



# Bambisanani Partnership

Working Together, Learning Together



st.Mary's



Mnyakanya High School



# Sawubona!

Report on St. Mary's visit to South Africa June 2016

Registered Charity  
Number: 1163461

Follow us online!



# Sawubona!



Report on St. Mary's visit to South Africa June 2016

Bambisanani  
Partnership

The Bambisanani Partnership celebrated its 10th Anniversary in June 2016 when another group of determined pupils travelled to the KwaZulu Natal region of South Africa to deliver another Leadership Programme to the pupils of Mnyakanya High School.

For the tenth year running they continued their exceptional work that sees the two schools working collaboratively and using sport to promote education, leadership, health and global understanding.

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

The visit this year was led by Giles Wilkes and supported by Tom Pringle and Eleanor Jackson all teachers at St. Mary's, Menston, along with Chris Mullarkey from Leeds Trinity University.

The pupils tasked with ensuring the success of the 10th 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 focus of this year's visit was to deliver a faultless Olympics style sports festival in the view of the Rio 2016 Olympics. This was an ambitious task which had never been done before. Pupils were required to deliver the skills and knowledge of 10 different athletics events to the South African learners.



The Sports Festival



Elizabeth at Ntolwane Primary School



The 2016 team with Mrs Chattoe and Mr Beardsley



Oliver and Ben leading a curriculum lesson

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

## OLIVER ARMITAGE

*On the plane towards Durban is when I first started to properly picture the potential reality of the visit ahead. Was I going to be emotionally impacted, would it inspire me to appreciate what I have, to raise money for such a cause or to physically volunteer and offer my support in future? All these questions were contemplated at one point on my journey there and from the descriptions of previous students, teachers and the information we had been given I was starting to piece together the idea of what the visit would consist of.*

*The description of the visit was only a fraction of the reality. I'm not a fan of a cringe worthy cliché however it was beyond belief, something you can only fully appreciate once you are there experiencing it and it becomes an impossibility to try and portray to anyone else afterwards.*

*For me, the orphanage was an incredible experience. Arriving with the expectancy of witnessing a stereotypical orphanage environment was far from Poppy's face, wreathed in smiles. The children were glued to us all day from arrival, through the games, the story time and up until we eventually had to leave. 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 friendship of Poppy to nurture them as she is such a lovely, kind and giving woman.*

*The sports festival however was mutually considered to be the best day of the visit. I think the combination of hard work from both students and teachers was a large factor in this rewarding day, making it all that bit better however this aspect worked simultaneously with the enjoyment and attitudes shown by the Mnyakanya students as they delivered their activities in such an incredible manner. All the other days on the visit were centred around our experience of The Bambisanani Partnership whereas the day of the sports festival 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.*

*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. I am very proud of all our achievements and I'm positive we will continue to do great things for this charity in the future.*



Oliver at Zulufadder

## AMELIA WALSH

*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.*

*As a group, we visited Mnyakanya High School on the Monday with students from Eshowe High who were able to translate from Zulu to English. Although they were hardly needed: most students from Mnyakanya knew more English than me. Their English was incredible and my Zulu was not so great. Some of the students taught me some Zulu and it was great just watching them laugh at my awful pronunciation and so inspiring to see so many wanting to join in. There was one girl at Mnyakanya who helped me learn Zulu and then became my best friend. She always hugged me, played with my hair and wanted to hold my hand. The fact that we were so different but got on so well was mesmerising and I will never ever forget her.*

*Although I made a best friend at Mnyakanya, I also made a best friend when we went to Zulufadder Orphanage. As soon as we got off the bus we were greeted by such smiling faces where children were dancing and singing and showing us such love. There was one little boy who immediately hugged me and I held him all the time we were there. He didn't say a word but when he smiled at me I knew I was making him happy. All throughout the story books we read and the games we played, he stayed with me and it was so sad when I had to go but you could tell he was still one of the happiest children in the world.*

*Thinking back on our visit to South Africa, there are so many memories I have and will never forget. 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. Balloons blown up at the Orphanage sent the children crazily excited and the Bambisanani t-shirts given to students at Mnyakanya is something that they would always keep. 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 others company.*



