

The Ghana Schools Partnership Project

CAMFED, the Harambee Centre and RAINS are working together to establish successful and sustainable partnerships between schools in East Anglia and the Northern Region of Ghana.

The Harambee Centre is a development education centre which exists to promote public understanding of, and action on, global social, political, economic and environmental issues, and are experts in curriculum development.

CAMFED is a Cambridge-based international development organisation that supports girls' education in Africa. The relationships that CAMFED has built with schools in Ghana over 11 years support this project.

RAINS is a non-governmental organisation working to improve the lives of the people of the Northern Region of Ghana, one of the poorest regions in the country.

What is a learning partnership?

A learning partnership with a school in a developing country can enable schools to integrate such themes as poverty, diversity and global interdependence, into the learning experience and can offer a powerful, effective and enjoyable framework within which these issues can be addressed.

An effective learning school partnership involves...

- Making connections between diverse cultures locally and globally
- Understanding the world as a global community
- Learning to empathise with people whose experiences are different from our own
- Accepting responsibility for making a contribution to the future of the planet
- Recognising the impact of our own actions on other people and ensuring that impact is not harmful
- Learning how to bring about positive social change locally, nationally and globally
- Examining our own perceptions and values and appreciating how these affect our attitudes and actions

Want to find out more?
Visit the Ghana Schools Partnership website at...
www.camfed.org/gsp

Current School Partnerships

Cambridge Regional College	- Mandela Development Centre	Westfield Junior School	- Tolon L/A Block "B"
St. Laurence Primary School	- Savelugu Experimental School	Thongsley Fields School	- Moglaa Primary
Fen Ditton Primary School	- Nuria Primary School	The Stanway School	- Ridge Junior Secondary School
St. Matthew's Primary School	- Choggu Yapalsi Primary School	Buttsbury Junior School	- Al-Marikazia Islamic Primary Sch.
Park Street Primary School	- Hassaniya Islamic Primary School	Pitsea Junior School	- Tarkpa Primary School
St. Philip's Primary School	- Gbanyamni Methodist Primary	Sawston Village College	- Choggu Demonstration JSS
Morley Memorial Primary School	- Rawdatul Atfal Primary School	St. Lukes Primary School	- Gburimani Primary School
Irechester Primary School	- Ridge Junior Secondary School	Folkworth Primary School	- Boggu-Kpndua Primary School
Newnham Croft Primary School	- Jisonayili Islamic Primary School	Huntingdon Infant School	- Fazihini Methodist Primary School
Scaltback Middle School	- Rawdatul Atfal JSS	Warley Primary School	- Waribogu E/A Primary School
Queen Edith Primary School	- Watani Primary School	Henham & Ugley School	- Pong-Tamale Experimental Primary
Bourn Primary School	- Tali R/C Primary School	Dry Drayton CE Primary	- Nabogu R/C Primary
Petersfield C.E. Primary School	- Zosalli Primary School	Warley Primary School	- Waribogu E/A Primary School
Meridian Primary School	- Tolon L/A Primary School "A"	The Harbour School, Kanvili R/C JSS, Banvim Presby Primary / JSS and Sakasaka JSS are in the process of being linked.	
Middlefield Primary School	- 1 st November JSS		

If you would like to know more about the Ghana School Partnership project, please contact:

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Samed

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The 'Ghana-UK Schools Partnership' Newsletter

Spring Term 2005

Dear Teachers,

At the beginning of 2005, we are looking forward to a year in which many new school partnerships will be formed, new friendships will be forged, and new learning opportunities will be explored between schools in East Anglia and the Northern Region of Ghana. This year brings the excitement of the Teachers' Exchange, in which 4 teachers from partnership schools in the UK will be given the opportunity to travel to Ghana in the Spring (*see details below*) and 4 teachers from Ghana will follow them back to the UK in the Autumn. We hope that all the schools involved in this project will be given the opportunity to meet their peers from the other side of the world, an opportunity that will bring your school partnerships alive in your classrooms!

Laura Bleaney
 CAMFED International

Ushawu Adam
 The Harambee Centre

P.S. Please remember, if you are a school in Norfolk, Suffolk or Essex, you can still register to form a partnership with a school in Ghana and access all the resources and opportunities this project has to offer – all free of charge – simply contact Ushawu at the Harambee Centre for more information.

Ghana-UK Exchange Visit for Partnership Teachers

We are pleased to announce the opportunity for 4 UK teachers to take part in the first leg of an exchange visit to Ghana in the Summer Term 2005. The visit will provide an invaluable opportunity for partnership teachers in the UK and Ghana to learn from each other, enhancing their professional skills and confidence and to develop ideas and resources for joint curriculum projects between their schools.

