leaders can have such a positive effect on the individuals involved, their peers and the school. We have seen how peer mentoring and peer teaching can be used with amazing results.

Above all we have made friends. We have shared problems and ideas and in doing so we have developed mutual respect. We have broken down historic barriers and pointed the way to a more positive and cooperative future.

The learners are no longer thinking of the Nkandla area only; in their speech and writing they now mention St. Mary's, Leeds, the UK and Europe. The world is bigger now for my learners and they recognise that they are part of it; they have grown in awareness and confidence.

The support from St. Mary's is allowing many orphans to go to school. The opportunity of an education is the greatest gift; these children now have a chance in life.

Mnyakanya serves a largely uneducated rural community. The people have often become involved in faction fights and other unproductive activities but are now starting to realise the importance of school and an education. Many of the young people are now involved in sporting activities in the evenings and at weekends. Enrolment at Mnyakanya has increased from 650 learners in 2006 to 850 in 2011 as a direct result of the partnership. Many community members have realised that the school is not only a place of learning but also a place of care and support. This has occurred because of the Bambisanani Partnership and the St. Mary's approach to really caring for learners and engaging with the wider community.

Our community is extremely poor and there is much ignorance. Our facilities are still very basic and our resources are limited. We know that there is much to do in terms of raising educational standards, but we are getting there, there is a desire to improve and we must take responsibility: scars will become stars one day.

It is difficult to put into words the impact of the Bambisanani Partnership. Some of the impact is physical and very practical; some of the impact is psychological, influencing attitudes, understanding, confidence, motivation and aspiration. The Bambisanani Partnership is an integral

part of Mnyakanya School now as I know it is an integral part of St. Mary's School. There is a saying in Zulu culture: 'Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu' – meaning, 'we are what we are because of others'.

So much has been achieved by the Bambisanani Partnership; long live Bambisanani."

Robert Skhosana from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education also stressed the importance of the partnership and its potential:

"A heartily felt appreciation for your effort in cementing the Bambisanani Partnership between our schools, Mnyakanya in Nkandla and St. Mary's in Leeds. Despite our past historical and cultural differences as people, and our past and present prejudices, a seed of hope in an equal partnership between our two communities has been sown. The Bambisanani Partnership is the beginning of great things to come. Bambisanani shall in time break down human artificial barriers that have kept us apart. The partnership shall close down gaps between us, that is, the North and South, Africa and Europe, the UK and RSA, the Zulu and the Briton, the Christians, Muslims and those of traditional African religion, the industrialised and the under-developed, the urban and the rural, all of us together again as a human race.

We, the citizens of the two worlds, Leeds and Nkandla have a common humanity and destiny as children of the global village.

Long live Bambisanani, long live!"

“We need each other in this world to survive; as we say in the partnership: ‘interdependence is better than independence or dependence’. This is the spirit of Bambisanani that drives our work.”

William Vilakazi





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Robert Skhosana,

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

Student Voice

Whilst not easily measured, the perspectives of students provide a rich and valuable insight into the significance and importance of the Bambisanani Partnership. Students from both countries talk about the experience as being “life changing”. When asked “how?” they articulate how their priorities and values have changed and how their perspective of the world is now much wider. Students talk not only about another country, culture and way of life but significantly about how much they have learned about themselves.

Perspectives from St. Mary’s students:

“My world has just got bigger. I realise it is my duty to be a global citizen.”

“What used to be important to me is no longer important. I now have a new set of priorities in life.”

“The visit to South Africa was the best time of my life. I learned so much about Zulu culture, I learned so much about myself.”

“The people I met have changed my life forever. I have met amazing people who have taught me so much.”

“How can my life ever be the same again? I have been given the most wonderful opportunity and I have a responsibility now to continue to make a difference in my life.”

“We have so much to learn from the attitude and dedication of Mnyakanya students. They have so little materially but have so much more than us in terms of determination and desire to learn. We have no excuse at St. Mary’s for not achieving our goals.”

“What I have experienced on this visit is the greatest achievement in my life.”

“On this visit I learned that we have not got all the answers to life’s problems in the UK.”

“Much of our life in the UK has become obsessed with materialism and ‘celebrity’. We have lost touch with things that really matter. My visit to South Africa has given me a much more meaningful perspective on life.”

“Bambisanani is about what we can do and achieve together. I have learned so much from this. The visit has made me less selfish.”

“This experience has proved to me how working together can achieve incredible results.”

“Wouldn’t it be fantastic if we could take the best of life in Leeds and the best of life in Nkandla into a new kind of world for the future?”

“People talk about things being “life changing” and it has become a cliché, but our work in South Africa has really changed my life forever.”

“For me, this was not just a trip to Africa, it was a journey through life...an amazing, inspiring experience...I will never forget the place or the people and their heart-warming smiles.”

“Words cannot describe how this trip changed my life. I hope to work in South Africa in the future I want to make a difference.”

“The Bambisanani Partnership is amazing...The visit has been inspirational, I have learned so much about life.”

“It has been wonderful to have Mnyakanya students here in Leeds. We have learned so much about the Bambisanani Partnership and it is wonderful to meet students from our partner school in real life.”

“It has been so cool to have real African students at St. Mary’s. I know that there are differences in our cultures and life experiences but as young people we have so much in common. We have hopes and fears and many of them are the same. I have to stay in touch now with the new friends I have made.”

“Bambisanani Enterprises is an exciting venture. I have learned so much about different aspects of business and about working in a team. It is really good working with students from different year groups.”

“I am proud to be a Board Member of Bambisanani Enterprises; I know that I am helping to make a difference.”

“Bambisanani Enterprises is in the real world, we are in business – it is not easy. Lots of big companies in the UK like British Airways and the Royal Bank of Scotland made a loss last year but we made a profit in a difficult economic climate.”

“Assemblies about the Bambisanani Partnership are always interesting and thought provoking; they make me think. I go from feeling guilty to feeling inspired to do good things in my life.”



Bambisanani Partnership

Bambisanani Lead

“Much of our life in the UK has become obsessed with materialism and ‘celebrity’. We have lost touch with things that really matter. My visit to South Africa has given me a much more meaningful perspective on life.”

Perspectives from Mnyakanya students:

“The Bambisanani Partnership is the best thing that has happened in my life.”

“We have made friends and we will be friends forever.”

“The Bambisanani Leadership course taught me that I am a Leader.”

“This partnership gives us hope.”

“Never did I believe that anyone from the UK would visit Nkandla...I did not think you knew we existed.”

“We have worked together...people of different colours, countries, religions and cultures...we have proved it can be done.”

“The Bambisanani Partnership has given me the opportunity to continue my education. I have no parents and live alone. I want to be a Doctor to help my community. I will work hard.”

“It is great having educators and learners from St. Mary’s come to visit us, it is always exciting - we feel so special.”

“Thanks to you guys I have all I need now to be a successful learner – uniform, pens, books – everything.”

“We are different but we are the same.”

“We appreciate all that St. Mary’s School has done for us but hope that you have also learned some things from us.”

“I am inspired to be a good leader for my community.”

“I have learned so much on my visit to the UK. A dream has come true. I learned that working together with other people in a positive way will lead to further success.”

“I have learned so much from the visit. When I return home I will teach other learners how to respect each other. I will tell them that together we can make a positive change.”

“On my wonderful visit to Leeds I have learned so much from other people. I wish to change my world, community and school.”

“At St. Mary’s School I learned that it is good to ask questions.”

“At St. Mary’s the learners were humble and polite towards us. They welcomed us like they had known us for years. I found this inspirational.”

“Before I came to the UK I did not really believe that there were so many different cultures in the world.”

“I am proud to be a member of Bambisanani Enterprises, South African branch. I have learned so many things that will help me be a businessman one day.”

“My view of the world has changed. I can now see what a difference it makes when you love and respect different people.”

“I am the first young person from my part of South Africa ever to visit the UK. Bambisanani is a miracle from God. Every day I learned so many things. Above all I have learned to believe that everything is possible if we can work together.”



“We have worked together...people of different colours, countries, religions and cultures...we have proved it can be done.”

First five years Review conclusions

The first five years of the Bambisanani Partnership have been a tremendous success, making a significant impact in both schools and their wider communities. Two schools from very different parts of the world have worked and learned together as equal partners. The partnership has made a difference to those involved and is inspiring others to get involved. Both schools have enjoyed achieving what many said could not be done. Despite international praise and various awards those involved in the partnership are clearly focused on the future.

“There are still tremendous barriers and frustrations associated with our work but the potential benefits are phenomenal. Our challenge is to engage more young people, to develop more young leaders and global citizens of the future: young people that respect others and are prepared to make a difference themselves.”

David Geldart

“We are looking forward not back. We know that we must not become dependent on St. Mary’s. The Bambisanani Partnership is giving us the confidence to take on new challenges. We are not merely recipients in this process, we are equal partners and we have a responsibility to play our part. It is essential that both schools contribute to the partnership; we both have much to gain in doing so; both communities have already gained so much. The joint learning projects that we have planned are really exciting. We have achieved so much in a relatively short time but together we are committed and motivated to doing more. The Bambisanani Partnership can positively influence young people in both countries for generations to come.”

William Vilakazi



January 2012: Sbonelo Magwaza Award

Georgina Byrne became the first St. Mary's recipient of the Sbonelo Magwaza Award for Outstanding Leadership for her exemplary work on the 2011 visit to South Africa. The award is in memory of talented Mnyakanya student Sbonelo who sadly died in 2010. Georgina said: *"I am really honoured, humbled and surprised to be the first St. Mary's recipient of this award. It is wonderful that both schools remember Sbonelo in this way. I saw the award presented in South Africa and know how important it is to Mnyakanya School and to the partnership."*



January 2012: Preparations for 2013 visit to South Africa

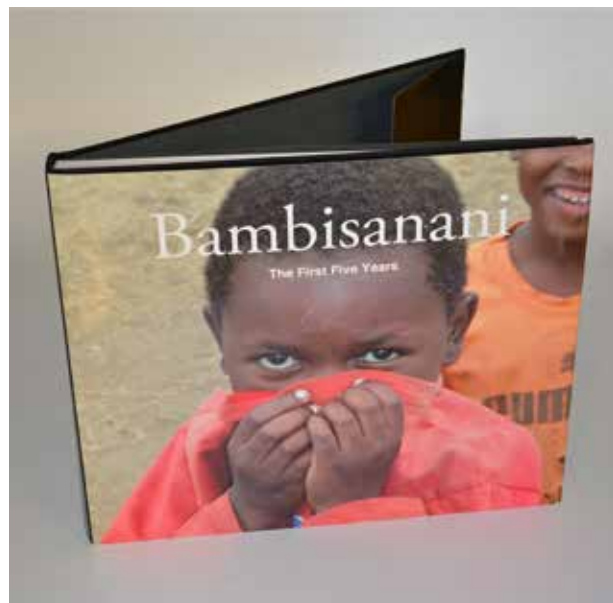
Preparations began for fourteen students: Kavindu Appuhamy, Lizzie Banks, Ryan Clarke, Patrick Connolly, Emily Fieldhouse, Elizabeth Garnett, Michael Jones, Freya O'Connor, Jade Rigby Williams, James Riley, Hannah Smith, Chloe Tindale, Madeline Tysoe and Charlie Walker to visit South Africa in summer 2013. Three teachers: Mr David Geldart, Mr Martin Green and Mrs Amanda Murphy together with Kevin Emsley, Chairman of law firm Lupton Fawcett, began the planning of the visit. Beyond fundraising for all their own costs, the group have undertaken a range of learning tasks about South Africa, HIV/AIDS and Zulu language.

Whilst in South Africa the group will mentor twenty South African students through the Bambisanani Leadership Award. This work will culminate in students from both schools planning, delivering and evaluating a Sports Festival and a Literacy Festival for sixty children from four primary schools. In addition, the students will coach sport and teach other curriculum areas at Mnyakanya School and Ntolwane Primary School. The group will also work as volunteers at Zulufadder Orphanage.



February 2012: Bambisanani Book Published

To celebrate five years of the Bambisanani Partnership a book was published to tell the remarkable story to date: *Bambisanani: The First Five Years*. Written by David Geldart and designed by Duncan Baines, the book has been widely acclaimed by organisations and individuals in South Africa and the UK including the British High Commissioner to South Africa, British Council, Princess Diana Award and UNICEF.



The foreword for the book was written by Baroness Sue Campbell CBE, Chair, Youth Sport Trust, who said: *“St. Mary’s School and Mnyakanya School have established and sustained a partnership that is a credit to the teachers, students and communities of both schools and is an exemplar of just what can be achieved if the belief, passion and desire in the value of PE and sport for young people is strong enough to drive development and overcome the challenges that building a relationship across two continents presents. This book narrates the story of an extraordinary journey – a terrific adventure that began through the vision of David Geldart of St. Mary’s School and Lucas Dube of Mnyakanya School of what the benefits of an international school partnership could be – and has continued as new people and new projects have come on board. Everyone involved must be congratulated in reaching this five year milestone. The book showcases just how schools can bring the Global Dimension alive for all students. At a time when all schools are being encouraged to open the minds of their students to the world around them, this book is full of ideas for schools new to international development to plan the beginning of their journey as part of an ‘international school partnership’. The stories are inspiring and emotional but at the same time make you smile because of the difference being made to the hopes and dreams of so many young people across the world. Thank you for sharing this journey and raising our awareness of just what is possible when two schools are so highly motivated and committed to exploring all avenues to provide simply the best educational experience for their young people.”*

Copies of the book were presented to representatives of the seven Parishes that St. Mary’s serves. David Geldart gave a talk at the event supported by students Freya Kew, Jamie Carter, Torquil Hall, Ciara Hanstock, Brogan O’Connor and Alessandra Valle-Metaxas. David Geldart said: *“The project is about two communities working together and learning together. Our wider community has been fantastic in helping us to achieve what we have done; our Parishes have been particularly supportive; I cannot thank them enough.”*

Headteacher, Mr Robert Pritchard added: *“The Bambisanani Partnership is an outstanding initiative which is making a significant impact on all those involved. The partnership truly reflects our values which encompasses our sense of community, whether it is local or international.”*

The Bambisanani book was subsequently chosen to be included in the prestigious Ilkley Literary Festival held in September 2012.



“St. Mary’s School and Mnyakanya School have established and sustained a partnership that is a credit to the teachers, students and communities of both schools and is an exemplar of just what can be achieved if the belief, passion and desire in the value of PE and sport for young people is strong enough to drive development and overcome the challenges that building a relationship across two continents presents.”

Baroness Sue Campbell CBE,

Chair, Youth Sport Trust

February 2012: Global Advocate Exhibition

The Bambisanani Partnership inclusion in the Leeds Development Education Centre Global Advocate Exhibition proved a tremendous success. The exhibition travelled to a variety of schools throughout Yorkshire, raising awareness of sustainable global development issues by showcasing inspirational stories of ordinary people who are advocating a more just world.



March 2012: Bambisanani Enterprises

Bambisanani Enterprises is a student led business which raises funds to support the work of the partnership. The Chairman of Bambisanani Enterprises this year was Year 11 student Kavindu Appuhamy who said: *"I am very proud to be Chairman of Bambisanani Enterprises. We have achieved so much during the year raising money and raising awareness about our work in South Africa. We have had the opportunity to meet people from the world of business and gain ideas from them. Above all we have worked as a team and we have all learned so much."*



March 2012: Jazz Concert

In 2010 the Bambisanani Partnership inspired the school's first ever classical music concert; this year it inspired the first ever Jazz concert. The *"Let it Flow"* concert was organised by Mrs Mhari Keith and Brendan Duffy and featured performances from the Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra, St. Mary's Senior Choir and Jazz/ Blues band, the St. Mary's Djembe group and the Cardinal Heenan Madrigal group. The event was a tremendous success and raised valuable funds for both St. Mary's and the Leeds Youth Jazz Orchestra visits to South Africa.



Music Event

LET IT FLOW



Friday 23 March 7–9pm
Main Hall, St. Mary's Menston

£10 family
£5 adult
£3 concessions

Wonderful music from:

- ★ Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra
- ★ St. Mary's Djembe Group
- Senior Choir and Jazz/Blues Band
- ★ Cardinal Heenan Madrigal Group
- and Jazz/Blues Band



All proceeds will be split between the Bambisanani Partnership and the LYJRO trip to South Africa




April 2012: More Music

In another musical event, organised by students Joe Doonan and Beth Pounder, bands and individuals entertained family and friends at Otley Courthouse. Talented St. Mary's students Tessa Koenig, Lauren Whiteley and Corinne O'Sullivan sang four songs to great applause. Joe Doonan, supported his very talented older brother Andy in a range of tunes. The Doonan family have a great connection with Bambisanani as brother Chris was part of the visit to South Africa in 2009. Two other local bands 'Insomnia' from Prince Henry's Grammar School and 'Sound Engine' from Guiseley School also contributed to the evening which successfully raised over £200.



May 2012: Olympic values praised

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games praised the Bambisanani Partnership's commitment to the Olympic Values and exemplary contribution to the national 'Get Set' Olympic education programme. The Bambisanani Partnership case study of putting Olympic values into action was shared with schools across the country as was the St. Mary's use of the Olympic and Paralympic Games as a stimulus for learning across the school in all subject areas.



June 2012: Olympic Torch shines for Bambisanani Partnership

The Olympic Torch was at St. Mary's to support the school's Olympic Week and raise money for the Bambisanani Partnership.

St. Mary's students and staff donated £1 each to have their photograph taken with the torch. The money raised will support the work of the Bambisanani Partnership which uses sport to promote education, health and leadership in one of South Africa's poorest communities.

The Olympic Torch was provided by former St. Mary's student Hannah Harris. Hannah carried the torch when it visited Leeds and was delighted to return to St. Mary's with it: *"My love of sport was developed at St. Mary's, as was my interest in coaching and volunteering. It was a great honour to be selected to carry the Olympic Torch and to bring it back to my old school to raise money for the fantastic Bambisanani Partnership in South Africa."*

David Geldart said: *"It is wonderful that the Olympic Torch is being used in such a positive way. The money raised will provide sports equipment and reading books for our partner school."*

St. Mary's students were clearly excited by the Olympic Torch being at the school:

"It is fantastic to have the Olympic Torch here at St. Mary's during our week of special Olympic activities. It is great that the torch is being used to raise money for our work in South Africa."

Tadhg Collins

"It is inspirational. I cannot believe that I have held the Olympic Torch; it is like being part of history. It is really special; I feel part of the Olympics"

Olivia Metcalfe

"This has been a once in a lifetime opportunity. It is a unique way to use sport to help the Bambisanani Partnership."

Rachael Conlon

The Olympic Torch event at St. Mary's was organised by the student led business 'Bambisanani Enterprises' which raises money to support the partnership.

Marienn Collins, member of the Bambisanani Enterprises said:

"The Olympics is such an inspiration and to raise money for a great cause with the torch is a fantastic experience."



July 2012: Visit to South Africa

Fourteen students, three members of staff and a business sponsor visited Mnyakanya School in the Nkandla region of KwaZulu-Natal to develop the collaborative work between the two schools and wider community, which is referred to as the Bambisanani Partnership. The project was originally inspired by the UK's successful bid to host the Olympic Games this year with the specific aim, as articulated in the 'Singapore Promise', to *'reach out to the world and inspire a generation through sport'*.

This visit was led by David Geldart, supported by Martin Green and Barbara Pounder from St. Mary's and Chris Crowther from business sponsor and supporter Cardinal Maritime. The students were: Hannah Armitage, George Barber, Ruth Bevan, Holly Charles, Joe Doonan, Mark Haluszczak, Cait Hanstock, Ryan Houston, Natalie Meachin, Beth Pounder, Maisie Sammon, Declan Smith, Liam Ward and Emma Williams.

An important aspect of this year's visit was to develop a relationship with the well-resourced and highly successful Eshowe High School situated approximately an hour away from Mnyakanya. To that end four students from Eshowe were invited to join the Bambisanani Leadership Programme for the week with St. Mary's and Mnyakanya students. Charlene Beukes, Zekhethelo Ndlangamandla, Sandile Thabede and Kwanda Mthembu consequently joined the team and added a very positive dimension to the project.

During the visit St. Mary's students, supported by Eshowe students, mentored twenty Mnyakanya students on the Bambisanani Leadership Course. An aspect of the course was for students from all three schools to jointly organise and deliver an Olympic themed Sports Festival and a Literacy Festival for four local Primary Schools.

The mentoring programme was a tremendous success as were both festivals. Students from St. Mary's, Eshowe and Mnyakanya taught reading and sports skills to over sixty children from Ntolwane, Halambu, Khomo and Kwamanqondo Primary Schools at a festival on the final day of the visit. The intention is that the young leaders from Mnyakanya will continue to work with Ntolwane and the other Primary Schools to support the teaching of both reading and sports skills. The extensive sports and reading materials provided by the St. Mary's community and sponsors for the festivals were left with the primary schools. It is hoped that the leaders from Mnyakanya will ultimately support adults in the community who would like to learn to read.

The development and progress of the Mnyakanya students during the leadership course was outstanding. Bambisanani Leadership Awards were duly presented to the following students at a special ceremony by their student mentors from St. Mary's and Eshowe: Khethiwe Cele, Sanelisiwe Dlamini, Sizwe Zuma, Minenhle Hlombe, Nokwethemba Magwaza, Ntokozo Mbatha, Nomcebo Mchunu, Celumusa Mhlongo, Ntombikhona Mthethwa, Nomathemba Mtshali, Nonkululeko Nala, Nothando Ndlovu, Ntombiyesihle Ndlovu, Nomfundo Shangase, Sibusiso Shange, Siphesihle Shange, Cebolenkosi Siziba, Sphindile Zondi, Bonukuthula Zuma and Noxolo Zuma. Speaking on behalf of the Mnyakanya students Nothando Ndlovu extolled the virtues of the partnership: *"We have all learned so much from working together. We have learned to be leaders and to work in the wider community. We have made friends and now have greater confidence in the world."*



The impact of the experience on the Eshowe students was also interesting and significant: *“The experience has been amazing for all of us. I have learned so much this week about people from my own country, people from the UK and about myself. I have learned about inequalities and how hard some people’s lives are. It is vital that Eshowe School maintains the link with St. Mary’s and Mnyakanya. The Sports and Reading Festivals were amazing successes on so many levels. I feel privileged to have been part of this. We made friends and succeeded together – we all learned so much”* said Kwando Mthembu.

Whilst at Mnyakanya, St. Mary’s students also taught a range of subjects and activities to students including: Biology, Maths, French, German, Geography, English, Dance, Football, Rugby and the history of the Olympic Games. In one after school session more than two hundred Mnyakanya students (25% of the school population!) stayed behind for a Dance session provided by Natalie Meachin and Holly Charles. This is even more remarkable as many of the Mnyakanya students walk more than two hours to and from school each day.

The St. Mary’s team brought with them much needed equipment for Mnyakanya School including books for the Bambisanani Library (opened in 2010), calculators, stationery and resources for art, science, sport and health education.

On Nelson Mandela Day (a special day of volunteering in South Africa) the St. Mary’s team spent time working at the Zulufadder Orphanage. Zulufadder is a small organization that supports and cares for HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children throughout KwaZulu-Natal. The St. Mary’s team brought a range of equipment for the orphans and spent time singing, dancing, reading and playing sport with the children as well as serving meals. They also met Zulufadder staff and volunteers including the incomparable Popi Buthelezi, a Zulu lady who has devoted her life to working with orphans. She is the Playschool Manager and is enthusiasm and

devotion personified. Popi had a profound effect on the St. Mary’s team causing them all to reflect on and discuss her significance as a genuine role model and inspiration, compared to the so called celebrity role models that many people admire in the UK.



The final day culminated not only in the Festivals but also in a remarkable celebration event at Mnyakanya attended by school members, community members and politicians. William Vilakazi, Principal of the school, proclaimed the commitment of St. Mary's to the partnership: *"The Bambisanani Partnership continues to be an inspiration to our school and community. We all learn from working together and the focus on developing young leaders is changing people's lives. We are working in an equal partnership where there is mutual respect. There is a saying in Zulu culture: 'Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu' – meaning, 'we are what we are because of others', we are genuinely working hand in hand and I believe that both school communities are enhanced as a result. What this partnership teaches cannot be learned from books."*

During a celebration ceremony at the end of the week a range of awards were presented to students for their achievements. At this event the twenty four South African students proudly received the Bambisanani Leadership Award in recognition of successfully completing the course.

A number of very special annual awards were also presented. Two years ago a young man from Otley named Laurie M'Cauley sadly died. Laurie was passionate about sport and literature and his family donated two special awards in these areas to be presented annually at Mnyakanya School to support the partnership. The awards are referred to as Laurie's Legacy and this year the Most Improved Footballer Award was won by Nzama Slindelo and the Creative Writing Award by Precious Nxumalo. At the ceremony Precious said: *"It is a great honour to win this important award, I am so surprised that it is me. The Laurie's Legacy Awards remember Laurie and inspire us. I am so proud and hope that I am a worthy winner. We thank the M'Cauley family for all their support."*

Another annual award was also presented in memory of Sbonelo Magwaza, a Mnyakanya student who also died two years ago. Sbonelo was an outstanding young leader who, in the year before his death, had successfully completed the Bambisanani Leadership Award. In tribute to Sbonelo each school now presents an annual Sbonelo Magwaza Award for Outstanding Leadership. The award at Mnyakanya was presented to Mdungo Lindokuhle.







“The Bambisanani Partnership continues to be an inspiration to our school and community. We all learn from working together and the focus on developing young leaders is changing people’s lives. We are working in an equal partnership where there is mutual respect. There is a saying in Zulu culture: ‘Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu’ – meaning, ‘we are what we are because of others’, we are genuinely working hand in hand and I believe that both school communities are enhanced as a result. What this partnership teaches cannot be learned from books.”

William Vilakazi

Key individuals in South Africa have become tireless supporters of the Bambisanani Partnership. During this visit, as in previous visits, the St. Mary's team had the opportunity to meet some truly inspirational people.

Six years ago when David Geldart first travelled to South Africa he met Logan Govender. Logan and his wife own the travel company 'Consolidated Travel' and due to the absence of a driver Logan drove David from Durban to Eshowe. David recalls: *"The journey of two and a half hours seemed to take twenty minutes; I listened intently to this wonderful man talk about his experience of life, South Africa and apartheid. I was fascinated by his humanity, hope, love of life and commitment to make a difference in the world. A friendship began that day which was soon to include his wife Rajes and the rest of his family. The Govender family have contributed greatly to the Bambisanani Partnership to the extent that we would not be where we are now without their fantastic support. Logan has many passions in life and he is a most natural teacher. With boundless energy, endless knowledge and yet with utter modesty and humility he introduces students to topics as diverse as politics, wildlife, endangered species, sustainability, history, apartheid and astronomy. This year's visit, like previous years, included several elements that are completely organised by Logan including a visit to a Game Park, an astronomy evening, a tour of Durban and the now traditional meal for our entire group at his house. Logan and Rajes are inspirational human beings for so many reasons and we are indebted to them; we are all better people for knowing them."*

With typical modesty Logan explained: *"Something that started almost by accident has turned out to be a firm partnership and an important part of my life. I remember very clearly the physical wrench that I felt when after a day at the game reserve I had to abruptly leave a group of disciplined and perfectly behaved teenagers who had got up at four 'o'clock that morning. I was amazed at their selfless spirit and great effort to come many thousands of miles to work with children less privileged than themselves and could not consider that it might be the last time that I would see*

their earnest faces. I wanted more of them and, surprising even myself, invited all of them to lunch at my home. That began a tradition that has become an eagerly awaited annual highlight of my calendar as each year a different group makes its way to our shores. In the past two years we have introduced an evening of astronomy to their stay. Such is my enthusiasm for their project that I have to restrain myself from taking up more of their time. The Bambisanani Partnership has cast a spell of joy on all who come into contact with it. My family and friends readily join in every year in welcoming the pupils and teachers of St. Mary's into our country, our home and into our hearts, recognising that there is no greater service than that which is performed without anticipation of reward. You enrich our lives through your contact with us and leave us eager to reciprocate. Long may you succeed. God bless all of you."

Another inspirational and fascinating South African to become part of the Bambisanani experience has been Graham Chennells. Graham, the former Mayor of Eshowe, has helped shape the project over the past five years. He and his family have helped build over 30,000 classrooms for Zulu children over the past thirty years as well as providing feeding stations, skill centres and various 'upliftment' programmes. Graham is a fluent Zulu speaker and expert on Zulu culture and traditions.

Whilst in South Africa the St. Mary's team stay at Graham's home and experience his generous hospitality, passion for volunteering and making a difference in the world. Graham has been responsible for developing the link between Eshowe Rotary Club and the Bambisanani Partnership.

"The Bambisanani Partnership is a remarkable project that has made a significant impact on all those that it has touched over the past six years. It opens up wonderful new horizons for the pupils of Mnyakanya School; it challenges their outlook and refocuses the way in which they perceive opportunities in the modern world. I love the education and leadership through sport idea, it is so obvious and it works. It is about building self-belief and confidence so as to ensure that young people are able to make the most of their lives. It also enriches the volunteers and makes a lifelong impression on how they look at life in a privileged world. The partnership is helping to shape the lives of young people from both countries. Projects such as this add much to the development of modern South Africa; in fact they are essential."

Graham Chennells.



The visit to South Africa clearly had a tremendous impact on the St. Mary's students:

"I have had the best experience ever; I will never forget all I saw and how I felt. There is so much to think about now and so much to be done in the future. People like Rajes, Logan, Graham and Popi are real role models."

Maisie Sammon

"I had an amazing time in South Africa, I have learnt so much from what I have seen. The people I met made the trip one to remember."

Natalie Meachin

"I was given an amazing life changing opportunity. I will never forget the children I met and the friends I made. I have never worked so hard in my entire life!"

Holly Charles

"There are no actual words to describe what I saw and how it affected me. I am so glad that I have had the opportunity. I have met the most inspirational people and at the orphanage I was truly moved. I learned so much from inspirational activities and people."

Liam Ward

"This has been so different to my usual trips abroad but it was so absolutely fantastic. I am so grateful for the opportunity and hope sincerely that the legacy of Bambisanani continues and develops."

Declan Smith

"Bambisanani has opened my eyes in a way I never thought possible. The visit to Zulufadder was a cruel reminder of how unfair and unforgiving our world can be; though the kindness and selflessness some human beings have for one another has never been so apparent. The unrelenting compassion that Popi has for the orphans made me realize that even when a society fails a population, leaders can take charge and care for those in need."

Ryan Houston

"I have had the best trip of my life. This was much more than a visit to another country; it was much more than that. I will never forget my time at the Orphanage: it was an experience to learn from and taught me that things are never quite what they seem and that people like Popi, Graham and Logan can constantly surprise you and inspire you."

Joe Doonan

"I can honestly say that this incredible experience is definitely going to change my life. The people I have met and worked with have inspired me to do better."

George Barber

"I came on this visit thinking I knew something about the Bambisanani Partnership and life in South Africa but nothing actually could have prepared me for what I saw and the people I met. It has filled me with a confidence and a desire to do something with my life that will be of use. My eyes were opened. I didn't want to leave."

Beth Pounder

"This visit has been an eye opener, not only from seeing how the orphans are cared for but because the people on this trip have all been great. I cannot really express how much I appreciate the opportunity and it certainly is one I won't forget. I have had to say goodbye to so many people which made it hard but at the same time I can be happy that I made such friendships."

Mark Haluszczak

"Before I came on this visit I was told what I would be doing; but as I have learnt, experiencing it for myself was completely different. The experience has definitely made me think about the world in a different way, and meeting all those inspirational people has made me want to help people more. I have had an amazing time and I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity."

Cait Hanstock

"I cannot really explain how much this journey has broadened my horizons and view of the world. I am not very good at explaining things but I hope that my actions

throughout the time in South Africa have proved how extremely grateful I am, and will continue to be. People like Graham, Logan and Popi have taught me so much."