Amelia at Zulufadder

## BEN HINGS

*It's difficult to summarise my experience in South Africa this summer, but undoubtedly it is my greatest achievement.*

*The Bambisanani Partnership is far more than just the ten day visit to South Africa. I always knew I wanted to be involved in the project, the posters around school looked amazing and the older students I knew couldn't recommend it enough. Therefore when I was told, in Year 11, that I was selected as one of the fortunate fourteen to be Bambisanani Ambassadors for my year group, I was ecstatic. However, the hard work just started there. The 12 month period it took me to fundraise to go on the visit really solidified how special The Bambisanani Partnership would prove to be. I have my family to thank as well for being so supportive with bun sales, bag packing and various other events.*

*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. Each evening ended with all the St. Mary's students and teachers talking about their stories from earlier in the day. The language barrier proved to be no issue, despite our amazing young translators, 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. My family have been affected by The Bambisanani Partnership too, not only because of the abundance of Zulu decorations around the house, but because they are immensely proud of what I have achieved through the project. I couldn't recommend the visit any more highly to any younger students wanting to go, however the hard work for the visit starts in Year 7, proving you're the right person for the project can be done by showing what you've physically done in school and how you've conducted yourself.*



**Ben delivering the leadership course**



**Ben at Zulufadder**

## AIDAN CONLON

*We spent almost 24 hours travelling from our homes to the KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa. From the moment we arrived we were welcomed with open arms, beaming smiles and a warmth which made me forget we were more than 8000 miles from home.*

*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 both England and South Africa - occurred on our last day at the high school. It was on this day that over 100 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 9 or 10 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.*

*As if the welcoming atmosphere were not enough, the nature and culture of South Africa were just as awe-inspiring. Both of these we had the opportunity to see for ourselves at the beautiful Hluhluwe National Park and Shakaland Zulu village, where we participated in traditional dancing, singing and celebrations.*

*Reflecting upon my Bambisanani experience I am amazed at how much I saw and achieved in just 10 days. Meeting and helping 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.*



Aidan with his team at the Sports Festival

*South Africa has had a wonderful impact on me as a person and the way I carry out my life. The ten day 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.*

*I was lucky enough to deliver a lesson to the students which incorporated numbers and basic phrases in French. The attitude to learning at the school was an amazing sight as the students knew they could not take this luxury 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 our guest house in Eshowe to the school in KwaZulu-Natal 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 them. Every year they treasure the experience that we provide and if I could I would definitely return again.*



Chris at Ntolwane Primary School

## SEAN MOORBY

*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 English and South African students worked in conjunction to produce a fantastic sport and reading event.*

*The partnership clearly means so much to the people of Mnyakanya High School, Ntolwane and Eshowe as a whole. It was an honour and a privilege to meet the people of Mnyakanya and to be part of such a meaningful partnership, especially in its landmark tenth year.*



Sean at Ntolwane Primary School teaching literacy



Sean hands over his Manchester United shirt



Sean at Ntolwane Primary School



## RYAN SMITH

*The highlight of my whole school career is most definitely the summer visit to South Africa as part of the Bambisanani project, it was an unforgettable experience and a visit I'd love to do again.*

*Each day was filled with enjoyment as we were able to explore things we wouldn't be able to do back home like going on a safari at Hluhluwe National Park, seeing animals that I've never seen in person before was incredible. Further to that we were able to tour a Zulu village, Shakaland. This was an extraordinary day as we saw Zulu dancing for the first time.*

*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 games to primary school students which they have never been taught before, making all the work prior to the sports festival worthwhile. Despite the language barrier both the St Mary's and the Mnyakanya High School students were able to work through it and ensure this wouldn't be a problem.*

*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.*



The young leaders and Ryan

## MEGAN LUPTON

*Partaking in the Bambisanani Partnership was ten intensive days of erratic emotions. From being close to tears after an insanely sweet musical welcoming to the Zulufadder orphanage, by the children, as we pulled in by coach, to creasing with laughter with a new friend Noko'bongo, after she showed me her flawless Beyoncé impersonation. It was eventful to say the least, and I immensely enjoyed having the opportunity to take part.*

*Myself and the leaders from St. Marys strived to teach the students transferrable skills that they could use in their future ambitions, and I believe we achieved this. Over the course of the days devoted to Mnyakanya, the students were soon taking over swiftly, in terms of leading their classmates; wanting to do things for themselves and enjoying the process.*

*The sheer determination and talent which the teens at Mnyakanya high school possess were both astonishing and inspiring. For me, seeing how quickly and eagerly they picked up the linguistic devices taught in mine and Jayda's english literature lesson, was one of the most heart-warming and encouraging experiences I've ever had the pleasure to be involved in. When asked to create their own stanzas for a poem, just one example was when a girl produced an alliterative statement of 'books before boys because boys bring babies.' Despite the ominous topic of something prevalent in their culture, the fact she had the ability to apply this in a witty and innovative way only furthered my respect and admiration for them.*

*Another instance where I found I learned from the teens at the high school, rather than the other way around, was when running a two lap course around their field. Despite having poor footwear they showed endurance and eagerness to please and succeed when completing the task. It was from this and many other instances of resolution, that I feel the pupils in our school of St. Mary's could learn a lot from their counterparts at Mnyakanya.*

*I was able to actually perceive how big a physical impact the charity has on the school; a library full of resources, sporting equipment and tech equipment were accomplishments achieved from fundraising back home, and it was lovely to see all the hard work of bake sales and charity concerts materialised and being put to use.*

*My life altering experience through The Bambisanani Partnership is one that I will always be immeasurably appreciative for. 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 at the Reading Festival

## JAYDA ETIENNE

*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. It also helped they were near fluent in English. The sports festival was very rewarding because after spending time teaching the Mnyakanya students a specific sport, and how to set up their own sport station, we were able to watch them put what we taught into practice, as they taught the primary school children. It was great to see how far they had come in such a small period of time, and how willing they were to learn and improve. As a thank you to the St Mary's students, some of the Mnyakanya students performed at an assembly on the final day. Their talent and confidence was excellent and the students were very excited to showcase their skills.*

*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!*



**Megan and Jayda teaching poetry at Mnyakanya**

## LEAH DELAHAY

*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 and appreciative 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 Bambisiani Partnership and our visit to South Africa was all about.*

*Not only were the people inspiring but, the culture and history of South Africa was as well. From the incredibly high kicks and stomps of the Zulu dancing to the sounds of the different clicks in the Zulu language, I was truly fascinated with the whole South African experience. It was the fact that every encounter with the Zulus was a performance that was fully captivating and uplifting. For instance, at Shakaland, I learnt so much in terms of the way Zulus lived, specifically that every occasion had to be celebrated with music, singing and dancing.*

*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 delivering her curriculum lesson

## JOANNA CIESLUK

*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 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.*

*What struck me the most are the cultural differences. These children and young adults would go to school like you or me and they would participate in lessons like you or me, but due to the place they lived some children would have to leave halfway through the day as that was the time that the school bus left and if they didn't get that bus they would have to walk miles to get home. This was really inspiring because despite missing out on half a day of school these pupils would come in day in and day out to receive the education that they care so much about.*

*After delivering the first few leadership sessions in the High school we broke up for lunch, but as I started to dive in, I saw that most of the Mnyakanya children had no food, they didn't have the luxury that we had of a packed lunch. Of course we shared as much as we could with them but the fact that after we left these kids were going to go back to not having a meal in school had quite an emotional impact on me, and made me think about just how much I take for granted.*

*On the first day of our work at the High School I saw the importance of The Bambisanani Partnership and how much it means to the children at Mnyakanya. We were taken for a tour around the school where we saw rooms such as the library. At a glance this is a place that seems ordinary, nothing special about it, however I discovered that all the books here were brought over from England. Because of this partnership, the children are now able to borrow books out of a library, something most of us including myself take for granted. Similarly due to the acclaim of our project Leeds University has started creating their own trajectory, and has provided Mnyakanya with bikes.*

*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. I feel so fortunate to be living in a country where I have a roof over my head and parents who love me, because aside from that nothing in the world really matters and to only be a small part of their lives means so much.*