Emma Williams

"This visit has been absolutely fantastic. The reasons are many. I am now going to appreciate what I have a lot more. I have loved making new friends, but more than anything, I now understand that a demonstration whether in sport (for a clearer explanation) or in life, (such as a hug), is definitely worth more than a thousand words."

Hannah Armitage

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to come to South Africa; it has been one of the hardest yet most rewarding experiences of my life. I will never forget the students at Mnyakanya or Zulufadder, the struggles they face every day, but most importantly I won't forget their smiles. One of the most important things I have learnt from this experience is that success and happiness should not be measured in terms of material possessions but in how we help others and make a positive change."

Ruth Bevan



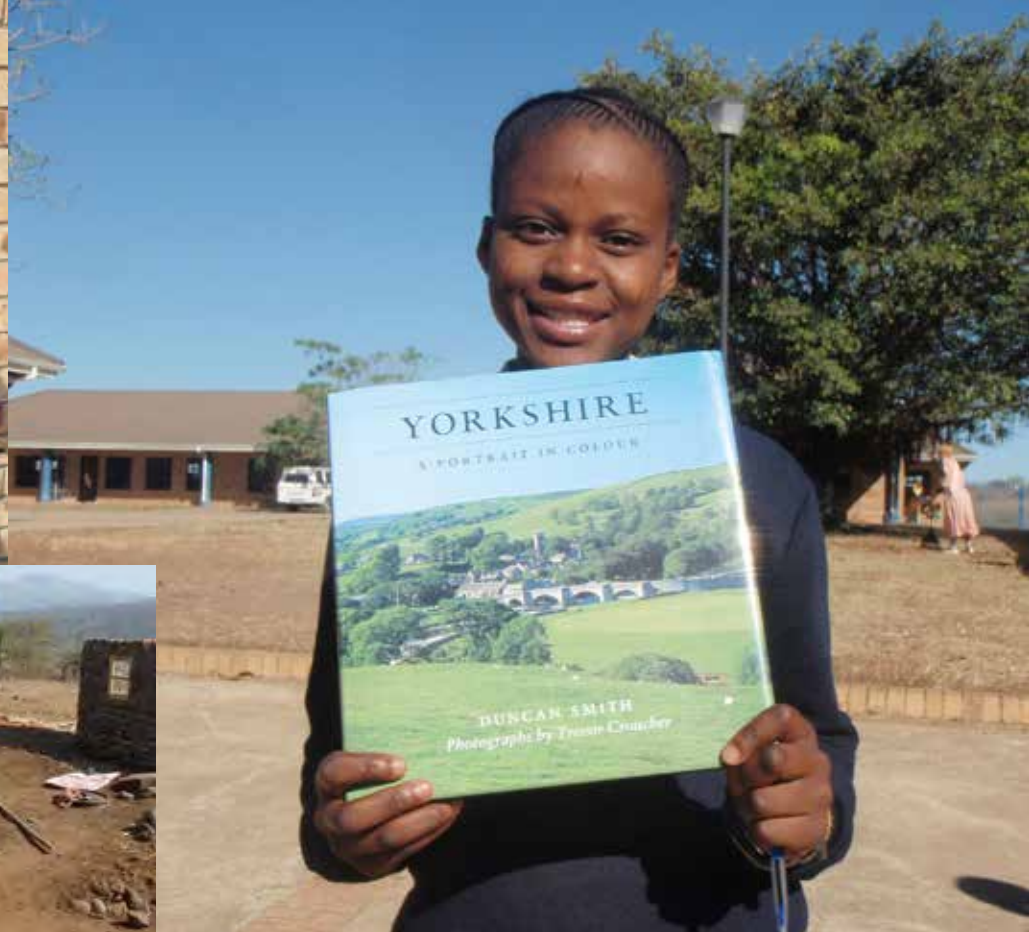
The impact on teachers too cannot be overstated. Barbara Pounder said: *“It has been three years since my last visit and although there are still the many frustrations, the underlying desire for nearly everyone involved is still to make a change for the better. As a teacher it warms my heart to see our students react and be touched by what they see. As a mother it breaks my heart that the orphanage children don’t have their own mums to read to them at night. But as a human being it reinforces for me the knowledge that Bambisanani is a project of hope and without it so much would be lost.”*

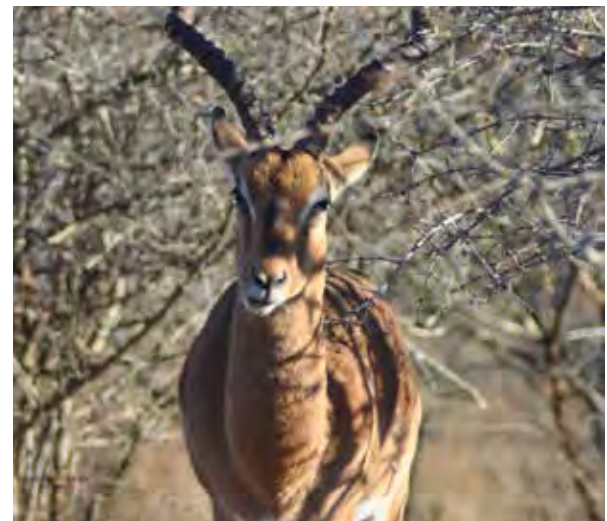
Martin Green, Head of Physical Education at St. Mary’s was making his first visit to South Africa, a visit that clearly had a profound effect on him: *“South Africa has always been a very distant yet influential factor in my life since way back in 1977. My Uncle, Aunt and two young cousins moved, permanently, to Cape Town in that year and I followed closely the developments in the country throughout the turbulent times that followed. Steve Biko and Nelson Mandela were hugely influential figures in the development of my world view. It was with a mixture of excitement and trepidation that I set out with the sixth annual St. Mary’s Bambisanani trip in July 2012; I simply did not know what to expect! The visit to Eshowe and Mnyakanya was an incredible assault on the senses and a challenge to all the accepted cultural norms I have been exposed to in the northern hemisphere. The people I met, from the can-do South Africans, such as Graham Chennells and Logan Govender, to the resilient and talented Zulu people in the towns, homesteads and schools, were so full of joy and humanity, even when faced with the malevolent shadow of HIV/AIDS. They were a constant inspiration to all of us on the trip and they left with me the abiding impression that, with time and continued co-operation, the South African nation can make the leap forward to become the true ‘rainbow nation’ of the African continent. The energy, music, dance, language, wildlife, landscapes and humour are remarkable in this new country. What a privilege to take part in this wonderful educational partnership; the memories will be with me forever. I will return in future to show my daughter this astonishing country.”*

In recent years St. Mary’s have invited colleagues from partner schools and business sponsors to join them in South Africa. Chris Crowther from business sponsor Cardinal Maritime joined the team for the 2012 visit which had a significant impact on him: *“I would like to thank the St. Mary’s staff and students for being so welcoming to me when I joined the team to go to South Africa. It was very much a team, or even a large family, and I was made to feel part of it. I had an amazing experience in South Africa learning about a different culture. I enjoyed every minute of the visit and feel that the partnership between St. Mary’s and Mnyakanya School is providing remarkable opportunities to develop new attitudes and life skills. I can see that for many students, from both countries, the experience really is life changing. Learning about the environment and wildlife with Logan was fantastic. I am so grateful for the opportunity St. Mary’s and my employers, Cardinal Maritime, have given me. I have become a better person through this experience. The work of the Bambisanani Partnership is so valuable.”*

David Geldart was very keen to thank everyone involved: *“We had a fantastic team and I cannot praise them all enough for what they achieved. My colleagues Barbara, Martin and Chris made the most wonderful and complimentary contributions and the students responded in ways that continually fill me with hope and inspiration. When I see the impact of our work on young people and adults in both countries it is clear that despite many difficulties and frustrations we are making a real difference in some people’s lives. This visit has highlighted enormous challenges for the future but has also given us the spirit and motivation to respond to these challenges. Special thanks must go to all our supporters who made this visit possible. There is much more to do but we intend to keep the Olympic spirit alive.”*







September 2012: Bambisanani book features at Ilkley Literary Festival

The Bambisanani book *Bambisanani: The First Five Years* was remarkably well received by key organisations and individuals worldwide. The book was subsequently included in the prestigious Ilkley Literature Festival together with work from established authors such as Michael Palin, Clare Balding and Paddy Ashdown.

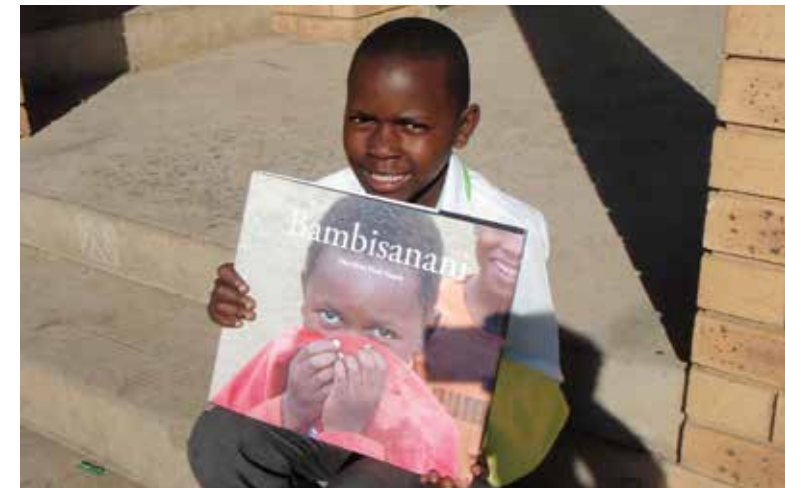
It was a packed Ilkley Playhouse that gathered to listen to a talk by the author, David Geldart, who described the Bambisanani story to date.

Rachel Feldberg, Director of the Ilkley Festival described the book as: *“inspirational and heart-warming; a wonderful book that tells, in words and pictures, a story of vision, determination and hope.”*

Other comments about the book included:
“Inspirational book, inspirational project.”
Thora Jacobs, British Council

“This partnership and this book demonstrate the true power of sport to succeed and make a difference to people’s lives in the most difficult of circumstances.”

Sir Trevor Brooking



September 2012: Law Firm sponsors copies of the Bambisanani book into Libraries

Law firm Lupton Fawcett are long term supporters of the partnership and were thrilled when *Bambisanani: The First Five Years* was published. Keen to spread the word of the partnership the firm sponsored copies of the book at the Ilkley Festival and funded copies into Libraries in Leeds, Bradford and North Yorkshire.

“The firm is a major sponsor of this Partnership and I personally have felt drawn to the disadvantages faced by the students at Mnyakanya both from an educational point of view and their lack of understanding with regard to the gravity of HIV/AIDS. Helping bring awareness to our children, through sport, means that they think more about the difficulties those children in South Africa face every single day rather than facing the dilemma of what clothes to wear and what reality TV programme to watch. There is so much more to be said about this partnership than can be encapsulated in a few words. It is humbling to be able to help, just a little, and I and the firm, will continue our support to its next stage and hopefully through educating other English and South African schools as to the wonders and benefits of collaboration. The Bambisanani book is an inspiration and it is the firm’s pleasure to be able to provide copies of it for Libraries throughout Yorkshire to enable more people to access this wonderful story and project.”

Kevin Emsley, Chairman of Lupton Fawcett

lupton
fawcett
putting you ahead

September 2012: Mnyakanya teachers introduce Bambisanani Development team

Following the 2012 visit to South Africa Mrs Pk Zondi was instrumental in establishing a new Bambisanani Development team at Mnyakanya. Supported by educators Mr ML Mbambo, Mr ZB Mbambo, Mrs JT Ndawonde, Miss GL Msweli and Mr W Vilakazi the group is committed to taking the Bambisanani Partnership to the next level.

“The Bambisanani book: Bambisanani First Five Years written by David Geldart inspired us greatly; it beautifully outlined all that had been achieved and challenged us all to continue to develop the partnership. The book motivated us to form a group which will work to see to it that all Mnyakanya educators, learners and community members understand, and work towards achieving the Bambisanani aims and objectives. This group decided to have a special meeting day on which Bambisanani matters are discussed, principles revised and progress evaluated. This group decided to involve all the stakeholders of the school and community leaders to be part of Bambisanani. The group now meets regularly to consider Bambisanani matters: future developments are discussed and current projects evaluated.

Since then, we now always include a Bambisanani item in every school meeting. Bambisanani is also inspiring many new learners, new educators and ex-learners of Mnyakanya High School. We are looking forward to working successfully with all stakeholders to achieve our goals in 2013. We would like to thank the St. Mary’s team for all their unconditional support.”

Mrs Pk Zondi



September 2012: International Language Day: Zulu taught at St. Mary's

To celebrate International Languages Day on 26 September, St. Mary's hosted its own International Languages Day for students. On this day, Years 7 and 8 experienced three taster sessions of different languages from Europe and around the world including Spanish; Romanian; Swedish; Italian; Gaelic; Chinese; Latin and Zulu. International Coordinator, Miss Alison Mastin said:

"The aim was to allow our students to experience different languages and learn about different places, in the hope that they will recognise the importance of speaking a second language, no matter what language that is. The event was a huge success and got a lot of positive feedback from pupils and staff. We will now organise the event every year."







Language Learning Day 2012

St. Mary's Catholic High School, Menston

Certificate of Completion

26/09/2012



Language Sessions:

- Italian 
- Gaelic 
- Spanish 
- Zulu 
- Norwegian 
- Swedish 
- Latin 
- Chinese 

Signed:


Mr R Pritchard BSc (Hons) LTh
Headteacher


Miss A Mastin
International Co-ordinator



September 2012: St. Mary's gains International School Award

St. Mary's once again received the prestigious *International School Award* from the British Council. St. Mary's prides itself on its international work, and the fact that its students can experience a myriad of global learning opportunities, helping to develop responsible global citizens.

Language Teacher and International Schools Coordinator, Alison Mastin was responsible for compiling the application for International School Award status. The judging panel were made aware of the school's numerous international visits to France, Sicily and Germany, the Bambisanani Partnership, the Comenius project (a joint project with eight other European schools), World Challenge expeditions to Africa and the Connecting Classrooms project, a global programme run by the British Council which creates partnerships between groups of schools in the UK and in other countries.

The panel considered the quality of the school's international work to be outstanding; commenting that St. Mary's: *"integrated the global dimension excellently into international work and made interesting links with other schools through the Bambisanani Partnership and Comenius Project"*. They were also pleased to see that activities were sustained over a period of time, something that St. Mary's is determined to continue.



November 2012: *Connecting Classrooms* initiative gains continued support

A successful application to the British Council resulted in funding for a fourth year (2013) for the Noboa Project including St. Mary's and eight other schools: Beechwood Primary and Corpus Christi Catholic College (Leeds), Mnyakanya High, Ntolwane Primary and Magqama High (South Africa) and Sefwi Wiaswo Senior High, Sefwi Wiaswo Junior School, Naana Biney Primary (Ghana). The project will include two distinct development strands that will involve teachers and students across all nine schools:

Joint Curriculum project: Theme - The Environment: *My World, My Lens* - a photography competition and exhibition

Professional Development of Staff - focusing on the teaching of literacy and the concept of sustainable development.

It is intended that teachers from Leeds will visit South Africa in June and that teachers from South Africa and Ghana will visit Leeds in March 2013.

Special thanks were expressed to Mr Bob Sugden from St. Mary's for coordinating the Development Plan and to Miss Rebecca Jones for coordinating the Leeds Schools, Mr William Vilakazi for coordinating the South African Schools and Mr Paul Appiah for coordinating the Ghanaian Schools.



November 2012: *Power of Sport* Art and Creative Writing Competitions

Throughout the year, students from St. Mary's and Mnyakanya participated in creative writing and art competitions based on the *Power of Sport* and in particular Nelson Mandela's famous quote:

"Sport has the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Sport can create hope where there was once only despair. It breaks down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all kinds of discrimination. Sport speaks to people in a language they can understand."

Remarkably, over six hundred students from both schools entered the competitions. For both creative writing and art, three bespoke trophies were commissioned in both countries. Over the past few weeks these were presented to the twelve recipients for their outstanding work. All students that took part in the competition received a specially designed certificate.





Winners of the *Power of Sport Art Awards*:



Kholka Magwaza



Sara Riley



Samkelo Mkhwanazi



Ciaran Miller



Madeline Smith



Mcebiseni Mngadi

Winners of the *Power of Sport* Creative Writing Awards:



Hlengiwe Zuma



Alessandra Valle-Metaxas



Sinenhlanhla Khanyile



Aidan Corkett-Beirne



Thabile Magwaza



Rebecca Wilson

Examples and extracts from student written work:

A language that everyone understands

In a world of diverse cultures

In a society of different beliefs

In a land with lack of respect

Where people find it hard to accept each other

Where people are not taken seriously

Where people have different lifestyles and languages

Sport brings unity and speaks in a language that everyone understands.

Sport gives vision to the blind

Care for the uncared for

Help to the helpless

And gives love to the unloved

It is a friend to all

And a blessing to everyone

Sport has mysterious power

And a power that never fades away.

Sinenhlanhla Khanyile

Freedom in Sport

Heart beats

to the rhythm of pounding

feet

wind sings in ears

washes away all my

fears

icy air

punctures lungs without a

care

frozen ground

silence in the air and all

around

Freedom in sport

Mairenn Collins

Sport is able to unite everyone, all races, all backgrounds, all genders.

William Giles

Sport helps people realise their potential.

Jack Cox

Sport can combat ignorance and intolerance.

Alessandra Valle-Metaxas

Sport has the power to improve people's health and wellbeing.

Rebecca Wilson

Sport can help children raise their aspirations.

Lorna Gilroy-Turner

Sport has brought communities together, been a light in the dark for so many and given some people a reason to live.

Joseph Vincent

It gathers people together all over the world.

Bongiwe Subiya

Sport can achieve things that nothing else can.

Brogan O'Connor

The power of sport has beautified my life.

Tabile Magwaza

Sport is the communicating language.

Hlengiwe Zuma

Sport brings hope and becomes the pillar of your strength and a friend to share your life with.

Sinehlanhla Khanyile

Sport has the power to transform lives.

Aidan Corkett-Beirne

Bronze, silver and gold
Each other's hands we hold
Standing proud and tall
Sport will unite us all

Yolanda Collier and Belen Valle-Metaxas

Sport has the power to boost self-esteem. Sport has the
power to fulfil your dream.

Kitty Bolton

Today I am something
Yesterday I was nothing
Today I am somebody
Yesterday I was nobody
This is all because of Sport!

Thabile Magwazi

Sometimes working together in sport can create new
bonds and friendships even if the person lives in another
country.

Jack Cox

Sport puts a spark in any soul and a spring in my step.

Elle Pickett

Sport unites and gathers a rainbow nation
Sport makes the world
Enjoy its talent from within.

Londeko Zuma

Silently it draws someone from a distance and brings him
closer.

Andile Nala

My friend if you want to
unite your people then
the power of sport is a good
mechanism to use.

Nomcebo Ndawon

*Sport is many different things. You feel as though you have
wings.*

Hannah Lovatt

*There are many people with challenges in this life but when
you play football you can forget these things.*

Nondumiso Shozi

*Access to and participation in sport and physical education
provide an opportunity to experience social and moral
inclusion for populations otherwise marginalised by social,
cultural or religious barriers caused by gender, disability or
other forms of discrimination.*

Precious Msindisi Nxumalo

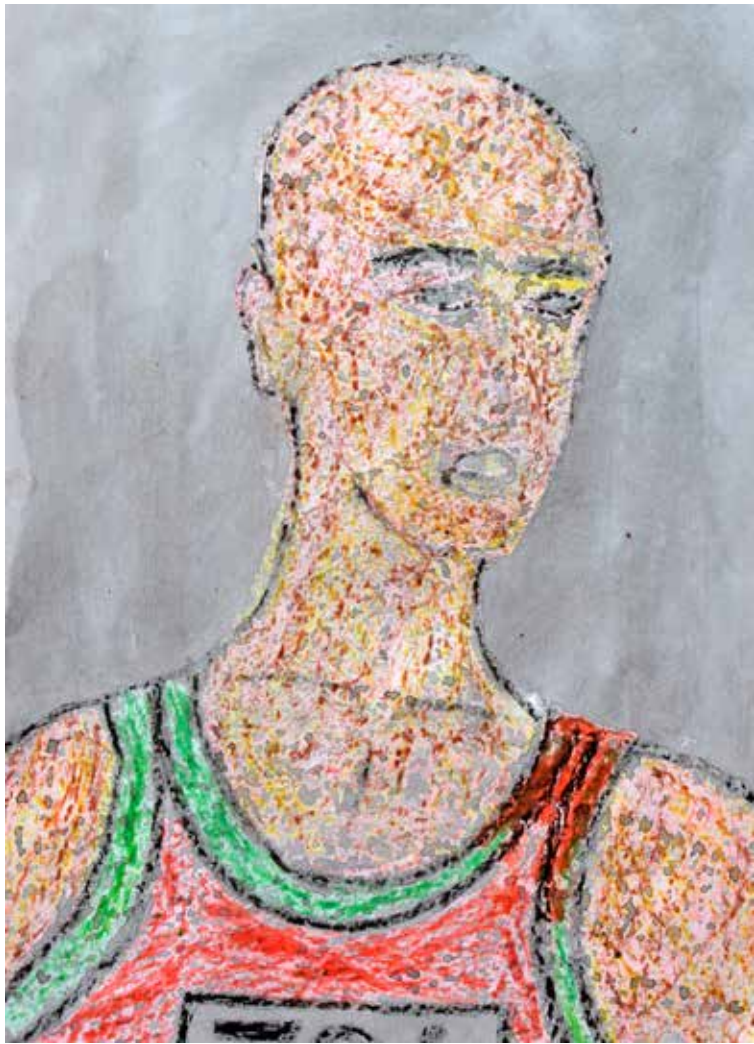


Access to and participation in sport and physical education provide an opportunity to experience social and moral inclusion for populations otherwise marginalised by social, cultural or religious barriers caused by gender, disability or other forms of discrimination.

Precious Msindisi Nxumalo

Examples of student art work:





At Mnyakanya, Art is not taught as a discrete subject so the Bambisanani Partnership was indebted to long term supporter Peter Engblom who spent several days at the school. Peter is an internationally renowned artist and photographer who is based in Eshowe.

Peter was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the Mnyakanya students:

“In only a few days they have started to produce some really interesting work. There are some very talented students here and I hope that they continue with this interest. It has been a delight to work with these learners.”

David Geldart paid tribute to all those who participated: *“There is something very special about the Bambisanani Partnership and indeed sport that inspired more than six hundred students to voluntarily pick up a pen, a pencil or paintbrush and enter the competitions. Students of all ages and abilities were prepared to have a go and I applaud them all for their efforts. The competitions have been a tremendous success at every level. Like many other aspects of Bambisanani work I am sure that it will lead to other things.”*

Such was the success of the *Power of Sport Art* and Creative Writing competitions that a book was published to celebrate the work of the contributors. Writing the foreword for the book, internationally renowned artist and writer, Harland Miller said:

“I was really pleased to be asked to write the foreword to this book: not only is it a fantastic and admirable project, it also gave me the opportunity to look at the incredibly powerful and free work of all these young artists and writers responding to the cause.

All of the work gives a feeling of being personally involved beyond the brief, which is one of the hardest things to achieve convincingly in art or writing. It is really obvious that everyone, in their own way, has wanted to be a significant and singular part of the collective - in an age of growing materialism, as well as an increasing fatigue with charity and the many problems it has to address all over the world,

it’s pretty heart-warming; for this particular project it also permeates areas of greater and wider significance. I am sure that the great Mr Mandela himself would agree that his thoughts on sport translate perfectly to both the participation in, and appreciation of, the world of Art and Creative Writing.

All art and creative writing carries a message, or tries to, but often the artists’ or writers’ preoccupations and self-interest get in the way and the message is compromised. What is great about this work is that, although each piece is highly original, collectively these works embody the whole philosophy of the Bambisanani Partnership – a total renaissance of attitudes and actions!

I am envious of everyone involved at all levels, and, from my personal slant as an artist from Yorkshire, what an amazing eye-opening opportunity: when I think back to when I was at school...Art was a ‘still life’: this is Life itself.”



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Harland Miller

Internationally renowned artist and writer

December 2012: First international partnership to receive the Diana Award

Fourteen students from St. Mary's and ten students from Mnyakanya High School in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa became the first young people in different continents to receive the Diana Award for their collaboration on the Bambisanani Partnership.

The ten students from Mnyakanya High School were also the first South Africans to be presented with the International Diana Award, an award set up in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The Diana Award was established in the UK in 1999 in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, as a legacy to her belief in the power of young people to change the world. The British Prime Minister David Cameron is a Patron of the Diana Award.

The International Diana Award was launched in 2011; it is in keeping with the remarkable charitable work that Princess Diana herself pioneered all around the world. Recipients are young people from across the globe who are committed to helping others and improving their communities. International Award Holders include volunteers, fundraisers, campaigners and those who have overcome adversity.

Over the last year the Young Leaders at Mnyakanya School have developed a HIV/AIDS education programme that they have delivered in their community. They have raised awareness of HIV/AIDS in schools and Health Clinics. They support people suffering from HIV/AIDS and encourage young pregnant teens to continue their education. The Mnyakanya students who

received the International Diana Award include: Lungelo Dlodla, S'Nethemba Gazu, Nombuso Jali, Nonjabulo Mkhize, Nzuza Nokukhanya, Slindile Shandu, Yoliswa Shange, Pamela Skhakhane, Zuma Nompilo and Samkelisiwe Zuma.

Mrs Pk Zondi, who nominated the Young Leaders for the International Diana Award said: *"We are delighted that our Young Leaders are the first South Africans to receive the International Diana Award. The Bambisanani Partnership has inspired both our schools in so many ways. My learners who have developed the HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme are helping to educate the community. They encourage those with HIV/AIDS to be positive and to look after themselves. They show love to others and are wonderful role models; they do not discriminate and are not judgemental, they have developed a real empathy for others. The impact of their work is amazing; they are changing the lives of others."*

Fourteen students from St. Mary's also received the prestigious Diana Award for their work in South Africa: Hannah Armitage, George Barber, Ruth Bevan, Holly Charles, Joseph Doonan, Mark Haluszczak, Cait Hanstock, Ryan Houston, Natalie Meachin, Beth Pounder, Maisie Sammon, Declan Smith, Liam Ward and Emma Williams. The students visited the country in July 2012 and worked at Mnyakanya School, Ntolwane Primary and the Zulufadder Orphanage. Young Leaders from Mnyakanya and St. Mary's jointly organised Sports and Reading Festivals for local primary schools.

"The area of South Africa that we work in has one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in the world, unemployment is extremely high and adult illiteracy is greater than 60%. Education is key in breaking this cycle of ignorance and poverty. I am so proud of the young volunteers from Mnyakanya and St. Mary's. These young people are doing things for others that really matter. Their positive actions and commitment is making a difference in the world. They are wonderful role models who I know have already inspired others. They are all greatly honoured to receive the Diana Award."

David Geldart

Tessy Ojo, Executive Director at the Diana Award, enthusiastically endorsed the partnership: *"The Bambisanani Partnership is a wonderful collaboration that joins young people from different countries together to achieve a common goal; improving the lives of others. We are delighted that the dedication of young people in Yorkshire and South Africa can be celebrated with a Diana Award. With a growing network of 38,000 Award Holders, we are building a force of young people who are committed to take social action and improve our communities all over the world."*



December 2012: South African businessman visits St. Mary's

South African businessman Richard Chennells took time out of his busy schedule to spend two days at St. Mary's because of the school's work in South Africa.

Richard has witnessed, first-hand, the school's work in one of South Africa's poorest rural areas and had promised to visit St. Mary's when he was next in Europe.

Whilst at St. Mary's he spent time with students who had recently returned from volunteering in South Africa, students that would like to visit South Africa in the future and members of the Bambisanani Enterprises, a student led business which raises money to support the work of the partnership.

Richard was clearly inspired by his stay in Yorkshire: *"I have had a wonderful two days at St. Mary's. The teachers, students and support staff are quite inspirational. I have found a real sense of 'team' and a genuine desire to make a difference in South Africa. There is a real energy and purpose at St. Mary's which is clearly driven by sound values. My commitment to support the fantastic Bambisanani Partnership has been strengthened by this visit."*

Whilst at the school, Richard also met with Mr Bill Hudson from the Rotary Club of Aireborough to explore the possibility of developing a joint project between St. Mary's, the Rotary Club of Aireborough and Rotary Clubs in South Africa, raising the required funding to build toilets at Mnyakanya School.

David Geldart reinforced the importance and success of the visit:

"It was a pleasure to welcome Richard to the school; he, his family and his local Rotary Club have supported our work in South Africa for several years and it was great that he could meet more of our students and staff. His talks to students were inspirational, particularly his emphasis on 'the duty' we all have to support those less fortunate than ourselves. Such visits help strengthen the sustainability of our partnership."

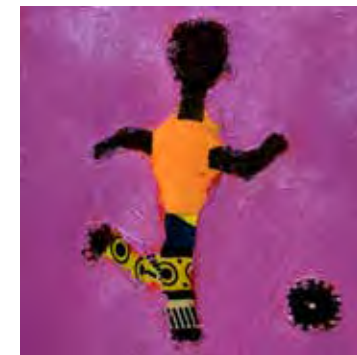


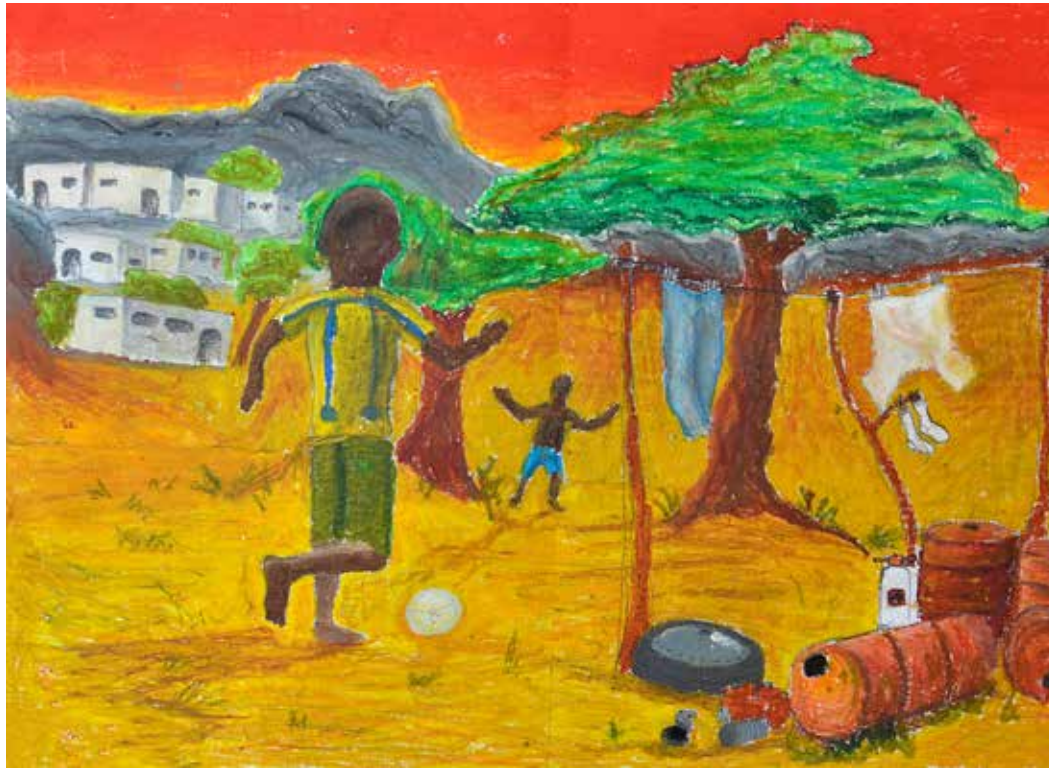
December 2012: Team Bambisanani enter International Art Competition

The following students from St. Mary’s and Mnyakanya had their *Power of Sport* art work selected for the Leeds International Art Festival: Megan Haskins, Sara Riley, Anna Evans, Amy Pickard, George M’Gulray, Penny M’Donald, Natalie O’Shea, Roisin Clancey, Sam Kemp, Ruth Stone, Ellie Nevison, Jack Kennedy, Jessica Grant, Madeline Smith, Ciaran Miller, Mholi Hlabisa, Ntuthuko Mkhwanazi, Philani Mdlalose, Mcebiseni Mngadi, Nomdumiso Shozi, Mcebiseni Mngadi, Busisiwe Mbambo, Sicelo Nduli, Kholeka Magwaza, Samkelo Mkhwanazi, Dlamini Sanelisiwe, Samkelisiwe Mthembu.