*Looking at it now, I can tell you that South Africa is not something you can prepare for, but something you have to embrace with a warm heart and open mind, because after all we are all people and we should all strive to help each other.*



Joanna having fun at Zulufadder

## ELIZABETH WESTHEAD

*The visit to South Africa was the highlight of my time at St. Mary's so far. 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. It was very rewarding to teach the South African students as they embraced every activity with enthusiasm and you truly felt how deeply they valued the opportunity to learn. Over the first day we taught the students the sports leadership skills necessary to provide an athletics festival and on the second day they practised their newly-learnt skills on the English students. They then lead the festival for the primary school children, it was incredible to see how much they had improved in the short time we had spent with them. 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 a different way of life, and seeing the contrast between the two schools which are only half an hour apart.*

*Visiting the Zulufadder orphanage was another highlight of the visit for me. We arrived early afternoon and played singing and dancing games with the children. After that we sat in smaller groups and read stories (with books and props we had brought from England). I will never forget the interest the children showed in the stories, nor how delighted they were to welcome us.*

*I experienced the power of sport to unite people, and how, with only a rounders bat and ball, 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 sharing a book during the Reading Festival

## AMY COLLINS

*I can't even begin to express how amazing the visit to South Africa was. What an extraordinary partnership it is!*

*Flying to the other side of the world for ten days without my family was quite a daunting thought for me initially, but as soon as I got to school on the afternoon we were to set off to South Africa, I knew I was going to be just fine. The other St. Mary's students and the teachers going too were amazing and throughout the visit I got to know them more and more. During the visit it felt like we were one big family. The visit throughout was jam-packed, however, during the first few days in South Africa, we had the chance to visit a traditional Zulu village, where we experienced what life would have been like for people living in the area and at a game reserve witnessed most of the big five. We also had the opportunity to meet some Leeds University students who had already been to the schools and orphanage in South Africa. 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 primary and Mnyakanya high school we were amazed to see how much talent they had. Children who were only 6 years old, looked like they were professionals at dancing and singing. It was astonishing! When they all just spurred into song and were dancing I was in awe of the talent around me! They all had smiles on their face and were just living in the moment, not seeming to have any worries in the world! One of the best moments on the visit was when we were at Mnyakanya High School and the students there encouraged all of us, the St. Mary's students and the St. Mary's teachers, to carry out this traditional Zulu dance, each in turn in the middle of a circle, where you are meant to kick your leg high and stamp it down on the floor. Everyone did it and it was such good fun, helping us all to bond and have a laugh! The atmosphere was so beautiful! The literacy and sports festival were also 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. Another moment which I will never forget is when Joanna and myself delivered a biology lesson on the lungs. The students which we were teaching at Mnyakanya high school seemed to listen to every word we said and tried their best to absorb all the information we were giving to them. At the end of the lesson I could see that they had learnt a lot and that just made me exceptionally happy and full of pride, that we had achieved what we had set out to achieve. Despite only knowing the students from Mnyakanya High School for three days, it felt like a life time!*

*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, and am so grateful that I had been sent that letter two and a half years ago which stated I was invited to come to South Africa and to be part of this fabulous Bambisanani partnership and I am now so very pleased I had applied in the first place. Each and every person I met whilst on the visit was so kind, happy, considerate and 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.*



**Singing and dancing Zulufadder**

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 and it also helps everyone to provide needs when they are needed. Bambisanani helps others to learn other skills. The partnership is known for bringing blacks and whites together so that everyone is able to speak the same language.*

**Simphiwe Sithole**



*The Bambisanani Partnership is a good partnership because we work in co operation with each other. It has taught me so many good things such as sport and leadership. They have made us a library and given us books so that we can study different languages and subjects.*

*The Bambisanani Partnership gave us tablets to study and now we are all using them.*

*I thank Bambisanani so much for the leadership skills they have taught us.*

**Ntando Mbanza**



**Nombuso and Ntando, two of our new Bambisanani Leaders**

*Bambisanani have done so much I am grateful for. We are incredibly thankful and we love you with all our hearts. You have made me confident and for me that's a very big thing.*