The Art Festival was based on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and involved students from around the world. The thirty pieces of art from St. Mary’s and Mnyakanya students were entered as a group: ‘Team Bambisanani’.

Head of Art, Miss Donna Quirke said: *“This is the first International Art Competition that we have entered and we are delighted to be given the opportunity. It has certainly given both Mnyakanya and St. Mary’s the confidence to showcase our art work on the world stage again. I am delighted with our group entry which beautifully encapsulated the spirit of the Millennium Goals through the Power of Sport.”*







December 2012: Preparations begin for 2014 visit

Fourteen fortunate students from St. Mary's learned that they had been successful in their application to visit South Africa in 2014: Bethany Cotton, Caroline Turnbull, Karl Verspyck, Myles Hanlon, Beth Tindall, Megan Haskins, Emily Sutcliffe, Helena Hunt, Jonathan Vincent, Eleanor Thompson, Anna Evans, Megan Ireton-Bourke, James Smith, and Olivia Leonard.

December 2012: Sbonelo Magwaza Award

The Sbonelo Magwaza Award for outstanding leadership was presented to Brogan O'Connor for her remarkable work as a Bambisanani Leader in 2011. Brogan was presented the award by Member of Parliament, Stuart Andrew at the school's annual Sixth Form Presentation Evening. Typically modest Brogan was clearly surprised at the announcement: *"I was just part of a great team in South Africa; it is a real privilege to gain this award. We are all aware that the award is in memory of Sbonelo who died two years ago. It is fantastic that he is remembered in South Africa and in the UK by this special award. I feel really honoured and humbled."*





December 2012: Christmas Messages

Christmas Message from South Africa to the St. Mary's Community

Christmas time is a happy time, often spent with friends and families, sharing joy, laughter, fun and love. It is the time in which we, as the Mnyakanya community feel the joy, the love, the laughter and the fun that we have shared with our friends from the St. Mary's community for the past five years. In these years, we discovered St. Mary's as part of Mnyakanya family and indeed, our best friend.

We find all the years you had spent with us, the most grateful blessing that ever happened in our community. You always bring, joy, fun, laughter and love to share with us.

You have voluntarily worked with us, to let us learn from one another. You have shown us that the elders were true when they said "UMUNTU NGUMUNTU NGABANTU" i.e. "A person is a person, through other people" We have learnt from you that, without sharing with other people, a person cannot grow up enough and cannot enjoy the warmth of life.

To us, the Bambisanani Partnership is the fulfilment of the oneness that Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed for, in his last moments before he died, in John 17:11: *"Now I'm coming to you, but these men are still in the world. Holy Father keep them safe. Keep them safe by the power of your name, so that they will be one, the same as you and I are one."* 21: *"I gave them this glory so that, they can be one, the same as you and I are one."*

You have shown us that you wish to share all good moments and bad moments with us. You have revealed, beyond doubt all the qualities of Ubuntu to us. You have taught us that we are powerful beyond our imagination.

Ubuntu always goes with love, which bring people close and can bring out their inner strength, courage, kindness, mutual respect, and interdependence.

At this time of the year, we miss you so much. This Christmas is distinctively different from others for us as partners, because on our side we have a busy schedule trying to put things together in preparation to visit you in less than two years' time.

May you at St. Mary's have a joyous Christmas, and we hope our partnership is going to flourish forever and incrementally expand the spirit of Ubuntu.

We love you
Merry Christmas
May God bless you



Christmas message to the Mnyakanya Community from St. Mary's

At this most significant time of the year, we are thinking of you; our special friends in South Africa. The Bambisanani Partnership is about two schools working together and learning together; we have done this over several years and will hopefully continue to do so for many years to come. In this Olympic year we have been especially inspired to strive to be the best that we can be and to use the power of sport for the greater good.

Over the past six years we have learned so much from you and we thank you for that. We have learned about the concept of Ubuntu which should guide our partnership. The spirit of Ubuntu is an important reflection for us all, particularly in the Christmas season.

We need not look any further than Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu to remind us of the meaning and importance of Ubuntu.

"A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, based on a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed.

One of the sayings in our country is Ubuntu – the essence of being human. Ubuntu speaks particularly about the fact that you can't exist as a human being in isolation. It speaks about out interconnectedness. You can't be human all by yourself, and when you have this quality – Ubuntu – you are known for your generosity. We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole world. When you do well, it speaks out; it is for the whole of humanity."
Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"A traveller through a country would stop at a village and he didn't have to ask for food or for water. Once he stops, the people give him food, entertain him. That is one aspect of Ubuntu, but it will have various aspects. Ubuntu does not mean that people should not enrich themselves. The question therefore is: are you going to do so in order to enable the community around you to be able to improve."

Nelson Mandela

Ubuntu has also been described as a process for earning respect by first giving it, and to gain empowerment by empowering others. It encourages people to applaud rather than resent those who succeed. It disapproves of anti-social, disgraceful, inhuman and criminal behaviour, and encourages social justice for all.

All of this encourages us to assess how we lead our lives. Do we make positive contributions to the people in our world or do we make negative contributions? Are we serious about making the world a better place?

No-one ever said that Ubuntu is easy; it is frequently difficult and we must not forego our values when others around us try and taint us with their negativity and lack of Ubuntu.

The following prayer by Mother Teresa is a timely reminder to us all to be strong and courageous in our dealings with others.

Mother Teresa's *Anyway* Poem

*People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered;
Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.*

*What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.*

*Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.*

*You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;
It was never between you and them anyway.*

So at this Christmas time, we hope that all of these words will give us all food for thought. We hope also that they will inspire and nourish us in the exciting year of 2013.

May God bless all in the Mnyakanya community; you are in our prayers.



January 2013: Second Bambisanani book celebrates Olympic year

Bambisanani's second published book, was launched: *Bambisanani 2012: Faster, Higher, Stronger*. The book chronicled the very special Olympic year in the life of the partnership. The very essence of the Bambisanani Partnership is based on the concept of Olympism – being the best that you can be and using sport for the greater good – so it was only fitting that a special book was written to celebrate what was an amazing year. The book received widespread acclaim in both the UK and South Africa. The foreword was written by David Cordingley, British Council Director, South Africa who said:

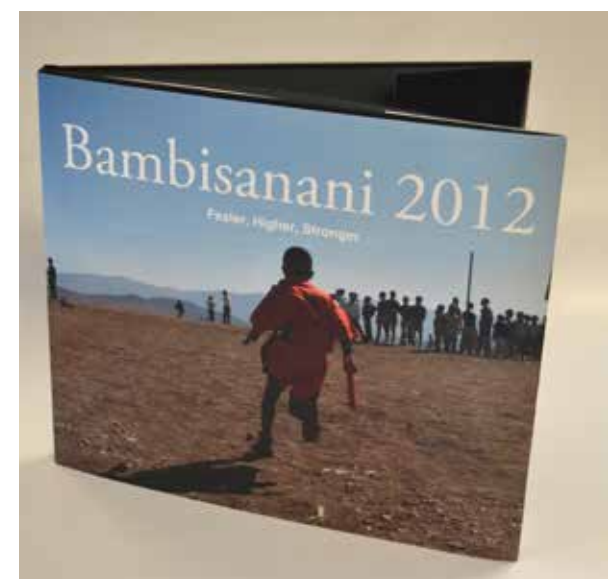
“The year 2012 was a very auspicious one for all of us from the United Kingdom, with the success of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games surpassing the expectations of even the most optimistic of observers. The Games caught the collective imagination of people all around the world, and the British Council was pleased to make its own contribution through the International Inspiration project, which delivered upon a pledge made in Singapore in 2005 - when the 2012 Games were awarded to London - to help bring sport into the lives of millions of young people globally, and through sport to help them develop leadership skills in their schools and communities.

The Bambisanani Partnership, between St. Mary's School in Leeds and Mnyakanya School in KwaZulu-Natal, is an excellent example of how the universal passion for sport can be used to forge enduring links across continents. The partnership has its origins in a British Council project known as Dreams and Teams, whose principles and objectives - developing global citizenship and leadership skills through sport - were subsequently incorporated into International

Inspiration. But school links can only ever be transitory without the full commitment of the leaders of the schools concerned and the active participation of the students - and the Bambisanani Partnership has demonstrated this commitment and participation in spade loads over the last few years.

Together with the British High Commissioner to South Africa, I had the great pleasure of visiting Mnyakanya School when it was hosting a visit by St. Mary's a couple of years ago. Mnyakanya is located in the Nkandla District of KZN province, which is a beautiful, mountainous and relatively remote part of the country. Access is by a well maintained dirt road and the local community faces many challenges in terms of poverty and unemployment amongst young people. St. Mary's has contributed substantially to the school - an excellent library is testament to this - but it would be a great mistake to assume that benefits of the partnership flow just in one direction. This is emphatically not an aid programme: it is a genuine collaboration, and we have a word for it in the British Council - we call it “mutuality”. In my conversations with the students from Leeds it was very clear just how much their world views had been influenced by the experience of spending a couple of weeks so far away from their own homes and of immersing themselves in a different culture. At the same time, it was a graphic reminder of the old adage about people from different cultures having so much more in common with each other than the cultural differences which label them and - sadly - sometimes divide them.

This, for me, was cultural relations in practice. I am therefore delighted to have been asked to write the foreword to this new book - the second in what I expect will be a series! - documenting the ongoing collaboration between St. Mary's and Mnyakanya. Bambisanani 2012: Faster, Higher, Stronger presents a snapshot of a proven partnership which is very much to the credit of all the players concerned. The partnership constitutes a shining example of what can be achieved in terms of building sustainable friendships across continents, and I extend my congratulations to all involved in South Africa and in the United Kingdom.”





April 2013: Bambisanani Concert lets it flow

The *Let it Flow* concert organised by Mhari Keith and Brendan Duffy was a tremendous success with a packed audience being treated to some outstanding music. Supported by Vicky Chapman and Tom Last the concert brought together the St. Mary's Djembe Group, Jazz and Blues Band and Senior Choir plus the Cardinal Heenan School Madrigal Group, Benton Park School Soul Band and the Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra led by the inimitable Brendan Duffy.

Mhari Keith encapsulated the views of all those present: *“This was a really special night. The music was of an incredible standard and the audience responded magnificently not least with some amazing dancing! The support from other schools and music groups was fantastic and a wonderful atmosphere was created which really did let it flow! Everyone involved should be very proud of themselves. This has to become an annual event now.”*

Funds raised from the evening supported the Bambisanani Partnership and Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra in their work in South Africa using the special power of sport and music to bring people together.



June 2013: Bambisanani Partnership represented at two major Leeds events

The Bambisanani Partnership was represented at two significant events in Leeds. David Geldart spoke at a Charity fundraising event organised by Leeds Law Firm, Lupton Fawcett to raise money for the Bambisanani Partnership and St. George's Crypt.

“The Bambisanani Partnership is an outstanding example of promoting leadership skills in young people from Leeds and in South Africa. I am drawn to the project's ideals particularly the fact that it is a two-way learning process.”

Kevin Emsley, Chairman of Lupton Fawcett

David Geldart, Miss Quirke and Sixth Form student Jade Rigby-Williams also represented the school at a prestigious Cooperative Group Showcase event at Leeds City Museum. Art work from the Power of Sport competitions was exhibited and prints sold to a very appreciative audience.

Jean Martin from the Co-operative Movement paid tribute to the important work of the partnership: *“The Bambisanani Partnership is a World Class example of how two schools from different parts of the world can work together for the mutual benefit of both communities. The outstanding art work on display today is yet another example of how different curriculum areas and different students are involved in this exceptional project.”*



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Chairman of Lupton Fawcett

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Jean Martin,

Co-operative Movement

June 2013: UK and Ghanaian teachers visit South Africa to connect classrooms

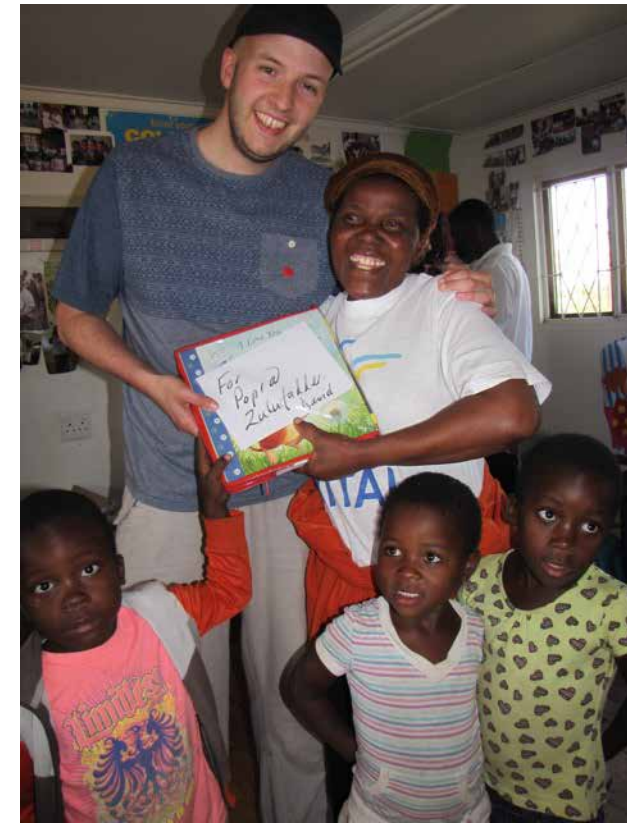
As part of the British Council's *Connecting Classrooms* programme Jack Tunnecliff, RE teacher and Fair Trade Coordinator at St. Mary's, led a delegation of teachers from Leeds (St Mary's, Beechwood Primary and Corpus Christi Catholic College) and Ghana (Wiawso Tech High, Naana Biney Primary and Wiawso Junior High) on a visit to South Africa. The visit proved to be a tremendous success for all concerned strengthening both the *Connecting Classrooms* initiative and the Bambisanani Partnership.

"I had heard so much about South Africa from other colleagues who had visited as a result of the Bambisanani Partnership. Despite all the stories, nothing can prepare you for the reality. I was enveloped in a beautiful land with amazingly beautiful and inspirational people. We went to learn from other teachers about how they teach and how their students learn. We shared our ideas and experiences.

One thing that came through from meeting Ghanaian and South African teachers out there was that they were teaching their children and those children were then teaching their parents and even grandparents. They were the first formally educated generation of their communities. They kept asking us what we could teach them but I believe that an effective global partnership is one where reciprocity and sustainability are the guiding principles. As the visit developed we shifted the question from 'what can you teach me?' to 'what can we all learn from each other?'

Many of the students we met had completed the Bambisanani Leadership programme. They were outstanding young leaders with immense potential and ambition. I remember meeting one student who told me that he wanted to follow in Mandela's footsteps and become a lawyer, in order to protect the rights of local people. It brought back to me Mandela's powerful words about the power of education. My vocation to teach was renewed and strengthened by this remarkable experience. The visit will forever remain in my heart."

Jack Tunnecliff



June 2013: South African teachers visit Leeds to connect more classrooms

Mrs Pk Zondi, Bambisanani Coordinator at Mnyakanya School, together with Musa Xulu from Ntolwane Primary School and Nombuso Nduli from Maqqama School visited Leeds as part of the British Council's *Connecting Classrooms* initiative. Whilst in Leeds the teachers spent time at St. Mary's, Corpus Christi High School and Beechwood Primary School. All six schools have worked collaboratively on a range of learning activities which have connected schools both locally and internationally.

A significant joint learning activity across all the schools was the *My World, My Lens* project which involved students from both countries taking photographs of their environment which reflect their identity. During the visit the photographs from the project were exhibited at a special celebration event held at Beechwood Primary School. The Exhibition was attended by Civic dignitaries, teachers, parents and students.

"This project has been a remarkable success on so many levels. Before we started many of the students had never taken a photograph and some had never seen a camera. Photography provides a snapshot of the environment and students in both countries found the photographs of their partners' localities fascinating. The choice of photographs also revealed an aspect of young people's identity and so we asked students to write a short commentary to describe the connection they have with their local area. It has been a real insight into the meaning of landscape and identity to youngsters in our linked countries. We have all learned so much from this project and indeed from this partnership."

Mr Bob Sugden, Humanities Faculty Leader at St. Mary's

"Our visit to Leeds had an inexplicable impact to all of us as South African teachers. It opened our minds to a range of new teaching and learning possibilities. It opened a new page for us in terms of the role of educators in schools. We learnt that in the UK a school is like a home to learners, where learners are developed for many life skills. Learners are taught to work independently. We learnt that learners are not only taught to read and write, but many other skills of life, like cooking, artwork, sewing, baking, planting and caring for gardens. We also learnt that all types of talents such as sports, music, dancing and art are developed in schools. It was beautiful to see the combined work of learners from our different countries in the 'My World, My Lens' Exhibition. Our experience was amazing!"

Mrs Pk Zondi, Bambisanani Coordinator, Mnyakanya High School



July 2013: South Africa visit is a great success

This summer, fourteen Sixth Form students, three members of staff and a business sponsor, visited the Nkandla region of KwaZulu-Natal to develop the work of the Bambisanani Partnership. This visit was led by David Geldart, supported by Martin Green and Amanda Murphy from St. Mary's and Kevin Emsley, Chairman of law firm Lupton Fawcett.

The students were:

Elizabeth Banks, Ryan Clarke, Kavindu Appuhamy, Patrick Connolly, Emily Fieldhouse, Elizabeth Garnett, Michael Jones, Freya O'Connor, Jade Rigby-Williams, James Riley, Hannah Smith, Chloe Tindale, Madeline Tysoe, Charles Walker.

An important aspect of this year's visit was to develop a relationship with the well-resourced and highly successful Eshowe High School, situated approximately an hour away from Mnyakanya. To that end, four students from Eshowe were invited to join the Bambisanani Leadership Programme for the week with St. Mary's and Mnyakanya students. Nobantu Zondi, Sphesihle Zungu, Mangaliso Tembe and Prince Heahector consequently joined the team and added significantly to the project.

During the visit, St. Mary's students, supported by Eshowe students, mentored twenty Mnyakanya students through the Bambisanani Leadership Course. An aspect of the course was for students from all three schools to jointly organise and deliver a cricket and rugby themed Sports Festival and a Reading Festival for ninety two children from Ntolwane Primary School. These events, planned and delivered by students, were a remarkable success at every possible level.

The intention being that the young leaders from Mnyakanya will continue to work with Ntolwane and the

other Primary Schools, thus building leadership capacity in the community. Earlier this year, previously trained Mnyakanya leaders became the first in South Africa to gain the prestigious Diana Award for their outstanding work in the community, delivering a HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme that they devised themselves.

Mnyakanya students valued the programme highly:

"It is important for South Africans to have connection with people from other countries – this is why the Bambisanani Partnership is so important. I have learned that we are all the same even though we have different skin colours. It is important to develop young leaders because older people in the community need help. The partnership has taught me to lead and I am very proud of myself – it shows that I am improving as a person. I am more confident now and respectful; I want to carry on leading."

Nokuthobeka Ngcobo

"The partnership is bringing two different countries together to share their strengths in order to learn. I have learned not to judge people but to encourage, share ideas and work together. This partnership is an example to other countries and it must continue. Bambisanani is needed all over the world."

Msizi Nzuza

"I have learned to help other people and I have learned that respect is everything. Through sport we have worked hand in hand – we have different colour skin but it does not matter. I am a leader now and I want to help my community. I will say 'Hello' to people that are different to me now."

Sifiso Shabalala



The impact of the experience on the Eshowe students was also interesting and significant.

“The Bambisanani Partnership is giving young people from the UK and South Africa the opportunity to become great leaders and understand the needs of others. It encourages young people to believe that they can be something. Bambisanani brings unity to the community. I have learned that you cannot work alone to be a good leader – you need a team. Bambisanani is a great team building partnership that is helping young people, schools and communities. May God bless this partnership.”

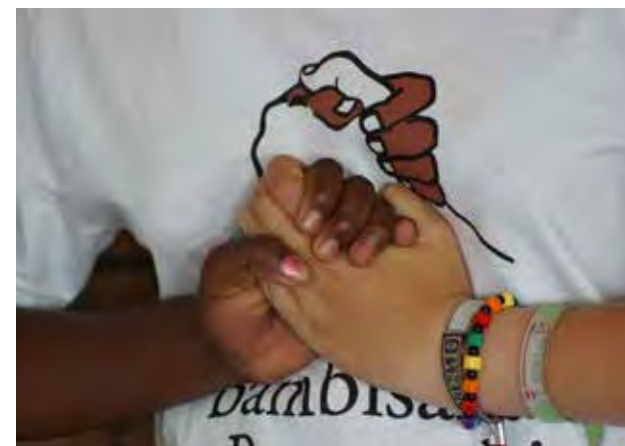
Mangaliso Tembe

“The Bambisanani Partnership is uniting teenagers of different colour across the world to learn about other cultures. It is developing young people to be confident young leaders and role models. I have learned that one day I can lead any institution or even the country. My new British friends have taught me that I can be whatever I set out to be. This has been a once in a lifetime experience for me and I would not trade it for anything else. TEAM is about people working respectfully together – Bambisanani is the way forward.”

Nobuntu Zondi

Whilst at Mnyakanya, St. Mary’s students also taught a range of subjects and activities to students including: Maths, Science, History, Chess, Dance, Football, Rounders and Netball. The St. Mary’s team brought with them much needed equipment for Mnyakanya School including books for the Bambisanani Library, and resources for art, science and sport.

The final day culminated not only in the Festivals but also in a remarkable celebration event at Mnyakanya. At this event the following twenty Mnyakanya students proudly received the Bambisanani Leadership Award in recognition of successfully completing the course: Bhengu Ntuthuko, Mncedisi Cwele, Sanelisiwe Dlamini, Thandokuhle Dladla, Noxolo Dube, Celiwe Hadebe, Nokwethemba Magwaza, Siyabonga Mbambo, Menzi Mbambo, Nomcebo Mchunu, Ayanda Mkhize, Cebisile Mkhize, Nonkululeko Nala, Nokuthobeka Ngcobo, Banele Ntombela, Msizi Nzuzi, Sifiso Shabalala, Mluleki Sibiyi, Xolani Vilakazi, Sithembile Zuma.



“The partnership is bringing two different countries together to share their strengths in order to learn. I have learned not to judge people but to encourage, share ideas and work together. This partnership is an example to other countries and it must continue. Bambisanani is needed all over the world.”

Msizi Nzuza



A number of very special annual awards were also presented in memory of two young men that have died in recent years. Three years ago, Laurie M^cCauley from Otley sadly died. Laurie was passionate about sport and literature and his family donated two special awards in these areas to be presented annually at Mnyakanya School to support the partnership. The awards are referred to as Laurie's Legacy and this year the Most Improved Footballer Award was won by Mbuyiseni Ndlovu and the Creative Writing Award by Hlengiwe Zuma. At the ceremony Mbuyiseni said: *"It is a great honour to win this special award. Laurie's awards inspire learners at Mnyakanya. I am further inspired because I have won it."*

Another annual award was also presented in memory of Sbonelo Magwaza, a Mnyakanya student who also died three years ago. Sbonelo was an outstanding young leader who, a year before his death, had successfully completed the Bambisanani Leadership Award. In tribute to Sbonelo, each school now present an annual Sbonelo Magwaza Award for Outstanding Leadership. The award this year was won by Zinhle Zondi and presented by Sbonelo's uncle, Bernard Magwaza, who is the Security Guard and Football Coach at the school.

The St. Mary's team also spent time working at the Zulufadder Orphanage Day Care Centre. Zulufadder is an organization that supports and cares for HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children throughout KwaZulu-Natal. The St. Mary's team brought a range of equipment for the orphans and spent time singing, dancing, reading and playing sport with the children as well as serving meals. They also met Zulufadder staff and volunteers including its leader, the amazing Popi Buthelezi, who is inspiration personified. The team were joined at Zulufadder by fellow St. Mary's students Joe Doonan and Daniel LeRoux. Joe had visited South Africa in 2012 as part of the St. Mary's group and was so inspired that he vowed to return as a volunteer at Zulufadder and in rural schools for three months before going to University. Daniel has family in South Africa and was keen to

support the partnership by volunteering at Zulufadder, again before starting University.

Whilst in South Africa the St. Mary's group stayed in the town of Eshowe and there they learned more about Zulu life and South African history by visiting a Zulu cultural village, Eshowe Fort Museum and Arts Centre and the Eshowe Township. A great supporter of the Bambisanani Partnership is Durban businessman, Logan Govender. Logan accompanied the group to Hluhluwe Game Reserve to observe wildlife in its natural habitat. The group learned about the horrific practice of rhino poaching which will see the species wiped out within the next twenty years if not stopped. The visit also created the opportunity for the students to learn about man's influence on the natural environment, in particular climate change. Logan also accompanied the group in Durban to experience urban life in South Africa. The aim was to focus on the extreme differences in wealth and living conditions in the city – 'the haves and the have nots'. Whilst the group had gained a good understanding of rural deprivation in Zululand, this was their first experience of urban deprivation, albeit frequently close to urban wealth. The contrast certainly challenged students raising many issues for discussion.







The visit to South Africa clearly had a tremendous impact on the St. Mary's students:

"The willingness and passion of the children to learn was amazing as was their happiness. The happiness is incredible as so many of the children have really tough lives. The happiness and joy grew throughout the course and just goes to show that love and good can be developed in the most difficult of circumstances. It was a privilege to be part of this amazing project."

Michael Jones

"What I have learned is that the words 'I want to be your friend' are powerful enough to change the world. All it takes is two people meeting as equals and finding common ground. This is what the Bambisanani Partnership does."

Elizabeth Garnett

"The Bambisanani Partnership encapsulates the passion for learning that Zulu students have. Developing and inspiring young leaders is essential for the development of all societies. I am eager to return to South Africa and extend the Bambisanani legacy."

Ryan Clarke

"I cannot convey my sense of pride in watching the Mnyakanya students grow in confidence during the leadership course. Initially shy, introverted students were transformed into amazing inspirational leaders. There are lots of great things about this partnership but helping a community gain twenty confident leaders and knowing the impact this could have has shown me that small changes can make a big difference in the world."

Freya O'Connor

"All my expectations were exceeded; I have experienced so many things that will stay with me forever. I never stopped learning and smiling; it has made me think so much. I am so grateful for the wonderful opportunity I was given."

Chloe Tindale

"I never thought I would meet so many optimistic, loving and inspirational people. I have had an amazing time with twenty four young African leaders who have all developed since the start of the course: I feel so proud to know that I have been part of their development."

Hannah Smith

"I didn't realise how much pride I would feel when witnessing the students I mentored achieve more than they ever thought they could. I have gained more from their success than from my own."

Elizabeth Banks

"I have encountered a wave of experiences which have genuinely refined my global perspective. Some of the people I have worked with have inspired me to open my mind and be courageous to achieve something extraordinary. I have had an education in life which is priceless; it will be pivotal for the rest of my life."

Kavi Appuhamy

"The Bambisanani Partnership has had a dramatic impact on my outlook on life. We have witnessed people who suffer great poverty and sadness, but through all that we have seen hope and promise from those who will be the future of South Africa. It has been an honour to have a part in developing that future."

James Riley

"Working in South Africa has highlighted the need not to waste any opportunity that might come my way. Working with young leaders has inspired me; seeing their confidence grow made my pride skyrocket. I have learned so much helping others to learn."

Madeline Tysoe

"The people I have met are so optimistic and seize every opportunity thrown at them. It has made me want to be a better person and taught me to make the most of my life."

Jade Rigby-Williams

"During the week I learned so much about myself. I also learned how positive and full of life people can be even in bad situations. Zulufadder Orphanage was amazing with the inspirational leadership of Popi; it was such a happy and loving place. I also loved seeing my mentee, Nokxy, blossom into a brave, understanding leader, after being so timid to begin with. The Eshowe students were so welcoming with such positive attitudes; I want to be more like that on a daily basis."

Emily Fieldhouse

"South Africa is a country of contrast and complexities; nothing is black or white. I have learned so much on this visit about inequality, opportunity, trying to make a difference and the importance of developing young leaders. The Bambisanani Partnership is tackling some big issues with considerable success. I have been challenged and have learned so much."

Patrick Connolly

"This has been the best experience of my life. I have never learned so much in such a short time. It has made me think about things that are important and things that are not important – sometimes we get our priorities wrong. I would like to return to South Africa."

Charles Walker





“What I have learned is that the words ‘I want to be your friend’ are powerful enough to change the world. All it takes is two people meeting as equals and finding common ground. This is what the Bambisanani Partnership does.”

Elizabeth Garnett

For teachers and other adults the visit was a source of learning and inspiration:

“The St. Mary’s team communicated very well with my learners. For the learners they created a new picture about white people because before they were thinking that white people do not like black people. Our visitors showed humanity, they taught reading and the sports of cricket and rugby. They also taught the educators. Our friends have love; they always have a smile on their face. I wish they could be with us every day.”

Hlomisani Sikhakhne, Ntolwane Primary School

“Our two communities are sharing together and learning together. The partnership is helping us to face challenges – to face them and to solve them. The St. Mary’s team learn about Zulu culture and demonstrate the spirit of Ubuntu. We are having twenty young leaders each year trained by the partnership – they use these skills in the community and are doing an amazing job. Our dreams come true with Bambisanani – it opens our mind to look far. Long live Bambisanani!”

Melusi Sikakane, Mnyakanya High School

“Students are brought together from different parts of the world and vastly different backgrounds. Facilitating learning experiences like this where young people succeed at creating something in the real world is what I most want to do as a teacher. What I took away is how people flourish and achieve when put in the right environment. As Einstein said: ‘Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.’ It was wonderful to see how the students developed and expanded during the programme. If only there were more projects like Bambisanani that encourage young people to develop their real talents.”

Mary Faragher, Eshowe High School

“The Bambisanani visit is an amazing adventure that is both heart-warming and thought provoking. We have all seen and experienced things that are indescribable to those who have not experienced them; all of which can change a person in a way that cannot be measured. Students from St. Mary’s, Eshowe and Mnyakanya have been challenged, inspired and developed a range of leadership qualities. Most of all they have thoroughly enjoyed themselves forming friendships that will further develop the partnership. The partnership is going from strength to strength and long may that last.”

Amanda Murphy, St. Mary’s



“The positivity and genuine enthusiasm I witnessed amongst the students was truly inspiring. I have no doubt that all of these young people have the potential to achieve great things in their lives. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to share in their emergence as outstanding leaders.”

Martin Green, St. Mary’s

In recent years St. Mary’s have invited colleagues from partner schools and business sponsors to join them in South Africa. Kevin Emsley joined the team for the 2013 visit and learned first-hand about the partnership that he has supported for several years.

“As a result of the visit, I was welcomed into the unfamiliar worlds of Education and South African culture. I had understood that the Bambisanani Partnership sought to achieve the development of future leaders in both continents. I have been privileged to have witnessed and participated in an event that I believe has achieved these objectives. A combination of energy, enthusiasm, spirit and willingness to learn under the assured guidance of an excellent and experienced teaching team created the practical experience of delivering major community events in a foreign country. It was done with humour, diligence, empathy and adaptability. It will change the lives of all those who participated and hopefully contribute to the skills and, more importantly, confidence of all involved to become excellent leaders of the future. For me it has been a huge pleasure, a great learning experience and I am humbly grateful to the teachers and students for allowing me to play a small part.”

Kevin Emsley



David Geldart praised the team for all they had achieved: *“Amanda, Martin and Kevin were exceptional and created the most wonderful opportunities for the students. Great credit is also due to my friends and colleagues at Mnyakanya School especially Pk Zondi and Mazet Zanele Langa who, as ever, did a remarkable job coordinating the visit. 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 we are making a real difference in some people’s lives. All those involved are changed in some small way and it is these small changes that ultimately make a difference. Those involved are challenged, tested and removed from their comfort zone; as a consequence they learn and grow, achieving things that they did not think possible. We have young people, teachers and schools working together for the common good: the very essence of Bambisanani and Ubuntu. Each group that goes to South Africa stands on the shoulders of those that have gone before; the expectation is to build on that platform and achieve more – the students from both countries did not disappoint and have taken the partnership to a new level this year. They have all achieved and the experience has given them a wider view of the world. I am looking forward to seeing what they do next.”*



November 2013: Prince William praises Bambisanani Partnership

St. Mary's students Kavi Appuhamy and Chloe Tindale were invited to meet HRH Prince William at a Diana Award 'Inspire Day' in South Shields.

The Sixth Form students were invited to the event because they had gained the Diana Award through the Bambisanani Partnership, the school's pioneering work in South Africa using sport to promote education, health, leadership and global citizenship. Kavi and Chloe were part of the St. Mary's team of students to visit South Africa this summer where they were responsible for some exceptional work mentoring Zulu students in leadership, teaching in schools and volunteering in an orphanage.

The Diana Award Inspire Day brought together inspirational young people from around the country to share their experiences with others and to meet Prince William.

"Prince William even joined in some of the team building activities. It was really strange to be standing next to Prince William, however it showed that he was not afraid to get stuck in and that he had an obvious community spirit. Overall, I loved the whole day in South Shields. I learnt so much in such a short time, have made contact with some amazing people and really have the drive and desire to work hard in continuing project work in the future. I am very grateful to the Diana Award for including me in such a great day and I hope that their work will continue to be recognised by the Royal family as a great charity. It was a real honour to represent the Bambisanani Partnership at this special event."

Chloe Tindale

"Tessy Ojo, Chief Executive of the Diana Award, introduced Prince William to our group and he began to speak to some of us about the individual projects that were being run. I wasn't expecting to speak to him because I thought he would have moved on but the Prince reached out to shake my hand and we began talking! At first I was slightly star struck to see the man that is always on the TV, in front of my eyes speaking to me, the future King of England. I described the work of the Bambisanani Partnership, especially the development of leadership skills through sport and forming young leaders in Mnyakanya High School, which the Prince seemed genuinely interested in as he asked me further about how St. Mary's came to establish such a link with a South Africa school. I spoke about how our teacher Mr Geldart was the founder of the project and that we aim to increase the extent of the work of the project and awareness about the issues we are tackling. Prince William praised the work of the project and was impressed by what the two schools have achieved as a partnership. Speaking to Prince William and attending the Diana Award event, I can truly say that I have been inspired and empowered to strive to do more for the development of the Bambisanani Partnership which has received huge admiration. All in all, I had a wonderful day with memories that will last a lifetime."

Kavi Appuhamy

Tessy Ojo, Chief Executive of the Diana Award, reinforced the significance of the day:

"We know that these young people carry this award set up in memory of Princess Diana with pride and they were absolutely thrilled to meet The Duke of Cambridge. At the Diana Award, we believe in encouraging young people and having The Duke at the event, was the ultimate encouragement. Kavi and Chloe are wonderful ambassadors for the inspirational Bambisanani Partnership"





December 2013: RIP Nelson Mandela 1918 – 2013

Special prayers were said at St. Mary's and Mnyakanya for Nelson Mandela who passed away on 5 December.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

As well as being an inspiration to and for the Bambisanani Partnership, Nelson Mandela had a particular link with Mnyakanya High School as he personally arranged the financing of the school and attended the opening in 2004.

Nelson Mandela quotes were read at both schools in special services to reflect on his wisdom and celebrate an extraordinary life well lived.

Nelson Mandela quotes:

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Nelson Mandela at his trial in 1964.

"I am not a Saint, I am a sinner who just keeps trying."

"Young people you can be the great generation. Let your greatness blossom."

"No-one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must

learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it."

"Sport has the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Sport can create hope where there was once only despair. It breaks down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all kinds of discrimination. Sport speaks to people in a language they can understand."

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves: who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

"Our human compassion binds us the one to the other - not in pity or patronisingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future."

"Courageous people do not fear forgiving, for the sake of peace."

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

"Where globalisation means, as it so often does, that the rich and powerful now have new means to further enrich and

empower themselves at the cost of the poorer and weaker, we have a responsibility to protest in the name of the universal freedom."

"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

"After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

"Let freedom reign. The sun never set on so glorious a human achievement."

"There are times when a leader must move out ahead of the flock, go off in a new direction, confident that he is leading his people the right way."

"Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another."

"There are so many men and women who hold no distinctive positions but whose contribution towards the development of society has been enormous."

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."



Nelson Mandela RIP

January 2014: Bambisanani inspired student becomes HIV/ AIDS Doctor

St. Mary's student Joanna Bulman was inspired by the Bambisanani Partnership whilst at school and decided to pursue a career as a Doctor. During her medical training she had the opportunity to spend five weeks in Eshowe, the Bambisanani base in South Africa. Joanna jumped at the chance:

"I made my way to South Africa to experience some very different 'hands on' medical work at Eshowe Hospital and rural Clinics. To say that my time in Zululand affected me profoundly would be an understatement. What I saw, experienced and learned about HIV/AIDS spurred me into action and shaped what would become my particular area of interest and specialism. I am now a Sexual Health Registrar in Leeds where my daily clinics are filled with young men and women for whom ignorance and circumstances beyond their control have brought them to my colleagues and myself. My time in South Africa has helped me in so many ways not least when working with members of the African community where I encounter many of the same issues that I found in Eshowe. We try our best. I found the landscape in Zululand breath taking; the people more so. The desire of the Zulu children to learn and be educated is unbelievable. This is so positive and optimistic. Whilst the ravaging impact of HIV/AIDS left me saddened and frustrated I also became highly motivated to work on behalf of people who had contracted the virus. As with many other students, and indeed members of my own family, I have been significantly influenced by the work of the Bambisanani Partnership. I will never forget my time in South Africa and the dramatic influence that it has had on my professional career. I will continue to try my best."



February 2014: Pope John Paul II honour

St. Mary's and the Bambisanani Partnership were accepted into John Paul II Foundation for Sport. The Foundation was launched by Pope Benedict XVI on his visit to the UK in 2010 in memory of Pope John Paul's own vision of sports' unique potential to develop individuals and communities.

St. Mary's and the Bambisanani Partnership both received special certificates to mark the occasion from Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann, Chief Executive of the Foundation, wholeheartly endorsed the work of the school and the partnership: *"St. Mary's and the Bambisanani Partnership epitomises the values of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport. This is a school that uses PE and Sport in the most positive way with its own students and in the wider community. The exceptional work in South Africa of the Bambisanani Partnership is quite simply changing lives through sport. The vision, commitment and outcomes are inspirational. My visit to St. Mary's was a joy filled encounter and I was aware of the spirit that joins us together. The involvement of St. Mary's and the Bambisanani Partnership with the Foundation is the birth of a mutually enriching synergy which will spread the good news of sport and enhance the lives of many young people."*

Speaking at the special ceremony David Geldart said: *"This is a most significant accolade for all associated with the school and the Bambisanani Partnership. The Foundation honours the memory of John Paul II who was a great advocate for all the positive attributes that sport can bring. We are totally committed to those values in our work at St. Mary's, in the wider community and in our international work in South Africa; the Bambisanani Partnership. There is a unique potential in sport to enhance physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development in individuals. It can also be a force for good in society, to bring people together and transform communities. These are the aims of the Foundation*

and we are committed to them both within and beyond the school. Being accepted into the Foundation is a great honour for us and we look forward to playing our part in the future; using sport for the greater good and sharing this experience with others."

Quotes about the power of sport from John Paul II:

"Sport is a factor of emancipation for poor countries and helps to eradicate intolerance and build a more brotherly and united world."

"Give thanks to God for the gift of sport, in which the human person exercises their body, intellect and will, recognising these abilities as gifts of their creator."

"Sport protects the weak and excludes no oneit frees young people from the snares of apathy and indifference and arouses a healthy sense of competition in them."

"Sport trains the body and spirit for perseverance, effort, courage, balance, sacrifice, honesty, friendship and collaboration."

"Sport is a means of developing a more positive sense of belonging and identity."



**JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION
FOR SPORT**



“The exceptional work in South Africa of the Bambisanani Partnership is quite simply changing lives through sport. The vision, commitment and outcomes are inspirational.”

Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann,

Chief Executive of the

John Paul II Foundaton for Sport

April 2014: Mandela Week in Leeds and International artist visit

In celebration of the life and work of Nelson Mandela, Leeds City Council commissioned *Celebrate Mandela*, a week-long series of arts and cultural events in April.

Held across Leeds from 24-30 April, *Celebrate Mandela* marked a city wide celebration of the values and inspiration at the heart of Nelson Mandela's phenomenal achievements. The aim of the week was to help to ensure that his impact lives on in the hearts, minds and actions of a city shaped by culture, diversity and heritage. Most importantly they will also contribute to sharing that story with young people so that his legacy and values live on in Leeds for generations to come.

Leeds has so much to celebrate about its very special relationship with Nelson Mandela and the people of South Africa. From the unforgettable day in 2001 when thousands gathered in Millennium Square to hear his thanks for our city's role in the international anti-apartheid movement, to twinning with Durban. From the impact Mandela had on individuals, to civic gestures like the Freedom of the City, this is a commitment to celebrate his life, legacy and vision.

The highlight of Mandela Week at St. Mary's was the visit of celebrated international artist, Nils Burwitz to work with students.

Nils Burwitz spent the morning in the Art Department working with students of different ages. He described his time in South Africa under the Apartheid regime and how he had used his art as a protest to show the absurdity and evil of the system that segregated and discriminated against people of different coloured skin. Nils referred to his work as *'Resistance Art'* and gave a fascinating and

inspirational account of his time in South Africa. He spoke about his famous art work for Nelson Mandela and his time spent with him.

Nils then worked alongside the students who produced their own work on the theme of *'Words Are My Weapon'*. Pupils shared their own drawings and discussed their ideas with him.

Nils praised the work of students and the school's commitment to an equitable partnership with a South African school. He was particularly taken by some art work produced by Year 10 student Nathan Teague entitled *'Until everyone is equal, no-one is free.'* Beyond the workshop, Nils spent time with Sixth Form artist Jade Rigby-Williams who had produced an entire portfolio of work based on her experience of volunteering in South Africa.

"The workshop was inspirational and the pupils were very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a world class artist."

David Geldart

"Nils is an amazing man. As a veteran anti-apartheid campaigner, he used his art to make a difference in the world. It was a privilege to have him at St. Mary's and we sincerely hope that he returns one day."

Miss Donna Quirke, Art and Design Subject Leader at St. Mary's

Whilst at St. Mary's Nils praised the work of the Bambisanani Partnership and presented a special message of encouragement for the future.





This is not a drawing - it's more, it's the starting point to a special adventure, your road- for



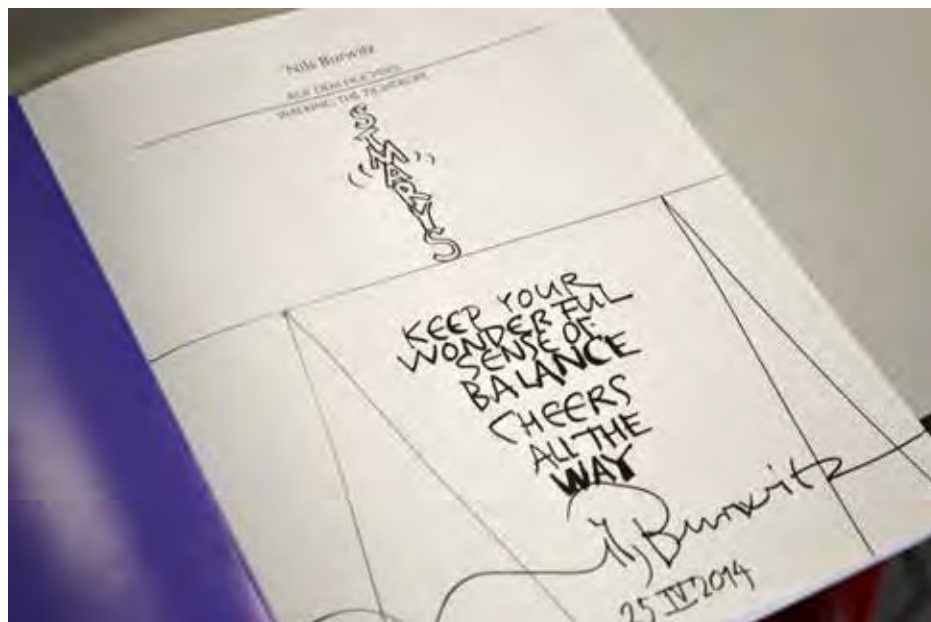
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Bambisanani Partnership

for you AND OTHERS

25 IV 2014 Nily Burwitz



April 2014: St. Mary's and Mnyakanya students receive Diana Award

Fourteen students from St. Mary's and twenty seven students from Mnyakanya received the prestigious Diana Award for their collaboration through the Bambisanani Partnership.

The Diana Award was established in the UK in 1999 in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, as a legacy to her belief in the power of young people to change the world. The International Diana Award was launched in 2011; it is in keeping with the remarkable charitable work that Princess Diana herself pioneered all around the world. Recipients are young people from across the globe who are committed to helping others and improving their communities. International Award holders include volunteers, fundraisers, campaigners and those who have overcome adversity.

Over the last year, the Young Leaders from Mnyakanya School volunteered to work in their community with the 'Child Care' organisation caring and supporting victims of abuse or those with HIV/AIDS. The students developed peer mentoring and community programmes as well as liaising with other agencies that can support the victims. Their work has had a remarkable impact which is widely acknowledged and highly regarded by the local community.

"We are so excited that our learners have gained the wonderful Diana Award. Last year we were the first school in South Africa to gain the award and this just shows what an inspiration that has proved to be. The Diana

Award reinforces our Bambisanani Partnership which is an inspiration to us in so many ways. My learners too are inspirational, they have developed leadership skills and want to do something for their own community. They are positive and show love and empathy to others, they do not discriminate and they are not judgemental. Their strength and determination is remarkable, they are inspirational leaders who are changing the lives of others."

Mrs Pk Zondi, who has coordinated the volunteering at Mnyakanya School

Fourteen students from St. Mary's also received the Diana Award for their work in South Africa. The students visited the country last summer and were responsible for mentoring young leaders from Mnyakanya through the Bambisanani Leadership Award. In addition to this they also taught at the school and together with Mnyakanya students, were responsible for organising community reading and sports festivals. The St. Mary's students also worked at Ntolwane Primary School and Zulufadder Orphanage.

"The Nkandla area of South Africa where we work is extremely poor, with one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the world. Education and developing young leaders is key to breaking this cycle of poverty, deprivation and ignorance. I am so proud of the young leaders/volunteers from Mnyakanya and St. Mary's. In a world that seems keen to focus on the negativity of young people, they are wonderful role models who are determined to make a difference in the most difficult of circumstances. They are all very honoured to receive the Diana Award."

David Geldart



"The Bambisanani Partnership is a wonderful collaboration between St. Mary's, Menston and Mnyakanya High School. We are delighted that the inspirational young people involved have been awarded the Diana Champion Volunteer Award for their dedication and passion to improve the lives of others. With a growing network of over 40,000 Award holders, we are building a force of young people who are committed to take social action and improve our communities."

Tessy Ojo, Executive Director at the Diana Award

Mnyakanya students who received the International Diana Award:

Holisizwe Zuma, Xolile Makhoba, Nokubonga Khanyile, Ntombingi Bhengu, Lungelo Dlundia, Nonjabulo Mikhize, Lungelo Mkhize, Bonginkosi Thusi, Malusi Zuma, Sanele Ngcobo, Minenhle Mikhize, Jabulile Biyela, Cebisile Mkhize, Nothando Magwaza, Nokuthobeka Ngcobo, Thandokuhle Ngcoba, Sakhile Mabusela, Ayanda Mkhize, Sabatha Blose, Nosihle Shange, Philile Luswazi, Siphesihle Shange, Minenhle Zuma, Noxolo Dube, Mluleki Biyela, Nzuzo Khanyile and Zinhle Zondi.

St. Mary's Menston students who received the Diana Champion Volunteer Award:

Kavindu Appuhamy, Elizabeth Banks, Ryan Clarke, Patrick Connolly, Emily Fieldhouse, Michael Jones, Freya O'Connor, Jade Rigby Williams, James Riley, Hannah Smith, Chloe Tindale, Madeline Tysoe and Charlie Walker.



May 2014: *Spirit of Madiba* Concert

Students and staff hosted an evening of musical entertainment to raise money for the Bambisanani Partnership

Organised by Brad Dobson and Brendan Duffy, the now annual event featured musical ensembles from St. Mary's, Cardinal Heenan and the Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra, the co-hosts of the evening, raising money for their own projects in South Africa. The music ranged from Jazz, courtesy of both LYJRO and a collaboration between St. Mary's and Cardinal Heenan's Jazz Groups, to various vocal numbers and opening the evening: St. Mary's very own Ukulele Orchestra.

The event was extremely well received, with comments from the audience mentioning the relaxed yet lively atmosphere of the evening, whilst raising funds for both worthy causes. All the acts of the evening provided something different, treating the packed audience to a spectacular evening of entertainment.

"This was a fantastic evening of music and celebration. The audience was treated to some outstanding performances of the highest quality. Credit must go to those involved and all those who supported the event. Above all a wonderful spirit and sense of community prevailed throughout the evening. It strikes me that there is no shortage of young people who want to use their talents to make a difference in the world."

David Geldart



June 2014: Bambisanani Partnership visit is a life changing success

Fourteen Year 12 students, three members of staff and a business sponsor, visited Mnyakanya School in the deprived Nkandla region of KwaZulu-Natal. Their challenge was to further develop the collaborative work between the two schools and wider community.

This visit was led by Physical Education teacher Barbara Pounder, supported by Catherine Chattoe and Giles Wilkes from St. Mary's, and Roisin Serridge from Cardinal Maritime, one of the partnership's longest serving sponsors. The students involved were:

Beth Cotton, Anna Evans, Myles Hanlon, Megan Haskins, Helena Hunt, Megan Ireton-Bourke, Olivia Leonard, James Smith, Emily Sutcliffe, Eleanor Thompson, Beth Tindall, Caroline Turnbull, Karl Verspyck and Jonathan Vincent

Arriving at Mnyakanya the St. Mary's team received a warm Zulu welcome from the school and community leaders. The mayor of Nkandla, Cllr. Arthur Thamsanga Ntuli, praised the work of the Bambisanani Partnership in an inspirational speech which reinforced the importance of working together with a desire to make a positive difference in the world: *"You must live life with a purpose. The worst thing in life is not to die but to live life without a purpose."*

As in previous years an important aspect of this year's visit was to consolidate and develop the relationship with the well-resourced and highly successful Eshowe High School, situated approximately an hour away

from Mnyakanya. Five students from Eshowe were consequently invited to join the Bambisanani Leadership Programme for the week with St. Mary's and Mnyakanya students. Nomaswazi Mabizela, Mbaliyethu Magwaza, Lindamusa Mdletshe, Daniel Ngonyama and Killian Govender were a great asset to the team and added much to the project.

As part of the programme St. Mary's and Eshowe students mentored twenty Mnyakanya students through the Bambisanani Leadership course.

The students from all three schools were tasked with jointly organising and delivering reading and sports festivals for children from neighbouring Ntolwane Primary School. The student led festivals were a remarkable success with the primary school children enjoying reading a range of books and participating in rounders, cricket and rugby competitions.

The intention is that the Mnyakanya leaders will to continue the work with Ntolwane and other local primary schools, thus building leadership capacity in the community. For the past two years young leaders from Mnyakanya have gained international acclaim by being awarded the prestigious International Diana Award for their exceptional work in the wider community which has significantly gone beyond sport.



The Mnyakanya students really valued the Leadership programme:

“The Bambisanani Partnership is amazing. On the leadership programme I have gained skills and confidence that will help me be a leader in life”.

Mzamo Khoza

“We have made friends with people from the UK and from Eshowe High School. We have worked together in harmony. We are Bambisanani; we are working together.”

Neliswa Dlomo

“This week has taught me that I can be a leader. I have learned about the importance of partnership and respect. Different cultures have come together and have inspired each other. We are young leaders and can become older leaders in our communities.”

Sithabile Zuma

“Bambisanani has changed my world. Bambisanani is needed all over the world. Sport is a gift from God when it brings people together.”

Andile Biyela

“I have learned so much from becoming a Bambisanani Leader. I have learned about the importance of teams and working together; everyone can contribute in different ways and everyone has a role to play - a Leader makes this happen.”

Nomdumiso Mdlose

“We thank God for Bambisanani - it is uniting people of different colour, race and culture. We respect each other, we love each other because of this special partnership.”

Nompilo Nene

“Nothing is impossible when we work together.”

Xolani Vilakazi

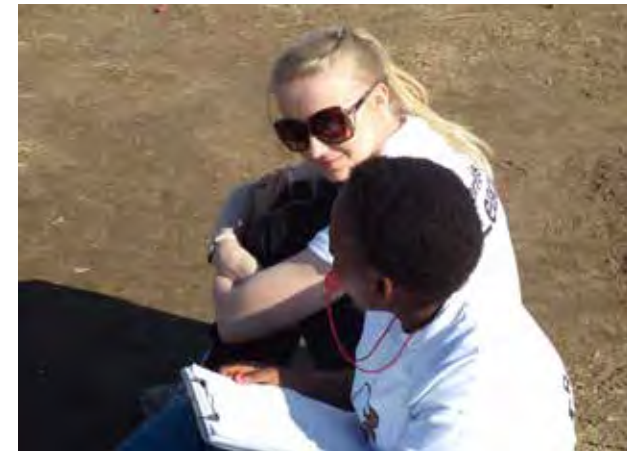
The Eshowe High School students also rated the experience highly:

“I had the most amazing time. My English friends, our Mnyakanya friends and our work together was very rewarding, we are a definite partnership.”

Nomaswazi Mabizela

“In our few days together I have seen how developing young people to be confident young leaders and role models is something that can change the world. My new British friends have taught me that I can be whatever I set out to be. This has been a once in a lifetime experience, we all had great fun.”

Mbaliyethu Magwaza



This year the three schools worked together on a special Art project. Four of the St. Mary's group are studying Art and together with Killian Govender, a talented artist from Eshowe High School, a Bambisanani Mandala was created representing the hopes and dreams of all the students and staff, a great achievement in just three days.

Whilst at Mnyakanya, St. Mary's students also taught a range of subjects and activities to students including: Maths, Science, History, Art, Football, Rounders and Netball. The St. Mary's team brought with them additional equipment for Mnyakanya School including books for the Bambisanani Library, and resources for art and sport.



The final day culminated not only in the festivals but also in a remarkable celebration event as Mnyakanya students proudly received the Bambisanani Leadership Award in recognition of successfully completing the course:

Andile Biyela, Neliswa Dlomo, Mbali Khanyile, Mzamo Khoza, Siphesihle Mbambo, Menzi Mbambo, Ntando Mpanza, Nokubonga Ngubane, Mpilonhle Shezi, Nokwanda Ngubane, Nhlanhla Sikhakhane, Zama Sithole, Xolani Vilakazi, Siyabonga Zakwe, Nomvelo Zitha, Sithabile Zuma, Teddy Zuma, Nokwanda Zuma, Nondumiso Mdlalose and Nompilo Nene

A number of very special annual awards were also presented in memory of two young men who have died in recent years. Three years ago, Laurie M^cCauley from Otley sadly died. Laurie was passionate about sport and literature and his family donated two special awards in these areas to be presented annually at Mnyakanya School to support the partnership. The awards are referred to as Laurie's Legacy. Both Mnyakanya winners Sikhakhane Sibonelo (Most Improved Footballer) and Zitha Nomvelo (Creative Writing) were absolutely delighted with what they described as a *"truly wonderful honour."*

Another annual award was also presented in memory of Sbonelo Magwaza, a Mnyakanya student who also died four years ago. Sbonelo was an outstanding young leader who, a year before his death, had successfully completed the Bambisanani Leadership Award. In tribute to Sbonelo, each school now presents an annual Sbonelo Magwaza Award for Outstanding Leadership. At Mnyakanya the award went to Siphesihle Shange.

Two other awards were introduced this year. As a result of links with St. Mary's, Mnyakanya School recently became the first school in South Africa to be accepted into the John Paul II Foundation for Sport. The Foundation presented Mnyakanya with special awards for *'Helping Others Achieve their Potential'* and *'The True Spirit of Sport'* to Zothani Mzobe and Nondumiso Shandu respectively.

Chief Executive of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport, Monsignor Vladimir Feltzmann, also gave a personal gift of books for the school to mark his birthday. The Mnyakanya students have created an area called 'Father Vlad's Shelf' in the library to house the wonderful and much-needed books.



“You must live life with a purpose. The worst thing in life is not to die but to live life without a purpose.”

Cllr. Arthur Thamsanga Ntuli,

Mayor of Nkandla



The St. Mary's team also spent time at the Zulufadder Orphanage Day Care Centre. Zulufadder is a remarkable charity that cares for some of the most vulnerable children in KwaZulu-Natal. The St. Mary's team brought a range of equipment for the orphans and spent time singing, dancing, reading and playing sport with the children as well as serving meals. They also met the force of nature that is Popi Buthelezi who runs the Centre in a way that has to be seen to be believed.

At Zulufadder Mrs Pounder spent time with a young university student who had attended the Day Care Centre as a young child, receiving the unique love and care that is found there. The young man's name was 'Given', his name somewhat appropriate for the opportunity he had received through Popi and her team. Because of the exceptional support he and his mother received, he is now studying Geo Sciences at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth. Popi had simply told him that "anything was possible."



Whilst in South Africa the St. Mary's group stayed in the town of Eshowe and there they learned more about Zulu life and South African history by visiting a Zulu cultural village, Eshowe Fort Museum and Arts Centre and the Eshowe Township. A great supporter of the Bambisanani Partnership is Durban businessman, Logan Govender. Logan accompanied the group to Hluhluwe Game Reserve. Whilst seeing animals in their natural habitat the group also learned from Logan about the horrors of poaching which is threatening the very existence of some species. Logan also accompanied the group in Durban to demonstrate urban life in South Africa with the aim of highlighting and explaining the extreme differences in wealth and living conditions in the city. Whilst the group had gained a good understanding of rural deprivation and inequalities in Zululand, this urban experience further challenged some African stereotypes and gave rise to much discussion and debate. As ever, it is impossible to quantify Logan's amazing contribution to the total South African experience for the students. His passion for his country and its future is matched by his wisdom and ability to enchant and captivate his audience. His contribution to the Bambisanani Partnership is beyond measure.



The visit to South Africa had a tremendous impact on the St. Mary's students:

"It amazed me how enthusiastic students were about education. The pure thirst for knowledge is something I wish I could bottle up and take home for our students. The visit has made me more positive in general. I know it's a sad thought, but I don't feel that I can be sad about minute unimportant things when I know that back at Mnyakanya the students are dealing with life and death situations every day."

Karl Verspyck

"My visit to South Africa told me one thing, there is definitely more to be done. Poverty is thriving and there is a continuing sadness, but I realize now how little you need to be happy, people with a lot less than us seem to be the ones with the biggest smiles. I know this is a cliché but my life has been changed. I have a clearer outlook now."

Olivia Leonard

"It has taken me a while to try and understand the importance of the Bambisanani visit. It confirms a common goal internationally, mutual respect found in the Zulu handshake or the shy hopeful orphan that craves knowledge. Hope is what I found in South Africa, evidenced by the name given to Mr Geldart "Themba" (Hope) by the Zulu community"

Emily Sutcliffe

"My time in South Africa was an experience I will never forget. I have been taught so much about the reality that lies beneath our noses and which we fail to notice. The people I met were extraordinary and I cannot begin to describe my admiration for their ability to embrace every aspect of their lives with a smile. The huge difference in cultures has truly opened my eyes and for this I am extremely grateful."

Caroline Turnbull

"Lyuanda taught me to always go a step further to help others. When teaching the primary school children at the

sports festival, Lyuanda noticed that there were a few children who were not being taught by the Bambisanani leaders, he took it upon himself, when he had a free moment, to teach those children how to throw and catch a rugby ball. This for me was the highlight of the trip. I felt nothing but pride that I had helped Lyuanda develop into such a selfless leader. A young man who had so much to give and he gave it freely."

Megan Ireton-Bourke

"My visit to South Africa has affected me in more ways than I could ever imagine. Witnessing first-hand the overwhelming contrast of the things I place value on here at home and the things South African students treasure opened my eyes to what is truly meaningful. Seeing my group of Mnyakanya students, in particular a young boy called Teddy try to orchestrate a game of rounders after hours of trial and error, and then to teach it to a near perfect standard, was one of the proudest moments of my life. The determination and pride in their work shown by the students has inspired me to echo these attitudes in my own work and be grateful for the support and facilities we have at home. I can honestly say that although the purpose of our visit was to teach the young leaders at Mnyakanya, above anything they taught me."

Anna Evans

"South Africa was a visit of a lifetime. My amazing moment was on the first day of meeting our Mnyakanya Sports Leaders. Each leader was given a whistle and on our journey home we gave a lift to Precious (saving her a 90 minute walk home). As she said goodbye she thanked us and as we closed the minibus door all we could hear was a whistle blowing as she walked down her long lane home. A simple whistle and so much joy. Amazing!"

Beth Tindall

"My experience in Africa has been something I will truly cherish. It realised for me the concept of "Global Community." As soon as we drove through the school gates, the atmosphere was wonderful. Bambisanani creates that. I felt that the time we spent interacting with the students

endlessly valuable, and taught me that a simple smile can have far more impact than any amount of money. The young people of Mnyakanya have such a lively, inspiring and positive spirit, taking every opportunity and grasping it with both hands. Thank you for allowing me to see this."

Eleanor Thompson



“My visit to South Arica was undoubtedly amazing, but I came back feeling very frustrated. The visit to Zulufadder orphanage was a cruel reminder of the disparity between our world and theirs and left me feeling helpless. However, Popi showed me that despite hardship people can make a difference. Her leadership was phenomenal, and taught me how important leadership is and that what we were doing was important. Life is what you make of it rather than accepting what is handed to you. The experience has opened my eyes to the world in a way that I didn’t think possible and that is something I don’t want to, nor will I ever forget.”

Megan Haskins

“When I signed up for Bambisanani I was unsure as to what to expect and thought that it wouldn’t really affect me personally. I was wrong. The visit was fun, educational and most importantly it has inspired me to do something similar in the future. I have learned that happiness can be short lived so we have to grab it and the people we met have so little but act like they have so much.”

Jonathan Vincent

“An unforgettable experience. The Partnership has shown me that no matter how little a person has, there is no limit to the amount they can achieve. To have little or no knowledge of rugby, cricket and rounders on Monday and then run a festival in these sports by Wednesday was fantastic. I was proud of them and our school for giving us the opportunity to witness all of it.”