**Sthandiwe Magwaza**

*The Bambisanani Partnership has taught me how to be humble, respectful, reliable and optimistic. I am very grateful to the Bambisanani Partnership for all they have done for me.*

**Nontethelelo Ngubane**



# ZULUFADDER

As is tradition the final part of the visit was an afternoon at Zulufadder Orphanage and Day Care Centre. Zulufadder supports orphans and vulnerable children in the KwaZulu-Natal region. This is part of the visit where reflection is at the fore. The St Mary's pupils had prepared a 'big read' where they took their favourite childrens books and with a series of props brought them to life. Witches hats and 'big bad wolves' were shared with the children at Zulufadder making it a truly humbling part of the 10 day visit, there were no barriers to communication and the smiles on the South African children faces will live long in the memory.

Elle Jackson who wrote a blog for every day of the visit commented.

*'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 they ran up to us, we were all friends and hugs and cuddles were the order of the day.'*



Mr Pringle joining in the games at Zulufadder



Amelia getting to know the children at Zulufadder



Singing and dancing



Sharing our big reads

## TEACHER REFLECTIONS

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



### **Giles Wilkes:**

*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 the 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 lastly the Mnyakanya students: their willingness to learn, their want for more 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 in England it is nice to reflect on what happened in those 10 days in Kwa Zulu Natal. It amazes me how the two sets of students from England and South Africa took all of 10 minutes to become friends, happy in each others company, trusting of each others abilities.*

*The pupils involved in the partnership are tasked with 'standing on those that have been before them' and for the past three years I can whole-heartedly say this has happened. I was in regular contact home and with every passing day I was so proud to relay how amazing the pupils were, they were true ambassadors for England and South Africa, doing things at sixteen years old that someone of many more years 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.*

### **Elle Jackson:**

*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.*

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

### **Mazet Zlanga:**

*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, everyday when they wake up going to school and work, that more can be achieved through this partnership.*

## AWARDS CEREMONY

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

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

The Laurie M<sup>c</sup>Cauley Award for Most Improved Player was presented to Ntanzi Zethembe.

The Laurie M<sup>c</sup>Cauley Award for Creative Writing was presented to Nomzamo Ndlovu.

The Sponela Magwaza Outstanding Leader Award was presented to Mlambo Andile. This same award will also be presented to a St. Mary's student. Mitchell Lofthouse will receive this award in December 2016 at the St. Mary's Year 13 Presentation Evening.

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

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

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

The John Paul II Foundation for Sport: True Spirit Award was presented to Ngidi Bhekokwakhe.



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

- 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
- Nonjabulo Ngcobo



The 2016 Leaders

## BAMBISANANI AWARD

Within school an award has been launched to promote the positive values that underpin The Bambisanani Partnership. Pupils in Key Stage 3 focus on a Bronze Award where their aim is to raise money, learn about the South African culture and show leadership beyond their years. The silver award is aimed at our Year 9 and 10 pupils and the gold award the Year 11 and 6th form students at St Mary's Menston.

The award has been proven to further establish the aims of the Bambisanani Partnership with pupils recognising the difference they have made to those less fortunate whilst also promoting their leadership skills.

Caitlin Copsey is the first recipient of this award with a number of other pupils following shortly.



Caitlin Copsey receives the first ever Bambisanani Bronze Award



The Bambisanani Award Badges

## CARDINAL MARITIME GOLF DAY

Long term supporter of The Bambisanani Partnership, logistics company Cardinal Maritime held their annual Charity Golf Day for the charity at the 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 praised the work of the charity *"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."*



## DIANA AWARD

The Bambisanani Partnership is delighted to announce that fourteen St. Mary's Menston Year 13 students have been honoured with a Diana Award.

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.

Since 1999, over 47,000 young people have been recognised with a Diana Award for making an outstanding difference in their communities' across the globe and continuing Princess Diana's legacy. With the support of HRH Prince William and HRH Prince Harry, the Diana Award aims to inspire and recognise social action in young people by going beyond its Awards programme with youth led initiatives that empower young people to achieve their full potential and make a difference.