James Smith

“My experience in South Africa has truly opened my eyes to the extreme lifestyles endured by others. There wasn’t a point in the visit when I felt I wasn’t being challenged, allowing me to explore my own capabilities. I am very grateful for the opportunity.”

Myles Hanlon

“I have been challenged and have learned so much. I had great fun and my eyes were opened. I am very lucky and would do well to never forget that an African smile can make anyone’s day.”

Helena Hunt

The adults from both countries were also inspired by the experience:

“Through Bambisanani our two communities are working together, sharing together and learning together in the true spirit of Ubuntu. The students from both schools go on from this to active amazing things in their communities. Our eyes are opened with Bambisanani - we can all see further now. May God bless Bambisanani.”

Mrs Pk Zondi, Bambisanani Co-ordinator, Mnyakanya High School

“Having accompanied fourteen students from St Mary’s, Menston on this, my first visit to South Africa I was overwhelmed by the positive impact the Partnership had on everyone that was involved. I was extremely proud of the students’ dedication, commitment and courage and saw first-hand how working together can empower the lives of so many young people. This visit should be experienced by everyone at least once in their life. I am delighted to be leading the visit in 2015 in order to continue the outstanding work of the Partnership.”

Catherine Chattoe, St. Mary’s

“The ten day visit will be one I will never forget. For me it became a time of reflection and witness. I saw just how far our students had developed, and contributed to those not as fortunate as themselves. At Zulufadder, the St. Mary’s pupils showed their true worth, singing, dancing, and reading. On the final day of the visit the group were playing with the young orphans. The emotional impact on me and them was truly humbling.”

Giles Wilkes, St. Mary’s



In recent years, St. Mary's have invited colleagues from partner schools and business sponsors to join them in South Africa. Roisin Serridge joined the team for the 2014 visit and learned first-hand about the partnership that her company Cardinal Maritime has supported for several years:

"The experience was emotionally and physically challenging but I enjoyed every minute of it. I loved being at the schools, being with the children and helping out. I got so much from being at the schools and the orphanage. Seeing what the Bambisanani Partnership does for not only the children but the community, is amazing. I found the reading festival the most inspiring for me, watching the children from Mnyakanya High School help the small children from the primary school to read in English was quite heart wrenching. I also found great joy in helping the children read the books, so much so it's made me want to go back to College, get my A-levels and possibly go into primary school teaching. Going on this visit, not knowing anybody was a big thing for me to do and every student and teacher was so welcoming and lovely. I can't thank you enough for that and especially a big thank you for the amazing opportunity."

Roisin Serridge, Cardinal Maritime

Barbara Pounder was overjoyed with the visit and her team:

"The team was amazing and I cannot thank them all enough for what they did and for what they achieved. My colleagues Catherine, Giles and Roisin created unique learning opportunities and the students responded in ways that gladdened my heart. Special thanks are also due to all my friends and colleagues at Mnyakanya School especially Pk Zondi and Mazet Zanele Langa who continually go the 'extra mile' for the partnership. All the students involved are different people now; inspired to make the world a better place."

At an emotional presentation ceremony on the final day, Barbara reminded everyone that:

Although we are 6,000 miles apart but under the same sky

We have high hopes for a better way

And always we will try

To keep the friendships we continue to make

The young people growing before our eyes

Our hands are joined, forever entwined

There will be no goodbyes.



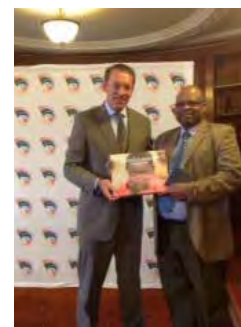
June 2014: Bambisanani founder invited to speak at South African Celebrations

David Geldart, Founder of the Bambisanani Partnership was invited to speak at two major events celebrating 20 Years of freedom and democracy in South Africa and the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela.

At an event at the Civic Hall in Leeds to celebrate the 'Life and Legacy' of Nelson Mandela, David spoke about 'The Power of Sport' to an invited audience and representatives from the South African High Commission including Minister Counsellor, Dumisani Ntuli, Counsellor Bilateral, Alan Wright and First Secretary, Carol Mabuza. Nelson Mandela is closely associated with Leeds since his visit in 2001 where he awarded the Freedom of the City. Leeds played an active and significant role in the anti-apartheid movement and today has a thriving partnership with Durban. At the Civic Reception David presented Minister Counsellor, Dumisani Ntuli with a painting from one of his students, Sara Riley which symbolises the work of the Bambisanani Partnership bringing the two countries together through sport.

A week later David was invited to speak at the South African High Commission in London as part of the *Twenty Years of Freedom* celebrations. At the event The South African High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency, Obed Mlaba described the work of the Bambisanani Partnership as: *"a remarkable story of hope and what can be achieved internationally through the combination of sport and education working together."*

David Geldart said: *"The opportunity to contribute to these important events was a huge privilege; it was an amazing honour to be able to pay tribute to Nelson Mandela and promote his legacy of democracy, peace, justice and reconciliation. The legacy must continue and I look forward to working in my own City of Leeds and with the South African High Commission to further develop the use of sport for the benefit of young people in both countries."*



July 2014: Bambisanani is the inspiration for Jade's art work

Since visiting South Africa in 2013 Sixth Form student Jade Rigby-Williams was inspired to produce some outstanding pieces of art. A large collage of an African child made from items collected during her stay was retained in the school hall on permanent display following an exhibition where it gained extensive praise and acclaim. The talented artist's work was exhibited within and beyond the school where it gained widespread recognition.



June 2014: Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay

Celebration events were held throughout Leeds as the Queen's Baton relay passed through the City on its way to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. At a Civic Reception Bambisanani inspired art work from Sara Riley, Natalie O'Shea and Madeline Smith took pride of place and was much admired by Civic dignitaries, international athletes and other VIP invited guests.



July 2014: Bambisanani Partnership features at International Conference

The work of the Bambisanani Partnership featured in a key note speech by David Geldart at the international conference on *Catholic Perspectives on Sport and Spirituality: Half time to Rio*. The conference, held at the University of Durham, was a tremendous success with delegates from around the world expressing an interest in the partnership.



Half time to Rio: Catholic perspectives on sport and spirituality

July 18th-19th 2014, University of Durham

This conference is aimed at anyone with an interest in how the experience of sport relates to notions of spirituality and religious belief. Drawing primarily, but not exclusively, on Catholic perspectives, speakers will look at a range of topics within sport.

As a multi-disciplinary event, presentations will be concerned with how historical, psychological and philosophical ideas and concepts can deepen our understanding as participants and consumers of sport. Amongst other issues, the conference will examine the relationship between sport and ethics, sport psychology and spirituality, coaching, historical accounts of sport in society, and sport and character formation.

Key Speakers:

- **Professor J. A. Mangan, Emeritus Professor, Strathclyde University.**
'Athleticism, Muscularity and Christianity: Class, Compromise and Catholicism.'
- **Professor S. Lee, Emeritus Professor, Queens University Belfast, Chair of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport, Director of the Cambridge Theological Federation**
'Faith in Sporting Ethics: On Practising and Preaching from Athens 1896 to Rio 2016'
- **Associate Professor P. Kelly, SJ, PhD, Centre for the study of Sport and Exercise, Seattle University.**
'Catholics and Sports: Historical Perspectives and Resources for our Times.'
- **Dr M. Nesti Reader: Psychology in Sport, Liverpool John Moores University.**
'Delivering Sport Psychology inside English Premier League clubs: A Matter of Faith.'
- **Dr C. Hickey, Director of Education, John Paul II Foundation for Sport**
'Sport, Spirituality and the Contemporary Catholic School.'
- **Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann, CEO John Paul II foundation for sport.** *'Faith in sport'*
- **David Geldart FRSA, M.Ed., Assistant Headteacher, St. Mary's Menston.**
'Physical Education and School Sport in a Catholic School: More than a Game'

For information and booking enquiries click:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/conference.booking/details?id=299>

www.jp2f4s.org



www.facebook.com/johnpaul2foundation4sport



[@jp2f4s](https://twitter.com/jp2f4s)

December 2014: World Cup Legend praises Bambisanani Partnership

World Cup winning hero of 1966 Sir Geoff Hurst, the only player ever to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final, visited St. Mary's to present sports equipment to Guiseley Juniors FC Girls teams who work in partnership with St. Mary's.

Sir Geoff was fulsome in his of praise for the school and the club:

“The facilities here at St. Mary's are excellent and it is great to see them so well used by the wider community. The partnership with Guiseley Juniors is first class and it is good to see girls' football thriving in the area. I am not surprised to hear that St. Mary's is such a successful school; all the best schools that I have been in have had a high commitment to sport. St. Mary's work in South Africa, the Bambisanani Partnership, is terrific and I am delighted to be able to support it.”

The 1966 star made a big impact on St. Mary's students Dominica Warrington and Isabel Wilkes, who both play for Guiseley Juniors.

“It was very exciting to meet Sir Geoff Hurst. He really liked our school and our football club. Sir Geoff is a real football legend and I found him inspirational because of what he has achieved and how he encouraged us.”

Dominica Warrington

“Sir Geoff was so down to earth and friendly. I loved playing the passing game with him; he is still a good player. He was really interested in our work in South Africa which uses sport to inspire people and he offered to help us with this which is great. His visit was really special and motivating for us all.”
Isabel Wilkes

David Geldart added: *“Sir Geoff is a real gentleman. He had time for everyone and was in no rush to leave. His impact on the young people and those a lot older was quite remarkable. He was genuinely interested in the Bambisanani Partnership and the use of sport for the greater good. Very impressive; a genuine sporting legend.”*

Whilst at the school Sir Geoff donated two signed replica 1966 England football shirts that were auctioned to support the work of the Bambisanani Partnership.



“St. Mary’s work in South Africa, the Bambisanani Partnership, is terrific and I am delighted to be able to support it.”

Sir Geoff Hurst

December 2014: Students receive Diana Award

The Bambisanani Partnership was again publicly honoured with the Diana Award.

The Diana Award is a legacy to Princess Diana's belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better. Since 1999, the Diana Award has recognised over 42,000 young people who have made a positive difference to the lives of others and their communities. The Diana Award believe that young people should be encouraged for their contributions to society, empowered to reach their full potential and they should be engaged in social action as early in life as possible.

Fourteen St. Mary's pupils were awarded the Diana Champion Volunteer Award for their exceptional work in South Africa as part of the Bambisanani Partnership:

Beth Cotton, Anna Evans, Myles Hanlon, Megan Haskins, Helena Hunt, Megan Ireton-Bourke, Olivia Leonard, James Smith, Emily Sutcliffe, Eleanor Thompson, Bethany Tindall, Caroline Turnbull, Karl Verspyck and Jonathan Vincent.

The students visited the country during the summer and were responsible for mentoring young leaders from Mnyakanya High School through the Bambisanani Leadership Award. In addition, they also taught at the school and, together with Mnyakanya students, were responsible for organising community reading and sports festivals. The St. Mary's students also worked at Ntolwane Primary School and Zulufadder Orphanage.

The group were presented with their Award at the prestigious Diana Award 'Celebrate Young Heroes' ceremony held at Leeds United Football Club.

"We at St. Mary's are extremely proud of the students who have received the prestigious Diana Award. The Award will encourage them to continue their work and will hopefully inspire others to volunteer in their schools and communities. The whole group is delighted to receive an award in recognition of their commitment to helping others."

David Geldart

"The Diana Award is proud to recognise the young volunteers from the Bambisanani Partnership, who have the confidence and courage to stand up for what they believe. The Diana Champion Volunteer Award is presented to inspirational young people who have made a positive difference in the communities. The work of the Bambisanani Partnership epitomises the Diana Award."

Tessy Ojo, Executive Director of the Diana Award



December 2014: Kavi receives Sbonelo Magwaza Award

At the Annual Sixth Form Presentation Evening, former St. Mary's student and Guest of Honour, Joanne Milner presented the prestigious Sbonelo Magwaza Award for Outstanding Leadership to Kavi Appuhamy. Joanne, who is Chief Executive Officer at Debretts, proclaimed the work of the 'inspirational' Bambisanani Partnership and Kavi's 'exceptional leadership both in South Africa and the UK'.

Kavi said: "It is a tremendous honour to receive this very special award in memory of Sbonelo, who I have heard was an outstanding Bambisanani Leader. It was great to receive the award from Joanne who is one of the country's leading Chief Executives. I am truly humbled by it all and I hope that the award, which is also presented annually in South Africa, continues to inspire young people and in doing so brings some comfort to Sbonelo's family."



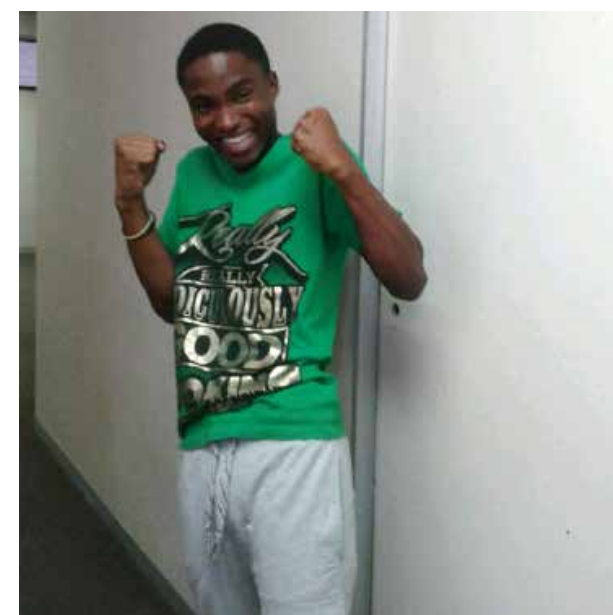
February 2015: Simphiwe's Teaching Dream

Congratulations and best wishes were forwarded to Simphiwe Ndlovu who gained a place at University to become the first 'Bambisanani Teacher'.

Simphiwe was supported by the Bambisanani Partnership whilst a student at Mnyakanya High School. On successfully completing the Bambisanani Leadership Award in 2011, he decided that he wanted to become a teacher in order to serve his community. After three exceptionally hard years of study, with few resources, he gained a place at University to begin a teacher training programme. St. Mary's and the Bambisanani Partnership, together with friends in South Africa, agreed to support Simphiwe in his three years at University.

Simphiwe explained his ambition: *"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."*

David Geldart paid tribute to this remarkable young man: *"Simphiwe is an inspiration. He has faced enormous challenges all his life and despite the odds being stacked against him, he always comes through. His determination, persistence and positivity enable him to consistently achieve his goals. Simphiwe is a fantastic role model to students at both Mnyakanya and St. Mary's. We wish him well and look forward to him qualifying as a teacher; the profession needs people like Simphiwe. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the St. Mary's community and my friends in South Africa for supporting Simphiwe; I believe that it will be a wonderful investment in education."*



“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.”

Simphiwe Ndlovu

March 2015: St. Patrick's Day Gaelic Football match for South Africa

Students at St. Mary's celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a fundraising Gaelic Football match in aid of the Bambisanani Partnership.

The two teams were organised by students Ryan Smith and Shae Stringwell with Shae's team eventually running out 17-9 winners. Shae was pleased with the win but also with the occasion: *"To raise money for our school's work in South Africa on St. Patrick's Day was really special for us."*

Ryan added: *"It really was a great occasion and an excellent way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The game was played in a fantastic spirit with good skills and good sportsmanship being demonstrated."*

The students involved were congratulated for their participation and fundraising:

Kit Donnelly, George Vanner, Ryan Smith, Ben Hings, Stan Fleming, Matthew Farmer, Joe Smith, Ben Tinson, Mingzhe Feng, Seb M'Cormick, Danny Inman, Shae Stringwell, Benji Marshall, Joe Kehoe, Luke Hourigan, Lewis Potter, Alex Noonan, Jamie Styles, Harry Henderson, Jonny Cracknell, Ray Ostrowski, Matty Iliff, Rory Mullan Wilkinson

"The school has a rich Irish heritage and it was wonderful to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in such a positive and proactive way. The students involved are a credit to the school in so many ways. My thanks go to all those who played in and supported this special event. Comhghairdeas!"

David Geldart



March 2015: Miss Burton visits South Africa

Miss Burton from St. Mary's and Miss Hobson from Beechwood Primary School visited South Africa as part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms project to develop the work of the Noboa project. The Noboa project is an extension of the Bambisanani Partnership which links three schools from Leeds and three from both South Africa and Ghana. During their stay Miss Burton and Miss Hobson spent time at Mnyakanya School, Magqama High School, Ntolwane Primary School and Zulufadder Orphanage.

Miss Burton described the visit and its impact: *"For seven days we had the amazing opportunity to explore the region's natural beauty, immerse ourselves in the local culture and work with some fantastic educators at a number of schools in the Nkandla region.*

Whilst at Mnyakanya School we saw first-hand the incredible impact that the Bambisanani Partnership has made in recent years. In Mr. Mbambo's class we worked on the joint environment project being undertaken by the nine partner schools. We were also very privileged to hear the Mnyakanya Gospel choir sing for us. They had fantastic, powerful voices and we could have listened to them sing all day. Members of the Student Council were very proud to give us a guided tour of their school. Before leaving we were treated to some traditional Zulu dancing which was performed with great enthusiasm and quality.

At Ntolwane Primary School we were able to extend work on the environment project with both teachers and students. We met some very helpful students that took us in to all of the classrooms. Many classes had more than sixty children in them. The students at Ntolwane were a little shy to begin with as their first language is IsiZulu and they learn English

at school. They were all speaking much more to us as the day progressed. We watched the children learning isiZulu and we tried our best to pronounce some tricky Zulu words! I really enjoyed learning IsiZulu phrases from the students. In another class we saw the children reading books out loud in English. The school has hundreds of reading books donated by the Bambisanani Partnership and enjoys an annual Reading Festival delivered by St. Marys and Mnyakanya students. It was great to hear the Ntolwane students reading so well and so confidently. During break time it was fascinating to see goats, geese and chickens sharing the school grounds with the children! After break we were able to watch the children perform for us. We heard some fantastic singing, watched incredible Zulu dancing and also listened to the children's poems about their rights.

At Zulufadder Day Care Centre for orphans and vulnerable children, we met its inspirational leader Popi Bulethezi. Popi was a very happy lady and the children clearly loved spending time with her at the centre. We were able to play games outside and the children showed us their super writing and performed some excellent songs.



As a Geography teacher it was great to explore the local area. This was made possible by Mr Mbambo and Miss Langa from Mnyakanya. At Nkandla Forest we were greeted by two Rangers who guided us on an extensive trek over peaks and across rivers through the largest forest in South Africa. We also visited Dlinza Forest which has an aerial boardwalk that takes you through the forest and above the canopy layer, then up into the emergent layer; very high and very scary but well worth it for the amazing views.

The visit allowed us to develop our partnership and joint learning projects. I learned so much that has inspired me both as a person and as a teacher. I now understand why St. Mary's has such a special relationship with South Africa."



April 2015: *Spirit of Ubuntu* Concert

Students and staff from St. Mary's and the Leeds Jazz Youth Orchestra hosted an evening of musical entertainment to raise money for the Bambisanani Partnership.

The *Spirit of Ubuntu* concert featured musical ensembles from St. Mary's School, Cardinal Heenan School, the Madrigal singing group and the Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra who co-hosted the evening, raising money for their own music projects in Durban.

The quality of the music was truly outstanding and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by a large and very appreciative audience.

"It was a wonderful evening of music which really captured the spirit of Ubuntu (human kindness and concern for others). The young people involved in the evening from the two initiatives are truly inspirational. They want to make a difference to the world and are prepared to use their amazing talents to do so. Brad Dobson and Brendan Duffy deserve great credit for the wonderful musical opportunity that they provided the young people with. There is something special about music and sport in being able to connect people in meaningful encounters, long may this continue."

David Geldart





May 2015: Bambisanani Album Announced

The Bambisanani Partnership announced an ambitious proposal to produce a music album in 2016/17 to celebrate the partnership's tenth anniversary. Students from Mnyakanya and St. Mary's were invited to enter a competition that would decide the twelve tracks of the album: four tracks composed and performed by Mnyakanya students, four from St. Mary's students and four which will be collaborations between students from both schools.

The album project leader, Brad Dobson explained: *"This latest learning collaboration between our two schools is an exciting prospect that will create wonderful opportunities for students to compose and perform music. The album will be professionally produced and mastered with copies being manufactured to sell and raise some vital funds for the Bambisanani Partnership. The whole process will take eighteen months to complete and students in both counties have already begun to write music for the competition."*



June 2015: South African Teachers visit Leeds

As part of the British Council's *Connecting Classrooms* programme three teachers from South Africa, who are closely associated with the Bambisanani Partnership, visited Leeds. Mbongiseni Mbambo from Mnyakanya School, Nokwazi Mchunu from Magqama High School and Eunice Makhoba from Ntolwane Primary School spent time at St. Mary's and Beechwood Primary School studying teaching and learning. Staff from both schools also accompanied the guests on visits to Leeds and the Yorkshire Dales.

The visit was organised by Miss Helen Burton, the *Connecting Classrooms* coordinator at St. Mary's who said: *"It was wonderful to have our South African colleagues with us at St. Mary's. They all immersed themselves in lessons, extra-curricular activities and discussions with both teachers and students. As ever on these visits we were able to learn so much from our guests. A key principle of the Connecting Classrooms programme and the Bambisanani Partnership is the sharing of ideas and the joint learning that results. The visit ended beautifully and also emotionally when Eunice sang the South African National Anthem accompanied by musicians from St. Marys. These visits are a learning experience for all involved and this visit was a particular success."*

Mbongiseni Mbambo beautifully expressed his experience: *"I thought that on leaving South Africa I would discover the horizon but actually I experienced new horizons as a result of my visit to Leeds. The world is so vast. Our cultures are so different, as is the demographic distribution of resources, both human and environmental. It is an enormous challenge to understand the world completely. I found education, politics, religion and sports in Leeds both fascinating and fantastic. I was so impressed by the learners and by the way that learning was conducted at Beechwood and St. Mary's. It was wonderful to meet my Bambisanani friends on the visit and a special honour to meet the parents of Laurie McCauley who is an ongoing inspiration at Mnyakanya. I now have a deeper understanding of the horizon which has enabled me to grow as an educator and as a person."*



June 2015: St. Mary's visit to South Africa

This 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 Copsey, Dominique Cunningham, Will Giles, Niall Hogan, Hannah Jowett, Mitchell Lofthouse, Elliot Mulligan, Rebecca Still and Lucy Tindale. As in previous years the St. Mary's team was joined by four outstanding young leaders from Eshowe High School, which is a well-resourced school about an hour away from the Nkandla region. Ziningi Ngcobo, Musa Msero Nkosi, Thuthukani Sibya and Banele Mcbhelle were a tremendous asset in delivering the programme.

The work this year was inspired by two factors. One major source of motivation came from the creator of the Bambisanani Partnership, David Geldart, who challenged the team to 'stand on the shoulders of those that had gone before them' in order to 'take the Bambisanani Partnership to a new level'. Responding to this the St. Mary's students prepared meticulously to deliver the Bambisanani Leadership course, coach numerous sports and teach a wide range of curriculum lessons to students from Mnyakanya. Additionally the students did valuable work at Ntolwane Primary School and Zulufadder Orphanage. All the lessons were engaging, interactive and delivered brilliantly by the St. Mary's students. The second major influence on the visit was the forthcoming Rugby World Cup. Rugby was used as a focus the Bambisanani Leadership course that the St. Marys students delivered with great skill to twenty four Mnyakanya students. The finale of the Leadership course saw a Rugby and Literacy festival for over one hundred children from Ntolwane Primary School, jointly delivered by young leaders from

St. Mary's, Eshowe and Mnyakanya, which they did with tremendous success.

"Developing leadership and inspiring students through sport and education is the key purpose of the Bambisanani Partnership. Watching the leadership performance of the South African students at the festivals was a great example of this in action. The St. Mary's students had delivered an amazing leadership course and made a real difference. The contribution of the Eshowe High School students was tremendous and together they empowered the Mnyakanya students with leadership skills and confidence that will serve them well in their journey through high school and beyond".
Catherine Chattoe





Following the successful sport and literacy festivals the visit concluded with an emotional yet joyous awards ceremony. Several students were recognised for their achievements.

The first three awards traditionally remember and celebrate the lives of Laurie M^cCauley and Sbonelo Magwaza who continue to inspire young people through their legacy awards.

The Laurie M^cCauley Award for Most Improved Football Player: Xolani Ndaba.

The Laurie M^cCauley Award for Creative Writing: Silindokuhle Manyoni.

The Sbonelo Magwaza Outstanding Leader Award: Standiwe Magwaza.

The John Paul II Foundation for Sports Awards were also presented at the ceremony. The foundation was established to promote the values in sport so frequently outlined by Saint John Paul during his life. 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 involved. The John Paul II Foundation for Sport is delighted to work in South Africa in collaboration with the Bambisanani Partnership to promote these values and to celebrate the achievements of these remarkable young people.”*

John Paul II Foundation for Sport awards were presented to students from Mnyakanya High School and Ntolwane Primary School:

Ntolwane School: *Sportswoman of the Year Award*: Sinalo Tshobas.

Ntolwane School: *Sportsman of the Year Award*: Sibani Zuma.

Ntolwane School: *Sports Leader of the Year Award*: Lulama Zungu.

Mnyakanya School: *Helping Others Achieve their Potential Award*: Neliswa Xulu.

Mnyakanya School: *True Spirit of Sport Award*: Andile Mlambo.

At the ceremony the twenty four newly qualified Sports Leaders from Mnyakanya School received the Bambisanani Leadership Award having successfully completed the course:

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

During the ceremony the St. Mary’s team presented Mnyakanya High School with nine posters that depicted all the major events and many ‘firsts’ that had happened in each of the first nine years of the partnership. The intention is that new posters will be collaboratively designed by the two schools each year that depict and celebrate the work and time line of the partnership. The posters will be displayed in both schools.

The St. Mary’s team were privileged to meet with the seven students from Mnyakanya High School who were celebrating international acclaim for gaining the prestigious Diana Award. The students were recognised for their outstanding work in the wider community with the ‘Child Care’ organisation. The work of Xolile Makhoba, Ayanda Mikhize, Thobeka Mkhize,

Nonkuleko Nala, Nonjabulu Langa, Nomfundo Shangase and Noxolo Zuma in caring and supporting victims of abuse or those with HIV/AIDS had been described as ‘truly inspirational’ by the Dianna Award charity. 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 is now training to be a teacher with the support of a Bambisanani bursary.

“It was wonderful to have Simphiwe help us deliver the leadership course and assist with the sports and literacy festivals. He really is an inspirational young man.”
Catherine Chattoe



“Good values and sport are a winning combination and together they can create special opportunities for those involved. The John Paul II Foundation for Sport is delighted to work in South Africa in collaboration with the Bambisanani Partnership to promote these values and to celebrate the achievements of these remarkable young people.”

Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann,

Chief Executive of the

John Paul II Foundation for Sport



St. Mary's continued to help resource the Bambisanani 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 St. Mary's and Monsignor Vladimir Feltzmann, Chief Executive of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport.

The St. Mary's team also spent time volunteering at Zulufadder Orphanage and Day Care Centre. Zulufadder is a remarkable organisation that supports and cares for HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in KwaZulu-Natal. The St. Mary's team played, sang, danced and read with the children from the orphanage. They also had the opportunity to meet and work with the inspirational Popi Bethelzi who runs the Centre. The visit to Zulufadder was a hard-hitting reminder of the disparity between our world and theirs. However, despite the hardship St. Mary's students discovered that people working together can make a difference, and that the good work of the Bambisanani Partnership must continue.

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, Popi, 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 to 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. Popi 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 shouted their goodbyes."



The visit to South Africa clearly had a remarkable impact on all involved.

St. Mary's students:

"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 will no longer worry about insignificant issues. Being part of the Bambisanani Partnership has taught me a lot about myself and the world around me. 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 Jowett

"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 school's main hall. Each of us had a group of around ten 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. 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 Copsey

"Seeing the happiness and hope that the Bambisanani Partnership brings is truly inspiring. 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. All I can tell you is that Bambisanani is amazing and South Africa is definitely somewhere that everyone should visit which is why

I am already saving up to go back!"

Rebecca Still

"It was a real honour mentoring on the leadership programme: I gained great satisfaction from making a difference in this poor community. 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. It is clear that the people of Nkandla need no material items for happiness - I am sure many in the UK would 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 of life - 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 ever clearer on this visit; my favourite memory was playing football with the orphans at Zulufadder; their football of course was made of plastic bags tied together."

Tom Brady

"Everyone involved was not only able to learn, but to have fun together. As well as improving leadership skills during our time together, we were able to learn about the different lifestyle of the South African pupils. It was eye opening to see the enthusiasm of the students to participate and try their hardest, despite the poor conditions. 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 Tindale

"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 KwaZulu-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. There are so many memories from the visit 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. 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. All of this has had an amazing impact on my own life."

Niall Hogan



“We were welcomed wherever we went with such warmth, 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. 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 Popi, 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.”
Mairenn Collins

“The Eshowe students were a tremendous asset when we were mentoring and coaching the Mnyakanya students. At the sports and reading festivals we organised it was great to see the students we had mentored growing in confidence over time and eventually leading a large group of primary school children very successfully. At Zulufadder Orphanage it was amazing to see how happy the children seemed although they had so little. Whilst in Durban it was striking to see the difference between the rich and the poor. Overall it was an incredible experience.”
Chris Chavez Cronin

“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 Cunningham

“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 desire 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. From this visit I will never forget the times spent in the 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 visit has been the most memorable time of my life and I certainly won’t forget any of it anytime soon.”
Mitchell Lofthouse

“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 visit. 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 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. At Zulufadder Orphanage we were greeted with a sea of smiling faces and these grins lasted for the entirety of the visit. It is incredibly humbling to watch 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 under estimated 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 visit will stay with me for a lifetime.”

Jessica Carroll



The Mnyakanya students also highlight the positive impact the Bambisanani Partnership:

“Bambisanani Partnership is a great project. My life changed the first time I met with my new St. Mary’s friends. They are so kind and full of love. They helped us know what is good for our future and I wish to be a good leader. We were trained to be young leaders, with a hope to see us as future leaders.”
Ngubane Nokubonga

“We had an absolutely great time with the St. Mary’s team, getting to know more about them and their culture. Their visit helped us a lot by developing the love 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 gave me hope that I can become a Great Leader!”
Sthabile Zuma

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

“We are all very lucky to have the Bambisanani Partnership. This is the opportunity of a life time for us to learn together, students from South Africa and the UK. We had an extraordinary experience being together and learning together.”
Ntanzi Lungelo

“The Bambisanani Partnership unites us. From our UK friends we learned how to be good leaders. We learned how to teach different sports codes but also that good leaders are honest, respectful and kind.”
Khanyile Thabani

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

“I have been incredibly fortunate to assist with the Bambisanani visit twice now, this past year allowed me to see the impact the previous year’s 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.”
Giles Wilkes, Group Leader

“This was my first trip 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. It is a project that I am passionate about and want to be part of this unique partnership that is, Bambisanani.”
Tom Pringle, St. Mary’s School



“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 visit 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 ten days with the team 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.

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 ten days of the visit but also the months leading up to it. You are very lucky to have them!

The Bambisanani Partnership: 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 utmost to support, advocate and develop the partnership in any way possible. It is the very least I can do.”

Andy Lockwood, University of Leeds

“The 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 and lifestyle which is part of Ubuntu. 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 are going forward).”

Mazet Zanele Langa, Mnyakanya School

“The visit to South Africa in June 2015 was a tremendous success that impacted positively on all involved. David’s challenge was achieved with the Bambisanani Partnership reaching new heights. I cannot praise my colleagues, Giles, Tom and Andy enough for all that 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 and Mnyakanya students responded in ways that continually reinforced my faith in young people. Despite a variety of challenges the partnership is very special and is making a real difference in the lives of many. 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.”

Catherine Chattoe, Bambisanani Coordinator



“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 will no longer worry about insignificant issues. Being part of the Bambisanani Partnership has taught me a lot about myself and the world around me. 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.”

Hannah Jowett



June 2015: Bambisanani Partnership at National Global Learning Conference

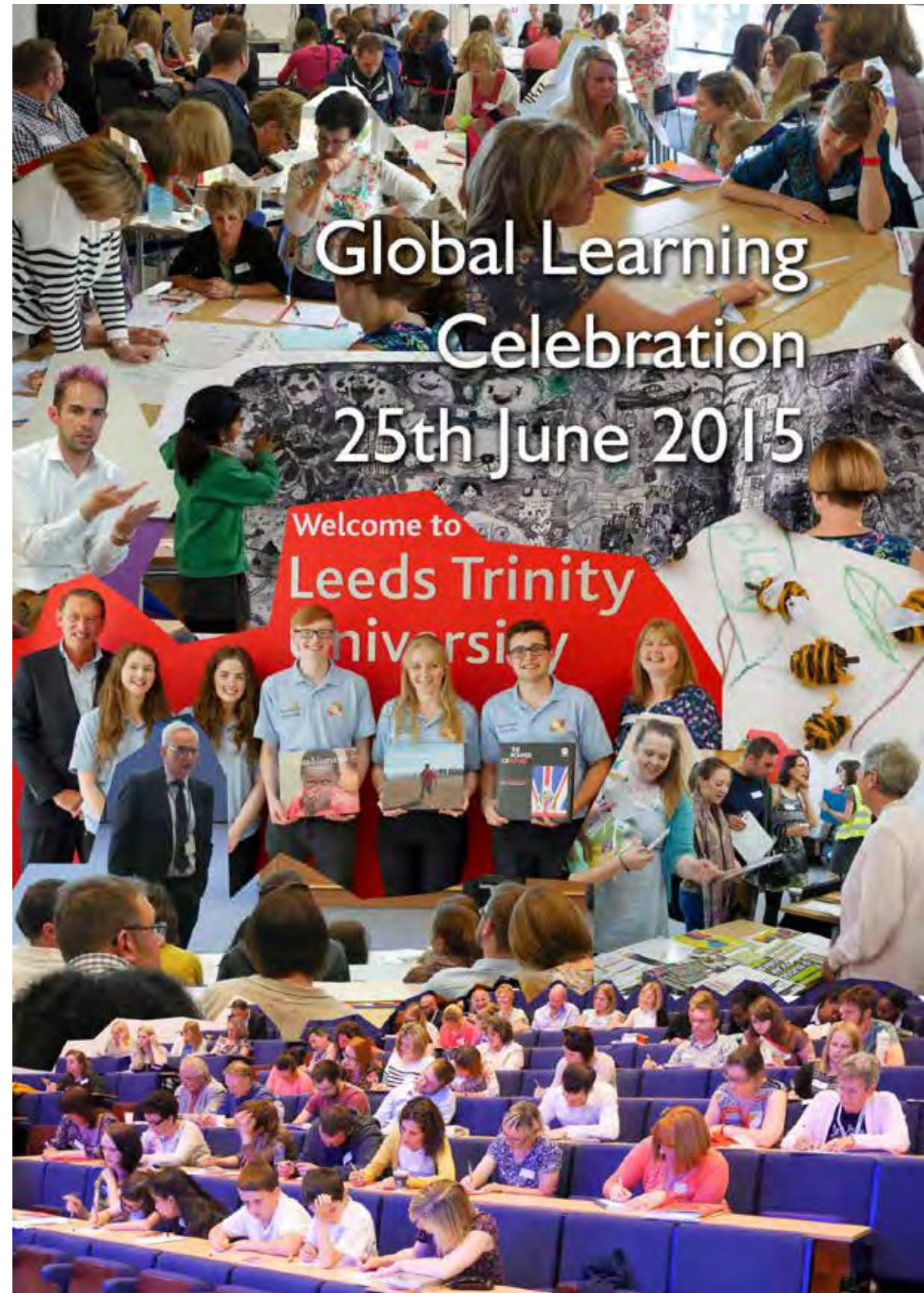
The internationally acclaimed Bambisanani Partnership was afforded two sessions at a national Global Learning Conference at Leeds Trinity University in Leeds.

David Geldart spoke about the partnership's work in using sport in one of South Africa's poorest communities to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership.

Five St. Mary's students who were volunteers and leadership mentors in South Africa last year also spoke at the conference. Karl Verspyck, Megan Haskins, Eleanor Thompson, Myles Hanlon and Caroline Turnbull outlined the impact of their work in South Africa with the focus of two schools from very different parts of the world 'having worked together and learned together' for over nine years, creating an equitable and sustainable partnership.

"St. Mary's made a most significant contribution to the conference. The students were so articulate and passionate about their remarkable work in South Africa; truly inspirational."

Mrs Diane Maguire, Conference organiser



July 2015: Brogan returns to Africa

Brogan O’Conner visited South Africa in 2011 as a St. Mary’s student. Inspired by this she returned to Zambia as a Northumbria University student to develop a similar programme. She was selected from hundreds of applicants to be part of the Zambia IDEALS project which is made up of the seven Wallace Group Universities who each send five students out to complete a six week placement coaching sport in local schools and orphanages.

Brogan explained her experience and the significance of the Bambisanani Partnership:

“The Bambisanani visit to South Africa was a pivotal moment in my life which inspired both a love of Africa and a desire to work internationally in Sport Development. My Bambisanani experience was a major factor in me being selected for the Zambia IDEALS project. In Zambia I was placed at St. Patrick’s, an all-girl’s Catholic school and the Fountain of Hope Orphanage for street children. I would spend every morning at St. Patrick’s and every afternoon at the Fountain of Hope. It is hard to put into words the experience this gave me, but it certainly built on the amazing opportunity I had with the Bambisanani Partnership and now sits alongside that as a most amazing and life changing opportunity.

I spent every day singing, dancing and playing sport with the happiest children I have ever met in my life, everyone I worked with had next to nothing in terms of material objects, but they were so happy and so grateful for everything. Each night I just could not wait to get back up in the morning and head out to placement for what was always guaranteed to be another amazing day, with no two days the same.

I saw and heard things that will stay with me for life; Children who had managed to get a pair of trainers but only wore one shoe as they gave the other to their best friend,

children telling me they didn’t know their birthday but that every day was their birthday as each day is a gift and most importantly seeing the biggest grins on children’s faces when we arrived every day. The children would run up to you with a grin from ear to ear wanting to stroke your hair, hold your hand, hear about your evening and just spend time with you. The feeling of happiness to be there was more than matched by me - I have never been happier to walk through the doors knowing I was going to spend the day with them, watching them learn new skills, improve their technique, and hear about their amazing lives.

I will always look back on both the Bambisanani Partnership and the Zambia IDEALS with the fondest of memories, where I have learnt skills, seen things and met people that I will remember for the rest of my life. Most importantly, however, I will always remember the Bambisanani Partnership as the experience that sparked it all off. I have the Bambisanani project to thank for some of my best friends, best experiences and best memories but also for the past four years of my life. I have been incredibly lucky throughout my time in University and have taken on many great opportunities, but none of that would have been possible without the experiences, skills, confidence and motivation I gained with the Bambisanani Partnership.”



July 2015: Students Karl and Sthabile have an article published

St. Mary's student Karl Verspyck and Mnyakanya student Sthabile Zuma had an article published in the Association of Physical Education's quarterly Journal *'Physical Education Matters'*. In the article Karl and Sthabile gave their unique perspectives of the Bambisanani Partnership. Carol Hawman, Editor of the Journal said: *"The article by Karl and Sthabile is wonderful and reflects the amazing work that the Bambisanani does. I have a feeling that this might not be the last article that these talented young people write."*



July 2015: Eleanor's art work is inspired by visit to South Africa

Talented Sixth Form student Eleanor Thompson produced a remarkable painting inspired by her time in South Africa as a Bambisanani volunteer. The painting featured in the school's annual Art exhibition and gained widespread critical acclaim.

"I was inspired to paint this scene as, for me, it epitomises the compassion of the Bambisanani Partnership. Amongst the hard work and rewarding fun of the trip, at its heart, is a genuine care for our global community. Moreover, the hug symbolises the core element I took back from the visit...that the partnership is based on an inter-reliance of communities. Without the commitment and enthusiasm of both partners, this project could not thrive as it so wonderfully does."

Eleanor Thompson



July 2015: Stuart Murphy visits South Africa

Following a meeting with David Geldart, former St. Mary's student, Stuart Murphy now Director of Entertainment Channels at Sky, visited South Africa with his sons to see first-hand the work of the Bambisanani Partnership. On his return Stuart pledged his support to the charity with a significant donation. Of the visit Stuart said:

"I'm really proud of having a connection with Mnyakanya High School. It came about after chatting with David Geldart about the disparity between rich and poor in the world, and how one can try and make a difference in a way that's lasting and done with dignity and respect. The Bambisanani Partnership felt really like a smart and imaginative way of helping – any money one side contributes is matched by money raised locally - so we were delighted to be able to get involved. Right from the start it was acknowledged that this was a relationship where both sides benefitted.

I chatted with my teenage sons, Max and Josh, about going over to visit South Africa. I'd been to Africa a few times when I'd worked at the BBC, so had an idea of what to expect, but even that was a while ago and I'd had my "work head" on, so hadn't that much chance to take it all in. My lads are more clued up than I was at their age, so rather than thinking of Africa as some homogenous mass, as I had before I went, they'd heard news stories that gave a sense of the enormous variety of what happens on the continent: from the Arab Spring to Mandela, from civil wars, to oil exploitation in Nigeria. I couldn't wait to go with them and see it through their eyes.

It's fair to say our visit was life changing, in loads of different ways. Firstly, we were struck by the genuine connection between St. Mary's and Mnyakanya: daft jokes, first name terms, shared interests, mutual respect and an obsession with sport. Seeing photos of St. Mary's, Leeds and Yorkshire in their reception area was as bizarre as it was heart-warming, as was seeing my niece dressed in traditional Zulu attire in a framed photo in the school's porch.

We were also struck by how differently one is welcomed over there to here. Me, Max and Josh were keen not to be given the 'royal visit' treatment, but were also sensitive to David's comments that to deny a community the chance to welcome you on their terms might seem rude, so we were ready to just go with the flow. We did, and I'm glad that we did, and saw a set of riotous traditional dance routines and incredible singing performances.

One of the things I was most pleased about was that Max and Josh got to chat with school kids their age: both sides were initially nervous but were soon talking about football and music, as teenagers all over the world do.

I spoke at length with the teachers and Principal who were frank but diplomatic about the challenges and inequalities they face. The teachers at Mnyakanya were clearly doing their level best with few resources, limited access to training and barely any technology. It just didn't seem fair.

On a basic level, we couldn't bear the idea that these kids had to walk an hour or more to school, that many of them had only one school uniform that they had to wash and dry every night, that many of them had lost their parents and that they were keen to do better, learn, improve at sport yet didn't have the facilities loads of us take for granted. Without sounding pretentious, it was important that the three of us felt really uncomfortable with their reality compared to ours.

The visit ended with a football match where loads of the school girls came out and whooped every time one of my sons kicked the ball, much to the dismay of the shier son

but the unimaginable elation of the showman son. Back at the local hotel, my eldest got emotional about how unfair the world was, and how much we needed to help; my youngest got wound up about poor Wi-Fi in the hotel, and couldn't understand what teenagers at the school did when they didn't have easy access to the internet. The three of us left feeling that whatever we did, we needed to try and be bold and hopeful and support the teachers and staff in helping this community change its lot."



August 2015: Bambisanani gains Charitable Status

Following nine years of operating the Bambisanani Partnership gained charitable status.

David Geldart was thrilled 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 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.”

Headteacher, Darren Beardsley added: *“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:

“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.”

Baroness Sue Campbell CBE Chair, Youth Sport Trust

“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 look forward to continuing our work together and celebrating many more young people, who follow in the footsteps of Diana, Princess of Wales.”

Tessy Ojo, CEO of the Diana Award

Directing people to the partnership website, www.bambisananipartnership.org Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson tweeted: *“Have a look at this project. This is why sport can do so many positive things”.*

The Bambisanani Partnership charity duly appointed six Founding Trustees: Katie Campbell, Darren Beardsley, Duncan Baines, David Geldart, Diane Maguire and Barbara Pounder. David Geldart was subsequently elected as Chairman, Darren Beardsley as Vice Chair and Katie Campbell as Company Secretary and Treasurer of the charity. Additionally St. Mary’s also appointed Mrs Catherine Chattoe to coordinate the work of the partnership.



“Have a look at this project. This is why sport can do so many positive things”.

Tanni Grey-Thompson

September 2015: International Award for Bambisanani Partnership

Rotary International honoured St. Mary’s ground-breaking work in South Africa with one of its highest awards, the *Certificate of Appreciation*.

A special Awards Dinner was organised by the Rotary Club of Aireborough with representatives from Rotary Clubs throughout the region attending. The prestigious award was presented to the Founder of the Bambisanani Partnership, David Geldart and Mrs Catherine Chattoe, the partnership’s 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. Mary’s 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 on behalf of the Bambisanani Partnership 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 with 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.”*



September 2015: Bambisanani team meet South African High Commissioner

David Geldart together with Rob Wadsworth and Andy Lockwood from the University of Leeds met the South African High Commissioner to the UK, Mr Theminkosi Obed Mlaba, at a Civic Reception in Leeds. The University of Leeds became an increasingly significant key player in the work of the Bambisanani Partnership since Andy's visit to South Africa with the school. The High Commissioner praised the collaboration and the partnership's ongoing work in South Africa using sport for the greater good.



September 2015: Expert Centre for Global Learning

St. Mary's was recognised for its international partnerships and commitment to global education by the Global Learning Programme and designated as an Expert Centre for the national initiative.

This government funded programme encourages students to become more involved with international work and reinforces the belief that every child growing up in the UK should have the opportunity to learn about the world around them. The Global Learning Programme aims to help young people understand their role in an interdependent world, develop an awareness of sustainability and globalisation, enable teachers to move away from a charity to a partnership mentality and explore different models of development in the classroom.

St. Mary's has a long history of a number of international initiatives including Bambisanani, World Challenge, the Comenius project linking European students together, Connecting Classrooms and, more recently, the Fairtrade Schools Award.

As part of the Expert Centre status, St. Mary's will deliver training to schools who sign up to the scheme and support them to develop their international work. Mr Jack Tunnecliff, RE teacher and Global Learning Co-ordinator at St. Mary's, was recently invited to speak at a national conference where he presented a session on 'Embedding Global Learning into the school ethos' which focussed on using school values as a starting point to develop genuine global learning.

"We are delighted to have been appointed as a lead school for the Global Learning Programme. This will enable St. Mary's to build on considerable strengths that already exist, as well as working with other schools to develop their partnerships."

Mr Darren Beardsley, Headteacher

"St. Mary's was invited to become an Expert Centre in recognition of their longstanding commitment to global learning. Global learning has been embedded into the whole school ethos, into the curriculum and is very apparent in the school environment."

Charlotte Hunt, Global Learning Programme

"The school is really excited to be embarking on this new initiative. It will help us to share our experience with others, as well as move closer towards our vision of becoming a world class Catholic school."

Mr Jack Tunnecliff



November 2015: Bambisanani Partnership involved in UK/South Africa Forum

David Geldart was invited to the South African High Commission in London to help establish a 'Sport and Education Forum' linking the UK and South Africa. The Forum was hosted by the South African High Commissioner, Thembinkosi Obed Mlaba, who spoke passionately about the power of sport in society and the importance of the two countries working together.

David Geldart highlighted the potential of the initiative: *"The Sport and Education Forum involving the UK and South Africa is an exciting development that has the potential to bring real benefits to both countries. The Bambisanani Partnership and indeed Leeds as a City have much to contribute to the process. The Forum aims to create ways of sharing best practice in both countries and develop effective ways of working in partnership. I am delighted to be involved and look forward to the group making a real impact."*



December 2015: Digital technology developments at Mnyakanya

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

Mrs Pk Zondi at Mnyakanya School explained: *"The 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 KwaZulu-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 utilise digital technology in the teaching and learning process."*



Mnyakanya School Principal, William Vilakazi said: *"All our staff members received training on how to use tablets in the classroom situation and to link them with different subject content. We also received 31 tablets, charging trolley and cap device. We as Mnyakanya High are so grateful with the donation and promise to take good care of it for future use. Hopefully, our children will benefit a lot from this project and it will change their lives too. We as staff members in conjunction with the Board of Governors wish to express our sincere appreciation and thank all the funders of the project, the people who made it possible for us. They have laid a foundation for better, brighter and promising future for our learners. May God bless you all."*

David Geldart reinforced the importance of the development: *"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."*



December 2015: Karl recognised with Sbonelo Magwaza Award

Karl Verspyk received the prestigious Sbonelo Magwaza Award at the St. Mary's Sixth Form Presentation Evening. The award was presented by Guest of Honour and former St. Mary's student Monsignor Paul Grogan. Monsignor Grogan said that young people had an amazing capacity to do good in the world and that the Bambisanani Partnership was a wonderful example of that. He praised Karl's achievement and his genuine commitment to making a difference for others.

Karl said: *"It is a real honour to receive this award. It is great that Sbonelo's name lives on through this inspirational award; his family must be very proud."*



February 2016: Bambisanani Logo Competition

A competition to design a special logo to celebrate ten years of the Bambisanani Partnership was won by Year 7 student, Jack Lynne. Jack's design was chosen from over a hundred entries and was used throughout the anniversary year. At a special presentation a delighted Jack received a framed copy of the logo.



April 2016: Bambisanani Concert

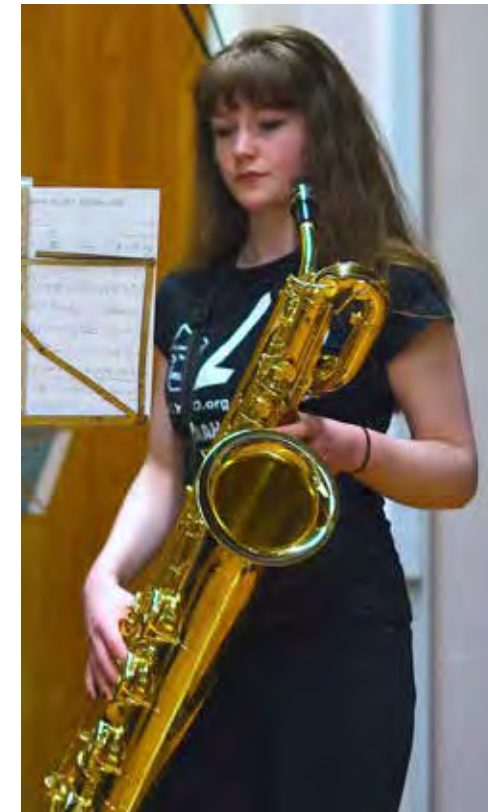
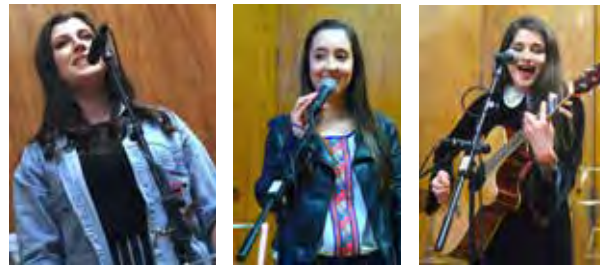
The annual Bambisanani music concert organised by Brad Dobson and Brendan Duffy proved to be another remarkable success. There were performances from the St. Mary's and Cardinal Heenan Jazz Band, the St. Mary's Ukulele Orchestra and the Leeds Youth Jazz & Rock Orchestra.

The night showcased individual talent from St. Mary's students with solos, duets and small group ensembles which involved: Kathryn Bradley, Aelis Bray, Phoebe Kendal, Eve Brown, Catriona Sandground, Caragh Casserly, Melissa Redmond, Hattie Barnes, Sylvia Cullen, Rebecca Hyde, Tadhg Colins, Matthew Speed, Theo Labett, Matthew Overton, Keith Bray, Niamh Howley, Julia Silva, Rosa Greenhalgh, Sam Clifford-Hassan, Louis Buxton, Felix Kraam, Joseph Newman and Calum Diamond.

The concert raised much needed funds which went towards supporting the Bambisanani Partnership and the good work of the Leeds Youth Jazz & Rock Orchestra who now visit Durban annually to teach music.

"It was a most enjoyable evening with some fantastic musical performances. All those involved deserve great credit for their efforts. As ever with this event there was a wonderful community spirit."

Mrs C Chattoe, Bambisanani Partnership Co-ordinator



May 2016: Bambisanani benefactor returns to South Africa

Bambisanani supporter and benefactor Stuart Murphy first visited South Africa in 2015 and returned again, this time, with his partner, BAFTA winning TV producer, David Clews, who was responsible for *Educating Essex* and *Educating Yorkshire*. Stuart explains:

“David was keen to go out, see the school and meet the staff, as I’d been going on about it so much. I’d been able to tell him how the place is a real mix – the scenery can look like the Dales one minute or like the dusty vision one often has of Africa the next; that kids who might initially appear to be out of touch with the “modern world” have mobiles and social media ID’s; and that innocents from abroad can unwittingly cause multiple problems if they help in a way which isn’t culturally sensitive and finely directed.

As well as meeting everyone again at the school, which was a real pleasure, we also got to spend time with Tony Moodley from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education who shared with us many of the challenges he wrestles with daily. I knew Bambisanani had been keen to introduce the internet into the school, so the pupils and teachers could effortlessly access the rest of the world, whether it be for teaching lessons or to fire up imaginations beyond the world in which they find themselves. Tony is a long term supporter of the Bambisanani Partnership and was keen to support this aspiration. However, what I hadn’t fully realised was that the basic level of education in that part of KwaZulu-Natal can be so under resourced that even having the basic facilities of Mnyakanya means the school is way out of kilter with every other school in the area. We were asking the Department of Education to match the charity’s contributions rand for rand but we learned that that would use a significant amount of their annual budget and leave

other equally deserving schools bereft. Without the optimism and persistence of those in the Bambisanani Partnership one could be left sort of shaking one’s head, wondering how one even makes a dent. But you’ve got to start somewhere and believe that whatever you do, if it has even a small effect on one individual, it could have a marked ripple effect further down the line.

The second visit left me feeling both positive and anxious. Teachers were showing us how the classes were using the iPads, which was great, in a sense – they hadn’t been stolen, and students were seeing the power of technology to enhance their learning - but lack of training meant the teachers weren’t getting the best use of the technology. On my first visit, as that awful quote goes, “I didn’t know what I didn’t know”, whereas on the second one I could more clearly see the things the school were lacking. So it meant I came back with renewed vigour to get more school uniforms, sports kit, and access to the internet for Mnyakanya School.

For me, the real power of the Bambisanani Partnership is that it allows connections to develop and grow and be nurtured, for a lifetime – between the great students at St. Mary’s and those brilliant students at Mnyakanya; between the inspiring leadership at St. Mary’s and the gifted progressive team at Mnyakanya; and for me very personally between my own children and their now friends, six and a half thousand miles away.”



“For me, the real power of the Bambisanani Partnership is that it allows connections to develop and grow and be nurtured, for a lifetime.”

Stuart Murphy

June 2016: University of Leeds visit South Africa

A significant development in 2015 and 2016 was the involvement of the University of Leeds with the Bambisanani Partnership. Having visited South Africa in 2015 as part of the St. Mary's team, Andy Lockwood from the university worked tirelessly with David Geldart and Catherine Chattoe to establish the exciting new dimension. One year on from his initial visit Andy led a team of thirteen from the university to further develop the work of the partnership. This included members of staff Charli Brunning and Eamonn Laird together with students Ellie McGrath, Sian Jones, Jess Fogarty, Ellie McKeating, Rachel Weaver, Jade Lord, Shona Macleod, Rosie Kerr and Sofia Capellini Townshend.

During the two week visit the team worked on three distinct projects. In the town of Eshowe they worked with over one hundred children from three primary schools: Gratton, John Wesley and Holy Childhood Convent, teaching sport, a range of other curriculum areas and a sports leadership course. At Mnyakanya High School the team introduced a unique cycling project, 'Cycling to Success', which was devised by Andy Lockwood specifically for the visit. This landmark project effectively introduced cycling to this remote rural area and included students learning how to cycle, cycle maintenance and road safety. Twenty amazing Mnyakanya students became the first ever to successfully complete the *Cycling for Success* programme: Thembelani Bhengu, Lungani Mzobe, Thobeka Ntuli, Asanda Mchunu, Ntando Mhlongo, Siyabonga Mpanza, Thalente Ndllela, Qhubani Mkhwanazi, Zubenathi Shandu, Simphiwe Sithole, Thabiso, Mthethwa, Nontethelelo Ngubane, Nombuso Nene, Ntando Mpanza, Sphesihle Mbambo, Mzamo Khoza, Ayanda Mtshali, Ngubane Nokubonga, Sthabile Sithole, Andile Mlambo

In addition to this the team also spent two days volunteering at the remarkable Zulufadder Day Care Centre for orphans and vulnerable children.

Andy reflected: *"This all started back in March 2015 when I was lucky enough to be asked to a meeting by our then Head of Sport with David Geldart at St. Mary's School. This meeting would change many things, not just for myself but for us as a university, our students, the partnership and most importantly our friends in South Africa. The meeting opened my eyes to the partnership's fantastic work and the positive impact that sport, education and leadership was having. David is a thoroughly engaging man and as such sold us the vision of what we could achieve together. By the end of the next day, I was booked onto the 2015 visit with St. Mary's!*

That trip has led to a real change in me, a bit of a cliché I know but true all the same. I had the opportunity to work hand in hand with some magnificent students from the UK: their application, drive and enthusiasm was something to behold. There is nothing quite like it and it was truly inspiring. I am a passionate believer in development through service. The programme that the partnership has developed and refined gives their students a uniquely fantastic environment to grow, learn and most importantly have an impact on the lives of the young people they worked with.

I learnt so much from our South African friends. Their approach and outlook on life is very different to our own and in so many ways it is refreshing and inspiring. Their thirst for learning and their desire to grab and take opportunities is something that has changed the way I think and the way I approach my own life. We take so much for granted because of the vast wealth of opportunity at our feet. We should grasp and take hold of the opportunities we have and make the most of them. I am so glad I did when offered the opportunity to work with such a fantastic charity.

I returned from South Africa and was posed with the million dollar question, "what are you going to do now?"

Following my visit, I was convinced that we as a university could help support and develop the partnership's work. Inspired by Catherine Chattoe, we had the idea of developing cycling as a mode of transport for students at Mnyakanya. Over my initial two week stay, I had not seen a single bike but had seen hundreds of children walking long distances to get to school. After exploring the potential back in the UK, the 'Gryphons Abroad' programme was born as another aspect of the Bambisanani Partnership.



In October 2015, we selected nine University of Leeds students to become part of the first group to go out to South Africa to deliver a learn to ride and learn to maintain programme of cycling as well as an educational programme to local primary schools and supporting the Zulufadder Day Care Centre. The intervening eight months were very challenging, whether it be fundraising, transporting bikes to South Africa or sorting our student and staff team but the end goals were always in our minds and sustained us.

So with much work and a bit of luck, we arrived in June 2016, with everything we needed to deliver a fantastic programme. This simply would not have been possible if it wasn't for the fantastic Pk Zondi at Mnyakanya. She has been a real rock for the project, so enthusiastic and welcoming. Her input into what we delivered proved invaluable.

Over the course of three days we planned to take sixteen beginners and turn them into cycling superstars who could also fix and maintain their new bikes. I must say that the three days were very special. I felt so privileged to be able to stand out in the stunning Nkandla scenery watching some real impactful development work in progress.

Our students were superb, so supportive and encouraging of our South African learners. Their approach was excellent and commitment was second to none. The development through service I so value was happening in front of my eyes. You could see our students grow ten foot tall! The skills and experience they have gleaned from this will stand them in good stead for whatever comes next.

The South African learners lived up to expectations and so much more. Their resilience and persistence is most definitely something that a lot of children in the UK could learn from. Failure as a concept doesn't seem to exist! Fall off the bike, dust yourself down and go again was the general message. They were like a giant group of bouncy balls! The smiles on faces when they started to get it and finally rode on their own. Magical! The bike maintenance element of the programme was a real surprise. I am convinced that both

our students and the South African learners enjoyed this the most. Nothing beats the sight of twenty people putting sixteen bikes back together in the middle of a field! Two life skills accomplished and ones which will have a real impact on their life chances, employability and geographical reach.

The work of the partnership is simply fantastic, to see the impact that it has on all concerned draws you in and makes you want to give more. It is a real honour to be associated with Bambisanani both on a personal level but also as an institution. This partnership is one that will continue to grow. The next few years are going to be very exciting! I can't wait."

Significantly, the students that visited South Africa represented a wide and diverse range of faculties from the university. They all made outstanding contributions to the visit and helped move the partnership on to yet another level. Their personal perspectives of the visit reflect the impact they had on others and the impact of the experience on themselves:

"One wall in the school is dedicated to motivational quotes from the children. One child had written "When life puts you in a tough situation, don't say 'why me?' say, 'try me'". I found this utterly uplifting, that a child who had come by hard circumstances and faced presumably huge challenges in life, could have such a positive outlook on life. I hope that in the future, when faced with a setback, I can think of this and be grounded by this child's words."

Rosie Kerr



"I applied to volunteer in South Africa with the aim of inspiring children through sport and providing them with the training and resources to teach others. I honestly believe that our team have achieved this. For me, this has been an opportunity to develop my skills as a leader. But more importantly, I have learned about the children of South Africa and how determined, happy and grateful they are to be taught new things. I hope that we leave a lasting impression on many children and they teach each other new things. The aim was to inspire and I believe we have inspired them but more importantly, they have inspired us."

Ellie McKeating



“Our time in South Africa has all come to an end, and it has been one of the best experiences of my life. It’s left me with more than just extraordinary memories, it’s taught me some valuable lessons about myself. I’m not ashamed to say that when I first arrived in South Africa I believed in some of the stereotypes which are depicted to us in the UK media, and now I know that’s not everything...I’ll always be grateful that I was able to come to this amazing country and learn so many things that I never thought I’d learn and meet people that I’ll never forget. Until next time!”

Sian Jones

“After spending almost two weeks out in South Africa it is clear to me that I have learnt a lot from this trip. Not just in terms of knowledge about the country but also about myself. In terms of the country itself, my eyes have been opened and what most people view as a deprived society is rather inaccurate. Although there are many areas of poverty and underdevelopment, there are also successes to be seen and it is nice to see that there is some progress being made.”

Shona Macleod

“Arriving in South Africa it didn’t take long to learn just how different things are compared to the UK, it was really important to put aside my UK brain and to put my South Africa hat on...After spending just a short time with these children I have learnt not only to be grateful but to be happy for everything I do have.”

Rachel Weaver

“To summarise my whole experience, I can honestly say it has changed the way I think. The whole concept of helping others in need couldn’t be any more relevant to me now. I have everything I could ever need and the opportunities to succeed in life of which I have never felt so grateful for after this visit to South Africa. I just hope that I have inspired these children to achieve and to never give up, even in the face of adversity. All I want to do now is to give them that chance because I couldn’t be more appreciative of the opportunity they gave me which helped better me as a person. They were all fantastic children to work with and I will never forget what I have learnt from this experience!”