BBC Reporter Danielle Hewson presents the St. Mary's students with their Diana Champion Volunteer Awards

## TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Bambisanani Partnership is celebrating its tenth anniversary. In 2006, David Geldart, the then director of physical education and sport at St. Mary's, Menston, visited South Africa as part of a British Council and Youth Sport Trust initiative to promote sport in the country's most deprived areas.

As a direct result of that visit, St. Mary's and Mnyakanya High School in KwaZulu Natal developed a unique partnership using sport to inspire 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 since gained international acclaim for its pioneering and inspirational work using the power of sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and enterprise in one of South Africa's poorest rural regions. Ten years on, the partnership has become a multi award winning charity chaired by David Geldart and led by Mrs Catherine Chattoe at St. Mary's and Mrs PK Zondi in South Africa.

The visits to and from each country have had a significant impact on those involved. Students from St Mary's who visit South Africa prepare 18 months in advance. In addition to fund raising and leadership training, students are involved in a learning programme that covers topics such as apartheid, South African history and politics, Zulu culture and traditions, HIV/AIDS awareness and Zulu language. When in South Africa the students (normally lower sixth form) mentor 20 Mnyakanya students through the 'Bambisanani Leadership' programme, taught through sports activities. At the end of the programme, the students from both schools have the responsibility of jointly planning and delivering a community Sports Festival and a community Reading Festival for over 150 primary school children from the Nkandla region. Significantly, even the Reading Festival uses sport to great effect. Beyond the leadership mentoring, St. Mary's students coach a range of specific sports and teach academic subjects at Mnyakanya, and sports and reading at Ntlowane Primary School and Zulufadder Orphanage. The annual visits to South Africa have included primary and secondary colleagues in order to encourage this kind of development in other schools. Business sponsors and supporters have also visited the project.

In its tenth anniversary year, the Bambisanani Partnership has ambitious plans to extend its work and influence. In addition to the annual exchanges, the charity is working with the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University to develop leadership programmes with its own students in South Africa. At Mnyakanya School the charity is currently working on the installation of Wi Fi and computers to enhance

teaching and learning in this remote rural area. Another aim is to create a football pitch for the school and wider community on land nearby.

William Vilakazi, Principal of Mnyakanya School, is in no doubt about the importance of the partnership: *"The Bambisanani Partnership continues to be an inspiration to our school and community. It is difficult to put into words the impact of the partnership. Some of the impact is physical and very practical; some of the impact is psychological, influencing attitudes, confidence, motivation and aspiration. 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: 'Umuntu 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."*

The partnership's founder, David Geldart added: *"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."*



Celebrating 10 years of Bambisanani with a cake in South Africa.



Jack Lynn 7G, won the Bambisanani 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo design competition.

# UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS STUDENTS VISIT MNYAKANYA FOR THE FIRST TIME

One year on from his initial visit Andy Lockwood 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. In addition to this the team also spent two days volunteering at the remarkable Zulufadder Day Care Centre for orphans and vulnerable children.

Significantly, the students that visited 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 wrote “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



## SIMPHIWE NDLOVU – OUR FIRST EVER BAMBISANANI TEACHER

Simphiwe Ndlovu has recently completed his final examinations towards becoming a fully qualified teacher. Simphiwe successfully completed The Bambisanani Partnership Leadership Award in 2011 and decided he wanted to become a teacher to serve his community. He will receive his results in December 2016. The Bambisanani Partnership continues to support Simphiwe on his journey and his dream of becoming a teacher. We wish him all the best as he awaits his results.



Simphiwe studying hard

## BAMBISANANI BRINGS THE INTERNET TO MNYAKANYA

The culmination of three years work and fundraising has 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. The Bambisanani Partnership has 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.

*“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.”*

William Vilakazi

Final word from Catherine Chattoe: Bambisanani Coordinator:

Bambisanani has celebrated its 10th anniversary year in style. The visit to South Africa in June 2016 was an outstanding success. 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 South Africa would to many, be seen as an impossible task. The Bambisanani team took on the challenge and won. Whilst no athletics world records were beaten, there were certainly many personal bests achieved during the visit. It is clear from the reports 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 going.

My sincere thanks to everyone who continues to support The Bambisanani Partnership.

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







[bambisananipartnership.org](http://bambisananipartnership.org)



Follow us online!