Jade Lord

On returning to the UK from this immensely successful first visit to South Africa preparations began for a 2017 visit to extend the University of Leeds work as an integral part of the Bambisanani Partnership.



“I learnt so much from our South African friends. Their approach and outlook on life is very different to our own and in so many ways it is refreshing and inspiring. Their thirst for learning and their desire to grab and take opportunities is something that has changed the way I think and the way I approach my own life. We take so much for granted because of the vast wealth of opportunity at our feet. We should grasp and take hold of the opportunities we have and make the most of them. I am so glad I did when offered the opportunity to work with such a fantastic charity.”

Andy Lockwood

June 2016: Tenth Anniversary visit to South Africa

In its tenth anniversary year another group of determined pupils travelled to South Africa to further the work of the Bambisanani Partnership at Mnyakanya High School, Ntolwane Primary School and Zulufadder Orphanage. The visit was led by Giles Wilkes and supported by Tom Pringle and Elle Jackson, all teachers at St. Mary's, along with Chris Mullarkey from Leeds Trinity University.

The pupils tasked with ensuring the success of the Tenth Anniversary visit were; Oliver Armitage, Amelia Walsh, Ryan Smith, Ben Hings, Chris Ginty, Aidan Conlon, Sean Moorby, Megan Lupton, Amy Collins, Sophia Lenik, Leah Delahay, Jayda Etienne, Elizabeth Westhead and Joanna Ciesluk. The St. Mary's team were supported, as has become the tradition, by four exceptional young leaders from Eshowe High school which is situated about an hour away from Mnyakanya School. Kuhlekonke Mhlongo, Nonsindiso Gwala, Taine Watkins and Keamogetswe Lebethe subsequently made crucial contributions to the programme. With the Rio Olympics in mind a key task for the St. Mary's and Eshowe students was to train Mnyakanya students in Leadership with the aim of then jointly planning and delivering Olympic themed Sports and Reading Festivals to over a hundred children from Ntolwane Primary School.

With outstanding mentoring from the St. Mary's and Eshowe students twenty two remarkably talented Mnyakanya students successfully completed the Bambisanani Leadership course and then jointly delivered two exceptional Festivals. The forty young leaders from three different schools and two different countries proved to be a most harmonious and effective team.





Following the highly successful Olympic themed Sport and Reading Festivals the Bambisanani Award Ceremony took place. The first to receive prizes were the enthusiastic participants from Ntolwame Primary School who had taken part in their first ever 'Olympic Games'. To great applause and appreciation the next to be acknowledged and recognised were the twenty two new Bambisanani Leaders from Mnyakanya all of whom proudly received their certificates: Sthandiwe Magwaza, Thaiente Ndieia, Mombuso Mene, Mzobe Lungani, Skhakhane Nonduduzo, Asande Mchunu, Simphiwe Arnold Sithole, Momcebo Magwaza, Mzamo Khoza, Thobeka Ntuli, Ayanda Mtshali, Nosihle Shangase, Zubenathi Shandu, Nontethelelo Ngubane, Mthewthwa Thabiso, Mkhwanazi Qhubani, Nokubonga Ndlela, Ntando Mbanza, Bhengu Phembelani, Ntandoh Mhlongo, Thabang Khanyile and Nonjabulo Ngcobo.

The joy and emotion intensified further as the annual awards were presented. As well as recognising phenomenal success all the annual awards also remember and honour three people, sadly departed, namely Lawrie M'Cauley, Sbonelo Magwaza and Saint John Paul II.

Award Winners:

Laurie M'Cauley Award for the Most Improved Football Player: Ntanzi Zethembe

Laurie M'Cauley Award for Creative Writing: Nomzamo Ndlovu

Sbonelo Magwaza Outstanding Leader Award: Mlambo Andile

John Paul II Foundation for Sport: Sportswoman of the Year Award: Langelihle Ntuli

John Paul II Foundation for Sport: Sportsman of the Year Award: Sizwe Magwaza.

John Paul II Foundation for Sport: True Spirit of Sport Award: Bhekokwakhe Ngidi

John Paul II Foundation for Sport: Helping Others Achieve their Potential Award: Nokuphakama Mabaso

The celebration event concluded with a party to commemorate ten years of Bambisanani with speeches and traditional Zulu singing, dancing and food.



As is tradition, the final part of the visit was spent at Zulufadder Orphanage and Day Care Centre. Zulufadder is a charity that supports orphans and vulnerable children in the KwaZulu-Natal region. On this part of the visit reflection is at the fore, if not palpable. In addition to playing sports and games with the orphans the St. Mary's students had prepared a 'big read' where they took their favourite children's books and with a series of props brought them to life. The experience shared with the children at Zulufadder was as emotional as it was inspiring as indeed was meeting the legendary Popi Buthelezi who runs the Centre. Teacher, Elle Jackson in her daily blog from South Africa:

"The loving and caring environment that Popi and her amazing team provide for the orphans has to be seen to be believed; this is humanity in action. It was very moving to see how little they had and how happy they were. Some had no shoes, all had runny noses. The moment the children ran up to us, we were all friends and hugs and cuddles were the order of the day. The time at Zulufadder proved a truly humbling part of the ten day visit. Despite language differences there were no barriers to communication and the smiles on the South African children's faces will live long in the memory."

As with previous visits the effect on all those involved provided a remarkable insight into the impact of the partnership.

St. Mary's students:

"This year's visit to South Africa has been the greatest opportunity and experience St. Mary's has ever given me; I could never put into words the impact it has had on me. The Bambisanani Partnership is one of the most amazing things I have ever been involved in. Everything was so inspiring: the places we went, the people we met and the things we did. In the United Kingdom we have so much and don't always appreciate it but in KwaZulu-Natal every single thing is 100% appreciated because they have so little. We live in two different worlds but the Bambisanani Partnership unites us

both together so that everyone can enjoy happiness not only through sport but also through each other's company."

Amelia Walsh

"The sports and reading festivals were generally considered to be the best day of the visit. After all the leadership training the Mnyakanya students responded in such an incredible manner. This was all about educating the students through sport and to see them adapt to the role so naturally filled all of the St. Mary's team with an extreme sense of pride. The orphanage too was an incredible experience. The memories of that day make me not sad but reflective of these children's situations. It is not sad there, it is a happy place to be and in comparison to some other children, they are lucky to have the support and guidance of Popi to nurture them as she is such a lovely, kind and giving woman. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to go on the Bambisanani visit and even more grateful for the people who I experienced it with."

Oliver Armitage

"It's difficult to summarise my experience in South Africa but undoubtedly it is my greatest achievement. The highlight of the visit itself was the intrinsic value each day at the school brought with it. The importance of education to the students of Mnyakanya High School and the pride they take in items we would consider every day essentials, such as school shoes, depicts that studying should not be taken for granted. The language barrier proved to be no issue: sport acted as a language itself. The Zulu culture of singing and dancing would leave anybody in total awe. Seeing how the students of Mnyakanya High School conduct themselves despite their challenging backgrounds, coming to school each day with a thirst for knowledge and without a complaint is inspiring. There are many things I have gained from my experience in South Africa, I now value education more and am more grateful for the opportunities that are gifted to me."

Aidan Conlon



“The loving and caring environment that Popi and her amazing team provide for the orphans has to be seen to be believed; this is humanity in action.”

Elle Jackson

“The language barrier proved to be no issue: sport acted as a language itself.”

Aidan Conlon



"I feel privileged to have worked with both the Eshowe and Mnyakanya High School students, who are, in my opinion, nothing less than international ambassadors for sport and education. Having never met a single person at the school before, initial nerves on both sides of the partnership may have been understandable, yet within minutes we were chatting, laughing and playing together as one. The accumulation of a year's hard work, particularly from staff members in the UK and South Africa - occurred on our last day at the high school. It was on this day that over a hundred local primary school pupils participated in a sports and reading festival. I will never forget sitting in the assembly hall at Mnyakanya, the room filled to capacity, when pupils no older than nine or ten began to perform a traditional celebratory Zulu dance for us. As hundreds of voices began to sing the same song in unison, I felt both humbled and inspired in a single moment. Reflecting upon my Bambisanani experience I am amazed at how much we saw and did. Meeting and working with people who have unbelievable amounts of hope and love for all, despite the situation they live in, is something I will remember for the rest of my life. People like Popi, the manager of Zulufadder orphanage (who never seemed to stop smiling during our visit!) are people who unknowingly act as role models to us all and make the Bambisanani Partnership what it is."

Ben Hings

"South Africa has had a wonderful impact on me as a person and the way I carry out my life. The visit provided me with an insight into different cultures and the diversity by which they live. In some aspects of the visit it was shocking to see the extent of the poverty that they had to live in; however the visit was rewarding as the satisfaction gained from working with the Mnyakanya students was a feeling I will never forget. The attitude to learning at the school was an amazing sight as the students knew they could not take it for granted. The atmosphere in the classroom was of determination to learn and no one wanted to distract each other. It was a rarity to see students telling classmates to be quiet rather than the teachers. The visit was an amazing experience as every day was just as eventful as the last. Driving through South Africa from Eshowe to Mnyakanya each day opened my eyes to the contrast in life between not just our experiences of life and theirs but also the lifestyles of the Eshowe students to the Mnyakanya students. The Eshowe students, who we got to know very well, were also shocked at the challenging conditions at Mnyakanya School. The highlight of my experience was seeing the students take the lead at the sports festival as they carried out this task brilliantly. It just showed how much they embraced and took on board everything we had taught them about leading. They were so dedicated to the task and it was sad to have to leave the school for the last time as it was clear how much the Bambisanani Partnership meant to us all. I would definitely like to return."

Chris Ginty

"The Bambisanani visit was the most inspiring experience of my life. The constant energy of all the South Africans resonated with me as they worked so hard in such challenging conditions. I realise now how lucky I am and the brilliant attitude of the students at Mnyakanya has made me appreciate this more and work so much harder. The Sports Festival was a perfect embodiment of the partnership as the UK and South African students worked in conjunction to produce a fantastic sport and reading festival. The partnership clearly means so much to the people we met and worked with. It was an honour and a privilege to be part of such a meaningful partnership, especially in its landmark tenth year."

Sean Moorby



“The highlight of my whole school career is most definitely the visit to South Africa as part of the Bambisanani project, it was an unforgettable experience and a visit I’d love to do again. Hosting the Sports Festival at Mnyakanya High School was without a doubt the most memorable part of my visit as the Mnyakanya students were able to confidently and successfully deliver sporting activities to primary school students which they have never been taught before, making all the work prior to the sports festival worthwhile. I thoroughly believe the Bambisanani Partnership has developed my perspective on what is truly important. Even though the students of Mnyakanya have various complications in terms of getting to school, with some students having to walk miles, their whole application to each day is something we should all aspire to.”

Ryan Smith

“I and the leaders from St. Mary’s strived to teach the students transferrable leadership skills that they could use in their future ambitions, and I believe we achieved this. In a matter of days the Mnyakanya students were soon taking over, in terms of leading their classmates; wanting to do things for themselves and enjoying the process. The sheer determination and talent which the students at Mnyakanya High School possess were both astonishing and inspiring. I learned so much from the South African students, not least their determination, endurance, eagerness and resolution. I feel the pupils from St. Mary’s could learn a lot from their counterparts at Mnyakanya. My life altering experience through the Bambisanani Partnership is one that I will always be immeasurably appreciative of. The organisation, and others like it, will forever be something I will continue to support and praise, after experiencing first-hand the colossal effort they make to achieve vast improvements to livelihoods in less privileged communities.”

Megan Lupton

“The Bambisanani Partnership is an experience I will never forget. Going to South Africa allowed me to better my skills in leadership, teamwork, teaching, and sport. It also gave me the chance to learn about a different culture in a completely

unique way. My favourite and most memorable part of the experience was meeting the African students, and the sports festival that took place the third day we spent at Mnyakanya High School. Meeting the students was very daunting because we suddenly had to get in groups, and talk to people who spoke a completely different language. However, the students were so enthusiastic and happy to have us in their school, that the language barriers became insignificant, and I realised we all had lots in common. The sports and reading festival were very rewarding. It was great to see how far the Mnyakanya students had come in such a small period of time, and how willing they were to learn and improve. Overall I had a great time in South Africa, it was quite humbling to see how little some of the children had, especially in the orphanage, yet they still kept smiling. If I had the opportunity I would definitely go again.”

Jayda Etienne

“Just imagine if somebody asked you where you would like to go in the world? Or what a life-changing experience would look like? Or how you, personally, could make a difference to the world around you? Before my visit to South Africa, I couldn’t answer these questions either. Simply, my highlight of the visit was the people. The people I met and shared my memories with really made my experience one that I will never forget. I will admit I was slightly apprehensive about the idea of getting to know the students and teachers at Mnyakanya High School as I felt I wouldn’t have much in common with them and that I would struggle with the language barrier. However, as soon as I witnessed how welcoming they were, I knew that this was never going to be a problem. Even in their situation, they were still the happiest people I have ever met. It was their enthusiasm and eagerness that struck me. In particular, Casper, a student I met at Mnyakanya, was someone happy to sit back and watch. Nevertheless, when given the chance to step up and become a sports leader, he wasn’t reluctant to give it his all. In addition to this, I also met Dando who, despite being one of the younger students, wasn’t afraid to ensure that your feet were behind the starting line. It was moments like these that proved to me the potential they had of becoming successful

young leaders, all they needed was the chance to have a go. This is what the Bambisanani Partnership and our visit to South Africa was all about. I can’t emphasise enough how much I have learned throughout this journey with the Bambisanani Partnership. The opportunity has enabled me to step out of my comfort zone and thus grow as a person. With a sheer passion for sport, I loved how the organisation used this as a way of reaching out to those of very different backgrounds. It has taught me that, in spite of our differences, sport can unite us and break down all barriers.”

Leah Delahay



“What does South Africa mean to me? What did this experience teach me and how did it change my views? How did the visit impact the lives of those in Mnyakanya High School? These and many more questions have been lingering in my mind as I’ve been trying to fabricate my experience into words. South Africa is an experience so unbelievable it’s impossible to describe how much it means to me. I have learned so much about a different culture and about myself. I have been inspired by the Mnyakanya students in so many ways particularly their commitment to education. I could not write about South Africa and not mention the miracle that is Zulufadder Orphanage for children, mostly 3-11 years of age, whose parents or relatives have died of HIV/AIDS. The woman who runs the orphanage is called Popi and she is the most extraordinary woman I have met. Her life is the children and all she does is to make them happy and give them an education and a brighter future. Going to Zulufadder you would expect these children to be miserable and sad due to the circumstances they are in. This was most definitely NOT the case. There was so much joy and love there, it was inspiring and it showed me how much having people you love around you changes the way you view the world.”

Joanna Ciesluk

“The visit to South Africa has been the highlight of my time at St. Mary’s. It was incredible to learn more about a culture so different from our own. Most of our time was spent at Mnyakanya High School with their sports leaders. I found the way they joined in every activity and welcomed us so warmly inspirational, and the importance of a positive attitude (and even just smiling) was very apparent. I enjoyed seeing a landscape and country so different from our own, from the monkeys on the roof of the guesthouse to the talk on South African history by Graham, the guesthouse owner. It was also fascinating to spend time with the students from Eshowe, learning about yet a different way of life, and seeing the contrast between the two schools which are only half an hour apart. I experienced the power of sport to unite people, and how sport has the power to overcome language

and cultural barriers and bring people together. I learnt many things whilst in South Africa: a few Zulu words, some traditional dancing, but most importantly I learnt the importance of making the most of every opportunity. The visit has changed my outlook on life, and I will never forget the incredible memories I have of my time in South Africa.”

Elizabeth Westhead

“I can’t even begin to express how amazing the visit to South Africa was. What an extraordinary partnership it is! We also had the opportunity to meet some University of Leeds students who had been working with the schools and orphanage. They explained how they had had such an incredible and inspiring few days at the schools and a few days later we got to experience first-hand what they had been talking about. When we met the students at Ntolwane and Mnyakanya we were amazed to see how much talent they had. Children who were only six years old, looked like they were professionals at dancing and singing. It was astonishing! When they all just burst into song and were dancing I was in awe! They all had smiles on their face and were just living in the moment, not seeming to have any worries in the world! The atmosphere was so beautiful! The literacy and sports festivals were incredible. The students who participated were so eager to learn and get stuck in and they never once complained about anything! Not even the fact that most of them were barefoot whilst playing sport. They just had a blast, and seemed to enjoy every minute. Throughout the visit we were one big happy family. When I look back on the visit now, I miss every moment! However, I treasure every single memory. I have learnt so much from this visit. Each and every person I met whilst on the visit was so kind, happy, considerate, so full of life and welcomed us all with open arms. I will apply the wide range of skills and experience I have gained from this journey to other future events in my life and I will remember this once in a lifetime visit forever.”

Amy Collins



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

“The Bambisanani Partnership means being together, working together and learning together. Bambisanani helps everyone to be confident about their skills in sports. It also trains leaders to provide leadership when it is needed. Bambisanani helps others to learn skills for sport, school and life. The partnership is known for bringing black people and white people together so that everyone is able to speak the same language. We all learned so much from being together.”
Simpfiwe Sithole

“The Bambisanani Partnership is a good partnership because we work in cooperation with each other. It has taught me so many good things such as sport and leadership. We were able to organise Sports and Reading Festivals for learners from Ntolwane with our new skills. The partnership has provided a library and given us books so that we can study different languages and subjects. It has also provided us with tablets to learn and study. The partnership brings the youth from two cultures together and we work in harmony. I have enjoyed developing as a leader and passing skills on to others. We make friends and share in this partnership.”
Ntando Mbanza

“The Bambisanani Partnership is a good partnership because we work in cooperation with each other. It has taught me so many good things such as sport and leadership. We were able to organise Sports and Reading Festivals for learners from Ntolwane with our new skills. The partnership has provided a library and given us books so that we can study different languages and subjects. It has also provided us with tablets to learn and study. The partnership brings the youth from two cultures together and we work in harmony. I have enjoyed developing as a leader and passing skills on to others. We make friends and share in this partnership.” Ntando Mbanza
“Bambisanani has done so much for both our schools. It has brought us together to learn and create friendships. I have learned so much from the Leadership course which has made me a more confident person and that is a very big thing for me. I enjoyed learning about the UK and teaching my new friends about Zulu life. The Sports and Reading festivals were a great success and we did it together. We love you with all our hearts.”
Sthandiwe Magwaza

“The Bambisanani Partnership is important in our school and in our community. It is important also in the UK and that is the partnership. It is about working and learning together. It was great to make friends with the St. Mary’s learners, we have many differences but we are similar in so many ways. The Bambisanani Leadership course has taught me how to be humble, respectful, reliable and optimistic. I am very grateful to the Bambisanani Partnership for all it has done for me.”
Nontethelelo Ngubane



For the teachers too, the visit had a significant impact:

“Having been part of The Bambisanani Partnership prior to this visit for two years, I felt incredibly privileged to lead the 2016 visit that also celebrated ten years of working hand in hand. Firstly, I must fully commend my colleagues Tom Pringle, Elle Jackson and Chris Mullarkey for their enthusiasm, drive and input making the whole experience one that, in my opinion, will never be topped. Secondly the St. Mary’s pupils: their humility, passion and energy to deliver meant the visit this year was faultless in its execution. And last, but certainly not least, the Mnyakanya students: their willingness to learn, to contribute, their ambition and their friendship is what makes this partnership grow and grow. The work done in South Africa continues to amaze me, sometimes when you are so absorbed in the day to day goings on back home it is good to reflect on what actually happened in those wonderful days in KwaZulu-Natal. It amazes me how the two sets of students from England and South Africa took less than ten minutes to become friends, happy in each other’s company and trusting of each other’s abilities. The students involved in the partnership are tasked with ‘standing on the shoulders of those that have been before them in order to reach another level’ and year on year this is precisely my experience. I was in regular contact with home and with every passing day I was so proud to relay how amazing the pupils were, they were true ambassadors for the UK and South Africa, doing things that someone of many more years’ experience would struggle to achieve. The dust of the South African fields has been brushed off but South Africa and this experience will stay with me forever.”

Giles Wilkes, Group Leader

“As a past pupil of the school, I know how important our international ties are and when I joined St. Mary’s in 2009 I was excited to share in the Bambisanani project. To get the opportunity to actually go on the visit filled me with both excitement and trepidation as I joined the team on the tenth Bambisanani visit. I learnt and gained so much from my time in South Africa. I was honoured to watch our pupils deliver the leadership programme to a group of young African

people; I burst with pride watching our pupils in action. I felt truly honoured to witness the bonds of friendship and teamwork forged with their South African counterparts. To be part of the sports and reading festivals delivered by both sets of leaders was an inspiration. I was overwhelmed by everyone I met in South Africa, and was full of admiration for the inspirational young people I had the privilege to meet. The commitment and diligence of their teachers and staff also reinvigorated my enthusiasm for the job. I am delighted to be returning to South Africa in 2017, when I hope to be leading the visit. It is a project that I am deeply passionate about and I cannot wait to see the pupils we met last year, all the staff and leaders and to experience the unique feel of the Bambisanani Partnership.”

Elle Jackson, Teacher, St. Mary’s School

“The Bambisanani Partnership has created an openness and link between people from South Africa and the UK, giving opportunities to our young group of students to explore and develop their talents, learn new skills, develop communication skills which will help them to be the best South African citizens and be able to adapt to any kind of situations and challenges both locally and abroad. It has given hope to our communities that learners can communicate easily and share ideas, language and culture. It has given both educators and learners a motivation that each and every morning, every day when they wake up going to school and work, that more can be achieved through this partnership.”

Mazet Zanele Langa, Teacher, Mnyakanya School

“The visit to South Africa was an outstanding success and what a way to celebrate our Tenth Anniversary. Giles Wilkes led an exemplary team who, as a result of hard work and determination, have made such a positive impact on the lives of many teachers and students both in South Africa and in the UK. Bringing the theme of the Rio 2016 Olympics to Mnyakanya High School was a great idea. Hosting their own ‘Olympic Games’ out in rural South Africa, would to many, be seen as an impossible task. The Bambisanani team took on the challenge and won. Whilst no world records were broken,

there were certainly many ‘personal bests’ achieved during the visit. It is clear from the personal accounts of the teachers and the students in both countries that we are making a significant difference to the lives of many people. We have students and teachers working together for the common good: the very essence of ‘Bambisanani’. Everyone involved has grown, achieved and developed a wider view of the world. Bambisanani is such a positive project that continues to go from strength to strength. There is so much more to do and we intend to keep on going.”

Catherine Chattoe, Bambisanani Coordinator



July 2016: St. Mary's students honoured with Diana Award

"Everyone needs to be valued. Everyone has the potential to give something back."

Diana, Princess of Wales

Thomas Brady, Jessica Carroll, Chris Chavez-Cronin, Ben Cheetham, Marienn Collins, Joseph Copsey, Dominique Cunningham, Will Giles, Niall Hogan, Hannah Jowett, Mitchell Lofthouse, Elliot Mulligan, Rebecca Still and Lucy Tindale were awarded the Diana Champion Volunteer Award for their work in South Africa as part of the Bambisanani Partnership. The students visited the country during the summer of 2015 and were responsible for mentoring young leaders from Mnyakanya High School through the Bambisanani Leadership Award. In addition, they also taught at the school and together with Mnyakanya students, were responsible for organising community reading and sports festivals. The St. Mary's students also worked at Ntolwane Primary School and Zulufadder Orphanage.

At the prestigious awards ceremony which took place at the Leeds College of Music, seventy five young people from the Yorkshire and Humber region were presented with awards for their exceptional work and inspiration.

"The Diana Award is proud to recognise incredible young people like the St. Mary's students who have the confidence and courage to stand up for what they believe and go out and make a difference in the world. The Diana Award is presented to inspirational young people who work to improve the lives of others in their schools and communities. These outstanding young people have invested a huge amount of time and energy to improve the lives of others and receive this Award, in memory of Princess Diana, with pride."

Tessy Ojo, CEO of the Diana Award

"We at St. Mary's are extremely proud of the students. The Diana Award is a great honour which will encourage them to continue their fantastic work and hopefully inspire others to also make a difference in the community."

Catherine Chattoe, Bambisanani Coordinator at St. Mary's



September 2016: Cardinal Maritime Golf Day for Bambisanani

Long term supporter of The Bambisanani Partnership, logistics company Cardinal Maritime, held their annual Charity Golf Day in aid of the Bambisanani Partnership at the prestigious Mere Golf Club in Cheshire. The fabulous event involved sixty four players and raised over £1335 for the Bambisanani Partnership. The event was joined by professional women's tour player, Carly Booth and players had an opportunity to 'beat the pro' on the eighth hole. Barry Miller, Howard Mayne, Andy Lockwood and David Geldart represented the Bambisanani Partnership in the competition.

Speaking at the Awards Dinner after the event David Geldart had the opportunity to talk about the work of the partnership and thank all involved for their generosity. Rob Cross, Managing Director of Cardinal Maritime, applauded the work of the charity saying: *"The Bambisanani Partnership is making a real difference in a very challenging part of the world. Our staff in both the UK and South Africa have been privileged to be involved in this wonderful work."*



September 2016: Bambisanani Bursaries support more students into University

The Bambisanani Board of Trustees awarded bursaries to support three more Mnyakanya students to take up places in Higher education. Sakhiseni Sikhakhane will now be able to study for a Diploma in Maritime Studies at Durban University. Sthembiso Nxumalo will pursue a Diploma in Music Production at Durban College of Creative Arts and Zuzumuzi Shezi has accepted a place to study for a Diploma in Childcare at Innovatus College, Durban.

The three students could hardly believe the news of the bursaries which they heard from the Bambisanani Coordinator at Mnyakanya, Mrs Pk Zondi.

“My background and circumstances have not been easy but now I have an opportunity of a lifetime. It is an incredible honour to be awarded a Bambisanani bursary. I have been interested in Maritime studies for some time and the bursary will help me achieve the goal. I am going to love it. I cannot thank everyone concerned enough for their help and support.”
Sakhiseni Sikhakhane

“This is dream come true for me. Music is my passion and my ambition is to one day become Music Producer. This bursary will allow me to go to college and study. Without the bursary I would not have been able to accept the place which I worked so hard to gain. May God bless the Bambisanani Partnership.”
Sthembiso Nxumalo

“I wish to thank the Bambisanani Partnership very much for supporting me financially in my studies. This support has changed my life completely because when I was offered a

place on the Educare diploma I did not know that I would be able to complete it because there is no one working at home. With the Bambisanani bursary I'm now having hope that I will change this bankrupt situation at home and in my community. I will work very hard to achieve my dream of becoming a teacher of young children.”

Zuzumuzi Shezi

On behalf of the Trustees, David Geldart said: *“All three students have worked incredibly hard at Mnyakanya to be offered a chance to study at University or College. For a range of reasons it is difficult for young people from the rural communities to gain such places and then even more difficult to find the necessary funding. More needs to be done to support these young people. There is as much ability and potential in the rural communities as there is anywhere in the world but the barriers to achievement are enormous. The irony is that the hardship and adversity experienced by young people in these remote rural communities often creates the drive, resilience and persistence that is often lacking in more privileged young people. More opportunities need to be made available. We wish Sakhiseni, Sthembiso and Zuzumuzi all the very best in their studies. If it is down to desire and determination to achieve they will have nothing to worry about, indeed they are role models for other students, in both countries, in what can be achieved against all odds.”*



October 2016: Satellite dish brings the internet to Mnyakanya School

The culmination of three years work and fund raising brought the internet to Mnyakanya School in the latest phase of development to use computers and the internet to enhance teaching and learning in this remote rural school which has large class sizes and relatively few resources. Over the past two years the Bambisanani Partnership worked closely with Tony Moodley from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, Uthungulu District Office and William Vilakazi, Principal of Mnyakanya School to develop a comprehensive plan to utilise Information Technology to raise standards at the school and provide students with the necessary skills for the modern world. The plan initially involved providing training for teachers on integrating technology into their classroom teaching and introducing tablets to the school. Access to the internet now provides teachers and students with teaching and learning opportunities that would be taken for granted in the UK and indeed many schools in South Africa. The foundations have been laid for a more comprehensive ICT rollout out at the school so that the entire school and, hopefully, the surrounding community begins to benefit.

William Vilakazi said: *“Thanks to the Bambisanani Partnership we are the first rural school in the remote Nkandla region to have access to the internet. For the first time ever we are now literally connected to the rest of the world and have access to resources that in time will support all aspects of the curriculum. Our educators and learners are very excited and motivated by the prospect, a prospect that many thought would be impossible to achieve.”*

Tony Moodley highlighted the projects ambition: *“Our aim has always been to establish a ‘Beacon of Excellence’ in ICT at Mnyakanya for its own learners and the surrounding community. Training, some hardware and now the internet have given us a firm foundation to develop this work further. This innovative project has the potential to provide a blueprint for success for remote rural schools throughout South Africa. The project has been fraught with difficulties and frustrations but has also provided the opportunity for valuable lessons to be learnt; all those involved in the Bambisanani Partnership deserve great credit for their determination in making it happen.”*

David Geldart also stressed the potential and the challenge: *“I have always been blown away with the desire and determination of Zulu children to learn and at the same time been heartbroken by the sheer number of barriers that prevent them from doing so. In the global village these children are disadvantaged in so many ways and the absence of computers and the internet to aid their learning only serves to compound this. The ‘left behind’ have been increasingly left behind and the gap between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have nots’ has got wider. Access to this technology has the potential to transform teaching, learning and study at the school which in turn has the potential to transform the life chances of its students. The staff and students at Mnyakanya will seize this opportunity with both hands. None of this could have happened without the amazing work of Tony Moodley, William Vilakazi and Pk Zondi on the ground; they have my utmost admiration and gratitude.”*



“This innovative project has the potential to provide a blueprint for success for remote rural schools throughout South Africa.”

Tony Moodley,

Chief Education Specialist,

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

“I have always been blown away with the desire and determination of Zulu children to learn and at the same time been heartbroken by the sheer number of barriers that prevent them from doing so. ”

David Geldart

October 2016: British Council *International School Award*

For the third successive time in nine years, St. Mary's were re-accredited with the British Council's prestigious *International School Award*, in recognition of its work to 'bring the world into the classroom'.

The *International School Award* is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

St. Mary's international work includes long standing annual exchange visits to France and Germany, World Challenge expeditions, the most recent of which was held in Nepal, the Connecting Classrooms project, a global programme run by the British Council which creates partnerships between groups of schools in the UK and in other countries, and of course the multi award winning Bambisanani Partnership link with South Africa.

On hearing the news that St. Mary's had received the award, Mr Darren Beardsley, Headteacher said:

"We are delighted to have been awarded the International School Award. This is recognition for the wide range of partnerships that we have developed internationally over many years. We believe that as a school community we learn so much from working with our international partners and I would like to congratulate all students who have taken part in these activities and to thank all staff who provided the opportunities."

Donna Neale, International Coordinator at St. Mary's, highlighted the specific contribution that the Bambisanani Partnership makes to global education: *"As an International School, we are always seeking to develop our working relationships around the world. The Bambisanani Partnership has inspired global education at the school and offers students a unique opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and to develop the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens. Those who visit South Africa feel changed and describe how the impact will stay with them, and their families, for the rest of their lives."*

John Rolfe, from the British Council, added: *"The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Adding an international dimension to children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful future careers in an increasingly global economy."*



November 2016: First Bambisanani Bronze Award presented

Caitlin Copsey from St. Mary's became the first student to receive the new Bambisanani Bronze Award.

Mr Wilkes relaunched the Bambisanani Award Scheme last year. He asked for students to sign up for the award because they wanted to do something positive for themselves as well as helping people who are less fortunate than we are.

Students had to, in their own time, undertake the following tasks:

- Complete a Bambisanani related research project
- Raise over £50 for the Bambisanani Partnership charity
- Demonstrate excellent leadership skills on five separate occasions
- Deliver a Bambisanani presentation

The bronze badge was presented to Caitlin in assembly by Mrs Catherine Chatttoe, Bambisanani Co-ordinator, who said:

"I am delighted to be able to present the first ever Bambisanani Bronze Award to Caitlin Copsey. She has actually exceeded the requirements of the award and is so thoroughly deserving of the Bambisanani Bronze Award."



November 2016: Bambisanani charity gains a new Trustee

Andy Lockwood, Professional Development Manager at the University of Leeds, was appointed as a Trustee of the Bambisanani Partnership charity. Andy became involved in the partnership in 2014 and visited South Africa in 2015 with St. Mary's students and staff. Inspired by the visit he wasted little time in organising a visit of students from the University of Leeds to South Africa to develop the work of the Bambisanani Partnership. The visit in June 2016 which introduced a Leadership programme to over a hundred Junior School children and pioneered a unique cycling programme (*Cycling for Success*) at Mnyakanya School was a resounding success. Andy has worked tirelessly with the Bambisanani team over the past two years and has made a significant contribution to forging the partnership with the university. His personal commitment to fundraising has been amazing and last year involved him running the 127 miles of the Leeds Liverpool canal route!

Andy was clearly very pleased with his appointment: *"Over the last two years, I have had the privilege of working with the partnership, initially as a sponsored guest and more recently as a fully-fledged project partner through my role at the University of Leeds. I can quite honestly say that the partnership has had a profound effect on me as an individual and the way in which I view the world. Through my visit with the partnership in 2015 and the delivery of my own project in 2016, I have seen the positive effect the partnerships work has on the young people and communities it comes into contact with. Whether it be supporting young people in South Africa to develop their leadership and coaching skills or supporting our students to develop their skills and broaden their horizons. The charity has an impact upon everyone it comes into contact with. It continues*

to leave a lasting and growing legacy both in KwaZulu-Natal and Leeds. It is something that the charity should be very proud of. Sport has an amazing power to change and enrich the lives of young people and this is something that I am incredibly passionate about. I am committed not only through my role at the University of Leeds but personally to the continual development of this work and the good that it does. I believe that my passion and experience will help to develop the partnership further and that I will be able to contribute to its ongoing success. It is a great honour to be appointed to the Board of Trustees and I look forward to playing my part in this amazing charity."

Chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership, David Geldart said: *"Andy is an outstanding young man who has gained national recognition for his work in Sport Development and Leadership. He has demonstrated great commitment and personal investment to the partnership and has the vision and enthusiasm to make a significant contribution to the charity both strategically and operationally. Andy is a fantastic team player and leader and it is a privilege for us to have him on board."*



December 2016: British Council Premier Skills programme

Preliminary discussions took place between the Bambisanani Partnership and the British Council/Premier League to introduce the *Premier Skills* Programme in rural KwaZulu-Natal. Working with local partners the project trains grass roots community football coaches and referees and helps them develop community projects. Additionally the programme offers materials to support the teaching of English using football based content from the Premier League. The programme draws on the Premier League's global appeal and expertise in delivering community programmes in the UK, alongside the British Council's global network, track record of delivery and world class expertise in the teaching of English. Since 2007, 7,600 coaches and referees have been trained in 29 countries, who in turn have reached 1.2 million young people. 6,000 teachers have received training in the use of *Premier Skills* English materials, with over 3.5 million views of the materials online.

Through the Premier Skills programme, young people, including the most vulnerable in society, are given opportunities to work with their local community, to develop employability skills and raise their self-esteem.

David Geldart was very optimistic for the initiative: *"The talks were very positive indeed and I see tremendous potential for all concerned. The programme has been successfully introduced throughout the world and we are hoping to bring it to rural KwaZulu-Natal for the very first time using the Bambisanani Partnership and Mnyakanya School as a rural base. There is a passionate interest in the game within the Zulu community. The programme would dovetail perfectly with the work we are doing in the community in terms of Football Development, Sports Leadership training and raising achievement in schools. It would also fit in with our ambition to create a community*

football pitch in the area. Additionally, our recent internet connection would enable us to access the English Language teaching and learning materials. The importance of teaching English language in the area could not be overstated; ultimately all students sit their school exams in English, it is very much a passport to higher achievement and employability. We believe that our local knowledge and track record of using sport for greater good in the area will provide the very real prospect of significant positive outcomes."

Susanna Carmody from the British Council added: *"It's wonderful to see how a school sports partnership between schools in the UK and South Africa initiated under the British Council's Dreams and Teams programme has developed and grown into the sustained collaboration of the Bambisanani Partnership. Maintaining such a strong and collaborative relationship over ten years is not an easy task and demonstrates the commitment on both sides and the trust and understanding cultivated by the schools over the years. The British Council is proud to have supported the partnership and continues to explore ways to involve staff from the Bambisanani Partnership schools in its sports activities."*



Premier Skills



Premier
League

BRITISH
COUNCIL



“Maintaining such a strong and collaborative relationship over ten years is not an easy task and demonstrates the commitment on both sides and the trust and understanding cultivated by the schools over the years. The British Council is proud to have supported the partnership and continues to explore ways to involve staff from the Bambisanani Partnership schools in its sports activities.”

Susanna Carmody,

British Council

December 2016: Mitchell proud to receive Sbonelo Magwaza Award

The Sbonelo Magwaza Award for Outstanding Leadership was presented to Mitchell Lofthouse who visited South Africa in 2015. The award is made annually in both countries in memory of Mnyakanya student Sbonelo Magwaza; a remarkable Bambisanani Leader who is sadly no longer with us.

Typically modest and unassuming Mitchell was surprised with the accolade but obviously delighted:

“I am really appreciative of winning the award: it means so much to me. Being surrounded by good leaders throughout my time at St. Mary’s influenced me and inspired me to be the best leader I could be. In addition to this, spending time with the students in South Africa broadened my view of teaching, and encouraged me to take full advantage of the opportunity at hand to enhance my leadership skills. Winning the Sbonelo Magwaza award encapsulates how rewarding an experience and honour it was to go over to South Africa with the people I did. It is wonderful that Sbonelo continues to be remembered and continues to inspire.”

Bambisanani Coordinator, Catherine Chattoe praised Mitchell’s outstanding leadership skills, his contribution to life at St. Mary’s and his exceptional work in South Africa.



December 2016: Zulu Poet pays tribute to Bambisanani

In celebration of ten years of the Bambisanani Partnership former Mnyakanya student and poet, Melusi Jali wrote a special poem to mark the occasion. Melusi was a student at Mnyakanya when the partnership first began and has always supported its work with his poetry including performing live at numerous celebration events.

Bambisanani: The Evergreen

*The inner voice is a sound in the silence,
The inner voice is a sound inside a flowing river.
The spoken voice is love; carrying success, giving to those in need,
The spoken voice is limitless: nationally and internationally.
This inner voice and spoken voice met when a child called Bambisanani was born.
From United Kingdom to South Africa.
I still remember when you were born, Bambisanani,
I saw you; I still feel your presence within my hands. I held you, comforted you and smiled at you with tears in my eyes.
The bond we had, still exists and is alive today.
Rural Africa saw a light in the darkness.
Remember the poem I recited for you: "The Light in the Darkness"
From St. Mary's to Mnyakanya: families called schools. Now its ten years since this child was born.
In its tenth year this knot, this cord will tighten. St Marys and Mnyakanya our collaboration is loyal, Bambisanani, you're meaningful to Africa and Europe.
Bambisanani: you are a Prince or Princess of home: please don't leave us. You fed families through Sports and Education,
You raised dead bones into flesh. You are the hope to the hopeless, You are a father to the fatherless, You are a husband to widows.
Bambisanani: I am a living story to tell,
I am an Eyewitness.
Please comfort the generations born of Africa, Drugs, Alcohol and HIV and AIDS are killing Africa. Please be as united as solid rocks battered in the storms,
Be an evergreen reed in the river. Long Live Heroes and Heroines of Bambisanani.*

Melusi Jali, Zulu Poet



**January 2017:
South African High
Commissioner pays
tribute to decade of
work**



23 January 2017

Mr David Geldart
Founder and Chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership

Dear Mr Geldart

On behalf of the South African High Commission, I would like to congratulate the Bambisanani Partnership on accomplishing ten years of its collaboration between St. Mary's School and Mnyakanya High School in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.

I am most grateful for the continuous contribution you have made to the development and upliftment of the youth of South Africa. Your stimulating intervention brings courage and hope to the youth of South Africa.

Whilst I take note of the work you have done over the years in Kwa-Zulu Natal, I would like to acknowledge your most recent work in providing Mnyakanya High School with internet connection. As you can imagine, a technology-fuelled revolution is taking over schools, and for your partnership to reach out to one South Africa's remote rural schools is extra-ordinary. This will not only enhance teaching and learning at the school, but will connect learners with the rest of the world.

It gives me great pleasure to endorse the work you are doing as a positive contribution to the people of South Africa. Thank you for reaching out and making a difference by showing the spirit of generosity that is so characteristic of our United Kingdom friends of South Africa.

With my best wishes and support for your future endeavors.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Obed Mlaba
High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland

Yours Sincerely,

South African High Commission South Africa House Trafalgar Square London WC2A 2DP

*With my best wishes and support for your future endeavors
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7451 7124/5 Facsimile: +44 (0)20 7451 7287*

Yours Sincerely,

Conclusion: Looking back, looking forward

Here twelve key individuals involved in the Bambisanani Partnership, from both the UK and South Africa, offer their perspectives on the past ten years but also on the future...

Tony Moodley, Chief Education Specialist, KwaZulu- Natal Department of Education

It's unbelievable that the partnership has persevered for over a decade already and is surely a testament to the dedication and passion of the partners. Whilst the partnership is not about individuals, it is most certainly the amazing passion and drive of David Geldart that has ensured that it has flourished and blossomed into something beyond the initial dreams and goals of the British Council's/Youth Sports Trust *Dreams and Teams* initiative.

The partnership has had many material benefits which will be highlighted below but one aspect I believe is the ethos of the partnership, which is more important than just the material benefits it has provided. Firstly, it has allowed learners and teachers from both partner schools, Mnyakanya and St. Mary's to interact with each other through sport and sport related activities and given them

the opportunity to develop important skills and values such as leadership, tolerance, sharing, understanding of other cultures and foster continuing links between them. Secondly, it allows for a school community in a rural part of South Africa to become a part of the global village through their regular interactions with learners and teachers from the UK thereby fostering a deeper understanding of global citizenship – skills which will be invaluable to learners from rural communities like Mnyakanya who ordinarily may not have such opportunities. The partnership has further allowed Mnyakanya learners to participate in global initiatives, notably the Diana Awards, in which learners from the school were the first South African recipients of this award again highlighting the value the partnership has provided learners from Mnyakanya to participate in international activities.



The blossoming of the partnership in the past few years has seen it move beyond just being a leadership through sports initiative but graduate to becoming one which has taken a deeper interest in developing the lives of the learners of Mnyakanya even further through the formation of the Bambisanani Charity. Through the invaluable efforts and funding by the charity in 2015 Mnyakanya was able to initially begin the first phase of an ICT rollout programme at the school which saw educational tablets being introduced to the school and training for teachers. This has subsequently been followed by further funding from the charity which has seen the school becoming a part of the global village through the provision of a satellite Internet service at the school. Currently planning is at an advanced stage to further extend the ICT rollout programme with the provision of a computer laboratory at the school, further training for teachers, and installation of smartboards in classrooms. The latter phase of the project is likely to see the trust provide further funding to the tune of about £70,000(R1 000 000!). Step by step the lives of a small rural community are being altered through the sterling efforts of the partnership which is providing the means for its children to receive schooling in an environment that can rival schools in any urban setting. The technology that has been deployed thus far and that which is still to come also provides the learners and teachers of Mnyakanya the opportunity to engage and communicate more frequently with learners and teachers from their partner school St. Mary's to enhance the dreams of a connected world through developing connected classrooms. The partnership has further provided uniforms to learners from disadvantaged homes, sports equipment to the school and bursaries to a few learners to pursue university study. The partnership has also managed to gain the interest of other stakeholders like the University of Leeds which has provided the school with mountain bikes for use by learners who would normally walk great distances to school. Other stakeholders have also shown interest in developing a football pitch to further change the lives of the Mnyakanya learners and the surrounding community.

Given the extreme poverty that exists in many of our school communities and the challenges facing the Department of Education in changing the learning experiences of learners within such communities, the Bambisanani Partnership and more recently the Bambisanani charity has been instrumental in providing one small learning community in our district the means to change the lives of the homes they come from through providing a learning environment that is atypical to rural communities and more akin to learning communities in urban environments. The various initiatives rolled out thus far, most notably the ICT initiative, present a tremendous opportunity for the learners of Mnyakanya and the surrounding community to use the tools provided to view their lives differently and, hopefully, enable them to move out of the mire of poverty and limited opportunities they might have had in the past. The fledgling *Dreams and Teams* initiative has developed wings and may the Bambisanani Partnership soar to greater heights and give the learners and teachers from both schools, through their regular interactions, the opportunity to continue learning about the value and importance of global citizenship. To quote the founding father of our democratic state, Nelson Mandela: *'Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation.'*

It is my belief that the partnership and the assistance it provides to the community of Mnyakanya can allow for a lot more daughters and sons of peasants to take their rightful places in life and free their communities from the painful burden of poverty.

Darren Beardsley, Headteacher, St. Mary's School

When thinking about Bambisanani Partnership, it is important to consider the phrase 'Working Together, Learning Together'. These objectives are essential for a successful partnership in that we do learn so much together and that we support each other. Writing as the Headteacher of St. Mary's, Menston, I have been privileged to talk to staff and students who have benefited enormously from working with Mnyakanya High School. The philosophy of all involved within the partnership is that it is an equitable, sustainable and effective partnership that has a positive impact on both schools, but also the wider communities. The effectiveness of a school is often measured using examination data and this is important in providing opportunities for our students, but the real success of a school is how it works to develop young people so that they go on to benefit society in the future. We take this seriously and the skills and understanding that students develop in global citizenship, global justice, enterprise and leadership, by taking part in the partnership, equips them to make the world a better place in the future.

It is important that we celebrate the success of the partnership so far, but it is also imperative that we continue to develop our work. We are planning ways in which the partnership can influence younger students at St. Mary's with the introduction of the Bambisanani Award. The students have responded incredibly positively to this and I am delighted that we have recently presented our first award in an assembly at school. The influence on University students is also being enhanced by the involvement of two of our Universities in Leeds as part of the partnership.

All of these developments are exciting for the future of this inspirational work and continue to be driven by our desire to *'Work Together and Learn Together'*.



William Vilakazi, former Principal Mnyakanya High School

Through the Bambisanani Partnership I have witnessed many things I didn't believe could happen to the Mnyakanya community; through working together and learning together we have achieved so much since the inception of the programme in 2006. The partnership has connected South Africa and the UK and all of those that have been involved have been changed in some way because of the others that are involved. There is a saying in Zulu culture: *Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu* which means 'I am because you are'. This is the very spirit of the Bambisanani Partnership; it is what makes it an equal partnership in an unequal world, it is what creates the belief and hope that sustains and motivates our work.

Mnyakanya School and its learners have received tremendous support in terms of equipment, facilities and opportunities and now attracts many more young learners each year who want to be part of the Bambisanani Partnership. The partnership has taught our learners to love, share, and respect and not to discriminate against other people of different colour, race or religion. They have learnt to appreciate other people and the spirit of Ubuntu is now prevalent in the whole community.

The focus on sport and developing young leaders remains at the heart of our joint work and has led to many other developments. The fact that we now have the internet to support our teaching and learning is transformational and something that I still cannot quite believe; we are now literally connected to the outside world. The exchange visits of learners and educators is something else that we thought was impossible but it has happened and it has changed lives, as many aspects of this partnership have.



The Bambisanani Partnership is constantly developing and we are increasingly linking with other schools, universities and organisations in both the UK and South Africa. This project has taught me that we may have different horizons but we all live under the same sky and because of this we have to help each other in our journey through life. Mnyakanya School and St. Mary's School have been significantly enhanced because of the Bambisanani Partnership. This translates into so many young people from both countries who now see the world differently and wish to make it a better place.

I must here take the opportunity to mention the founder of the Bambisanani Partnership and its leader, David Geldart, who we call *Themba* (Hope). I have never ever met such a committed, dedicated man in making a difference in needy people's lives. He understands our challenges as if he grew up in South Africa and is a father figure to so many orphans.

This partnership has a bright future in both countries. We have many exciting plans for this year, next year and beyond. Our educators and learners need to take the partnership in both hands and pass it on from generation to generation.

May God bless the Bambisanani Partnership

Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann, CEO, John Paul II Foundation for Sport

The Bambisanani Partnership is a great example of Ubuntu (human kindness): what is good in KwaZulu-Natal is good in St. Mary's Menston. The relationship between the pupils in Yorkshire and South Africa has proved to be mutually life-enriching, even a life-changing, experience.

The enthusiasm with which the St. Mary's pupils speak about their time in South Africa and the way it has changed their thinking about so much of life, says it all.

Much has been achieved over the past ten years and even more will be achieved as this partnership builds on its experiences and the pupils in all the schools mature and move into adulthood.

Play is in our DNA and the importance of play through sport cannot be overstated in this remarkable partnership. As spirituality leads to religion so play can turn into sport with all the rules and sacrifices it demands for anyone with ambition to do well. Play and sport bridge differences, heal and rebuild communities devastated by war, disaster, disease and poverty.

Sport at its best enables young people to make their values visible as they acquire life-skills or virtues through their commitment to play. Sport at its best, which is driven by values, helps young people acquire the virtues they need to fulfil their God-given potential, it enables young people to find communities which support them on their faith journey through life. The Bambisanani Partnership is a key partner of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport and together we are using this approach around the world to help young people not only survive but even thrive in the harshest areas of our 'global city'.

Here's to another ten inspirational years at the Bambisanani Partnership; we look forward to working with you.



Logan Govender, South African Businessman and Entrepreneur

South Africa has a history of people from abroad attempting to “serve” the local community. Many of these missions flounder in time because they are designed to engender a feeling of goodwill more for the giver than the recipient. It is to the credit of the founder and his dedicated team that the Bambisanani Partnership has persisted for a decade. Bambisanani – working hand in hand – works because there is neither a giver nor a receiver. Two groups, from different ends of the planet, each borrowing from the culture of the other forge relationships through the medium of sport, changing perspectives of both from the experience.

I believe that hands that serve are holier than hands that are folded in prayer and I have had numerous personal experiences over the past ten years of how the interaction between the two groups, compressed into a fortnight, has fostered joy and hope in a world so full of gloom and turmoil that it overshadows the innate goodness of mankind.

From modest beginnings, Bambisanani has spread its reach and grown from sport to the social upliftment of a community through several sponsors being inspired to come aboard. The work now includes the participation of the University of Leeds, who have provided children facing a two hour walk to and from school with bicycles; sponsorship of a crèche for HIV & AIDS orphans; and the sheer joy that arises from and in anticipation of the annual interaction. The future looks bright for this community as plans are afoot to substantially enhance their lives. A sports field where once only a windswept dustbowl existed is an example of the improvements that are planned.

I consider myself a Bambisanani Partner and am delighted to have been involved with this noble project since its inception. I look forward to offering my humble help in the future in enhancing the experiences of the participants of Leeds as a small measure of thanks.

Long may Bambisanani live!



Pk Zondi, Bambisanani Coordinator, Mnyakanya School

The Bambisanani Partnership is the most wonderful collaboration that has ever been experienced by the Mnyakanya community. This partnership between Mnyakanya High School and St. Mary's School has enlightened many young people, adults and stakeholders of our community in many different ways. It is bringing hope to many families most of which are headed by under-aged orphans. The Bambisanani Partnership is playing a major role in encouraging many orphans to further their studies, by giving them financial assistance and many other educational needs. It has produced many young leaders who can stand up and do things on their own, to bring about change in their community. It also encourages many young people to work for excellence in all school activities, like in sports and academic activities and also in community activities. Joint learning activities initiated by the partnership have inspired young people from many schools in both countries. The yearly awards presented by Bambisanani Partnership to recognise young people for their good work is a great motivation for them to work hard in all areas of school life. It is very exciting indeed to share ideas with people who are from across the world in the UK, to work together towards achieving common objectives. It is unbelievable to see a school situated in a poor rural area like Mnyakanya becoming one of the most resourceful schools of KwaZulu-Natal, with tablets, library and have access to the internet in school computers. We are always so interested to hear of the impact of our work on the UK children; like ours many are profoundly influenced by the Bambisanani experiences. Bambisanani is helping to build a more educated, tolerant and caring society. We have ambitious plans for the future that will have a positive impact on even more young people.

At Mnyakanya High School we have no doubt that, this partnership is a blessing from God, who saw the life struggle in our community and brought this partnership to our school. We hope and pray that He will give us strength to grow this partnership to its highest level.

Long live the Bambisanani Partnership, long live, through working together and learning together.



Catherine Chattoe, Bambisanani Coordinator, St. Mary's School

The Bambisanani Partnership is something that I feel honoured and privileged to be a part of. The Bambisanani Partnership has been pioneering, innovative and determined in its work.

I have witnessed, first-hand, a unique partnership develop between St. Mary's, Menston in Leeds and Mnyakanya High School in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. I have seen how the partnership has made a positive impact on the lives of so many people. Anybody that comes into contact with its work will have been affected by it. The approach of the Bambisanani Partnership can only be admired. The international acclaim it receives is no surprise.

By working together with a shared vision, with equal respect and common values, the Bambisanani Partnership has achieved so much. It has provided new opportunities for so many, it has developed confidence and self-belief in those that have been fortunate enough to be involved with its work and improved leadership skills which has created new opportunities. I have seen it change the attitudes and aspirations of many; it has helped to shape people's lives in a positive way. Most significantly for me is how it has created so many long lasting friendships.

The last ten years have been incredible but I know this is just the start. The willingness, drive, spirit and energy from the Bambisanani team and its supporters is unstoppable. I know they are all ready and willing to continue their work because, inevitably, it makes the world a better place.



Mazet Zanele Langa, Teacher, Mnyakanya High School

This all started with one man's vision and his inspiration. Since 2006 this partnership has developed from one level to another to another. It has created much hope, dedication, commitment and considerable responsibility among learners, teachers and members of the community in both countries. It has taught our young learners how to develop their leadership skills and communicating skills as well as reaching out to the people who are in need. It has brought unity between the two schools (St. Mary's and Mnyakanya) and developed respect for each other's customs, cultures and traditions and learning new things every day. It has also taught our learners to be independent and creative. Having this partnership has raised the aspirations of our learners. Several are now attending University supported by the partnership. This is transforming lives, developing not only leaders for our community but also for our country. Through sport we are promoting education, health, leadership and global citizens. As we have developed we have included more schools and other organisations in our work. From one candle we have lit many more. In the next ten years we intend to keep the light burning brightly.

Our late president Mr Nelson Mandela once said "*sport has the power to change the world*" – the Bambisanani partnership has changed the world of so many of our young people by working together, hand in hand.



Barbara Pounder, Teacher at St. Mary's School and Trustee of the Bambisanani Partnership

I had often thought that South Africa held untold potential much like a child in my class who suddenly surprises you with a comment or a piece of perceptive writing. It has been my privilege to visit South Africa on four occasions as part of the Bambisanani Partnership. On my first visit the sights, sounds and smells of Africa came all at once and the prospects of new challenges excited me and our students. There I grew “African eyes” not just for spotting wildlife but for seeing the world like our students and Mnyakanya students did. As their shyness became less visible friendships were formed. The laughter and smiles of every young person will be etched in my memory, the skills learned and developed by both the African and English students filled me with the pride every teacher is privileged on occasions to witness. The relationship became organic and we all, staff and students alike, thrived on the passion and desire to do more that emerged during that first visit. Each time I have been back the essence of Themba (meaning ‘Hope’ in Zulu) has prevailed and indeed become stronger.

I think the impact of the Bambisanani Partnership has three levels; the personal, the educational and the spiritual.

The experience has enriched many lives, including my own, in ways which I can only describe as uplifting. There is a recognition for me that suffering and deprivation can be overcome when people are not forgotten and when interest is shown.

My faith in education and its power was reaffirmed with every visit. The desire of young people to learn, support each other and make a difference in the world is palpable.

I believe that spirituality, or whatever it is that people find deep within themselves, is a facet of resilience. For many, this partnership has brought them closer to humanity and the recognition of the strength and desire that they have to make the world a better place.

The future for the partnership lies with the people who care about its expansion and development. The partnership will evolve to become as embedded as any long lasting exchange of people and their skills and in doing so raise aspirations and build capacity. As long as the desire to enhance the lives of young people remains viable then this partnership will continue its important work.

It is an honour to be part of the Bambisanani family and now that my ‘African Eyes’ have been opened, I can’t close them.



Diane Maguire, Associate Principal Lecturer, Leeds Trinity University

The Bambisanani Partnership is a shining example of global learning at its best, with a truly inspirational team of people working together to make a difference to children and young people's lives in the communities of St. Mary's in Menston and in Mnyakanya School, KwaZulu-Natal. St. Mary's staff and partners have been innovative and creative in their approach to building this model of equal partnership and it is one of the best organised and sustainable models of global partnership I have seen in my teaching career. I believe in this project as it is one based on equal respect and shared values and I feel privileged to be involved in a small way in this wonderful work.

I believe the work of the Bambisanani Partnership will go from strength to strength in the future as it continues to gain recognition as a highly respected project based on mutual benefit, equity and trust. Leeds Trinity University sees this as befitting of our own Catholic mission statement and partnership will provide a tangible way of embracing the shared values both institutions espouse. I am convinced that this will enhance the work we do to develop Leeds Trinity as a global learning community.



Andy Lockwood, Professional Development Manager, Sport and Physical Activity, University of Leeds

The Bambisanani Partnership is a truly brilliant organisation. At its heart is something really special, a commitment to the enrichment of people's lives through education and sport. They are two of the most powerful tools known and the way in which the partnership harnessed them, has changed the lives of many people.

Over the last ten years, the partnership has made a dramatic impact with the work it has carried out. Whether it be training hundreds of young leaders, supporting educationalists or 'simply' expanding young people's view of the world and their place in it. The partnership is exceptional in what it does and fully deserves its international recognition.

What makes Bambisanani special? For me, it is that it is never satisfied with its work! The partnership is ambitious and always prepared to break new ground. It is particularly motivated when it is told that something is not possible. The plans for the next ten years are fantastic and will make a significant contribution to the development of young people and communities in both the UK and South Africa. The University of Leeds is fully committed to this partnership and is keen to play its part in the future. I can't wait to see what happens!



Graham Chennells, South African Businessman, President of Eshowe Rotary Club, Former Mayor of Eshowe

The Bambisanani Partnership is remarkable in many ways. For someone such as myself - having been born here and having been involved with numerous projects through the Eshowe Rotary Club for more than forty years - this project stands out mainly because of its interactive nature and the fact that it has blossomed and developed so tremendously over the ten years it has been in existence.

I consider myself very fortunate to have been associated with the project from its inception, and I have been overawed by the responses that I have seen from all the students involved.

St. Mary's pupils arriving in deeply rural Zululand suddenly realise what privileges they have always taken for granted, and are humbled by this encounter. The fact that such a rich history exists between the two countries adds to the spice of the experience. The Zulu children, likewise, suddenly start to realise that their horizons are not, in fact, limited to what they have always considered possible.

The *“Leadership Through Sport”* programme is particularly special for me. This fun programme encourages initiative and develops the organisational skills which our country so desperately needs. I have watched a large number of Zulu children being given a great boost of confidence by these interactions - surely a life-changing experience for them.

Here is to another 10 years!

Ngiyabonga kakhulu Bambisanani



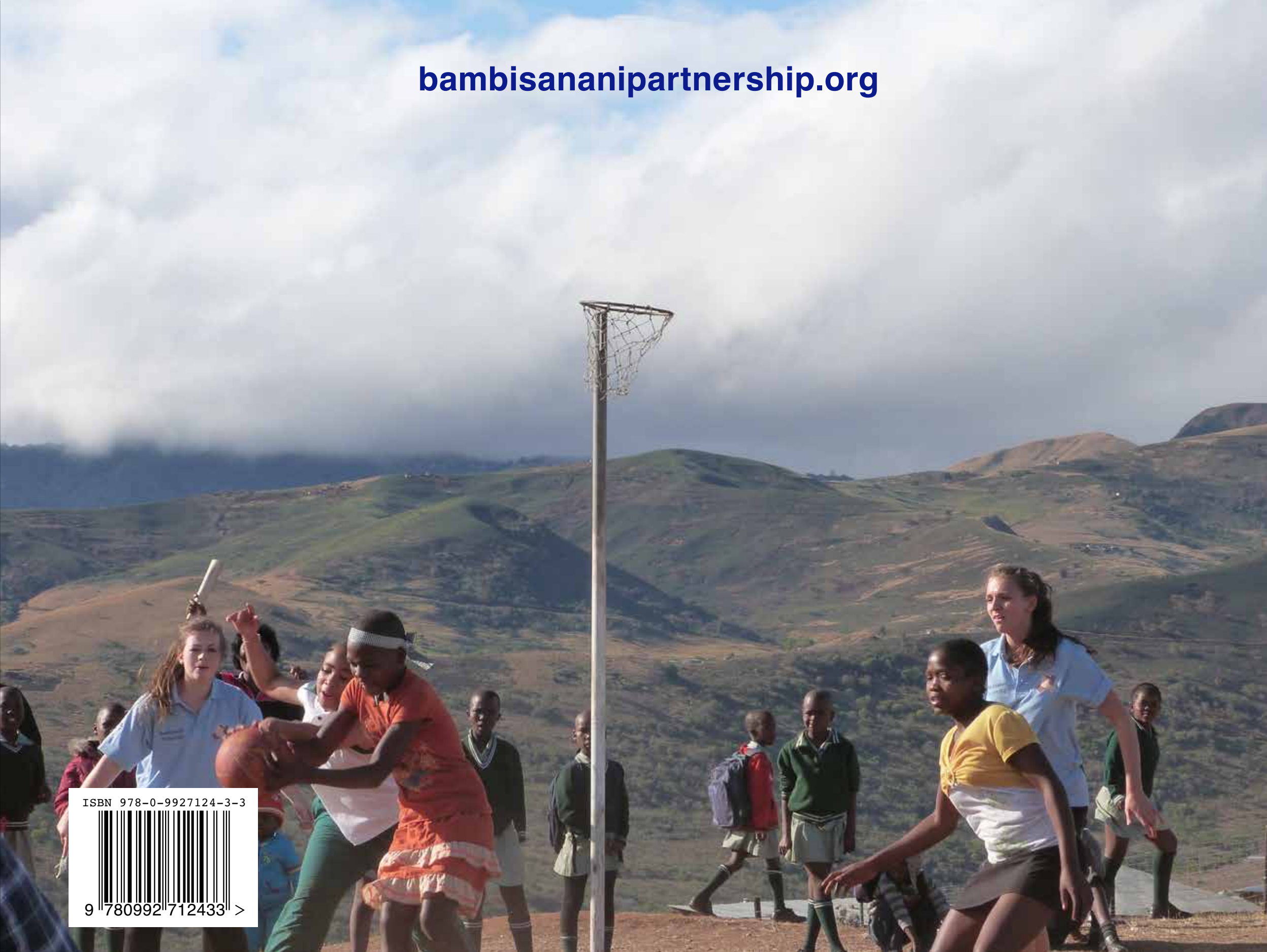


One Final Thought

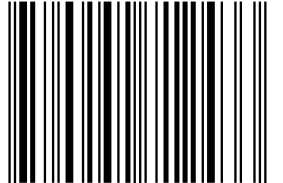
“Yesterday is gone, tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today, let us begin.”

Mother Teresa, Saint Teresa of Calcutta

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