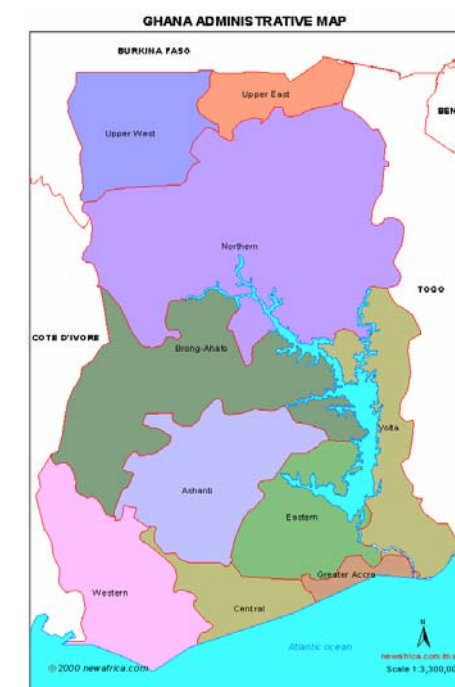
For more details for UK schools and an application pack, please contact the Harambee Centre. The deadline for UK applications is Friday 11th February.

INSET Workshop

On Thursday 4th November, teachers from UK partnership schools gathered at Morley Memorial Primary School in Cambridge to share experiences and ideas, find out more about life in the Northern Region of Ghana and learn about the wealth of resources on offer to support their school partnerships.

Ushawu Adam, himself a former teacher from the Northern Region and currently working for Harambee, gave a personal insight into school life in Ghana. He also explained how life in Ghana, like most countries in the world, varied greatly, and that the Northern Region (*highlighted in purple right*) where many people rely on small-scale farming and petty trading, is very different from the hustle and bustle of the big cities of the South, like Kumasi and Accra.

One teacher commented: 'The workshop provided inspiring ways to work cross-curricular with the Ghana partnership, including Maths, Literacy and PE'.



How is a school partnership established and what happens next? A case study: Henham and Ugley Primary School and Pong-Tamale Primary School

In August 2004, Henham and Ugley Primary School registered for the Ghana-UK Schools Partnership Project, and they didn't have to wait long for a partner. By October, they had been matched with Pong-Tamale Primary School in Ghana and a link was made - each school received an Information Pack with each others' contact details.

Stage 1: an INSET Workshop

Once Henham and Ugley Primary School had registered for the project, Ushawu Adam arranged a whole school INSET workshop in the Essex school. An INSET workshop is a very effective way to start your School Partnership. It aims to: enable all teachers in your school to find out more about the Ghana-UK Schools Partnership Project; and to help them to identify opportunities for integrating their School Partnership into the curriculum. One teacher commented that the workshop was **"a most informative presentation telling us about schools and life in Ghana."** INSET workshops are available to all UK schools involved in this project, free of charge.

Stage 2: a classroom workshop

After the INSET session, Henham and Ugley arranged an 'Introducing Ghana' classroom workshop with Ushawu. These workshops cover many topics, including daily life in Ghana, school life, and Ghanaian music and games.

During the workshop, pupils at Henham and Ugley learnt about everyday life in northern Ghana, and identified similarities and differences between life in Ghana and the UK. Using photos, objects and games, the workshop challenged pupils' preconceptions about life in Ghana.

Children in East Anglia Join the Global Campaign for Education

Pupil's at Scaltback Middle School, St. Philip's, and Bourn Primary School added their voices to the campaign to ensure that all children get the opportunity of an education after participating in a classroom workshop by CAMFED which highlights the issue of girls' exclusion from education in the Northern Region of Ghana (*available to all schools free of charge*). Currently there are 105 million children who do not have a chance to go to school, and the majority of them are girls.

In response to letters to himself and the Prime Minister, Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Department for International Development, wrote: **'It is important that the children in the UK understand the needs and issues affecting children in other countries, so please continue to learn and to make your voice heard. Your contribution is valued.'**

Dear Tony Blair
We are writing to say that we think that girls in Ghana have as much right as boys do to go to school. We think they should have an equally good chance to be able to have a good education and to become successful in their future. We don't think it's fair that the boys get to go to school when the girls stay at home doing all the work like cooking, cleaning and fetching water. If girls can go to school there will be more people getting a good education which will earn more money for Ghana which can be put towards the resources that Ghana really needs!
Yours Sincerely
Fiona Horncastle and Natasha Walker
Jhorncastle

Dear Mr Hilary Benn
We think girls should go to school in Ghana because everyone deserves a good education so they as well can have a chance to get a job and a fair life.
Yours Sincerely
Fatmudla, Alice and Xanthia X

Above: Letter to Tony Blair by pupils at Scaltback Middle School

Right: Letter to Hilary Benn by pupils at St. Philip's Primary School

Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Global Action Week April 24th-30th 2005

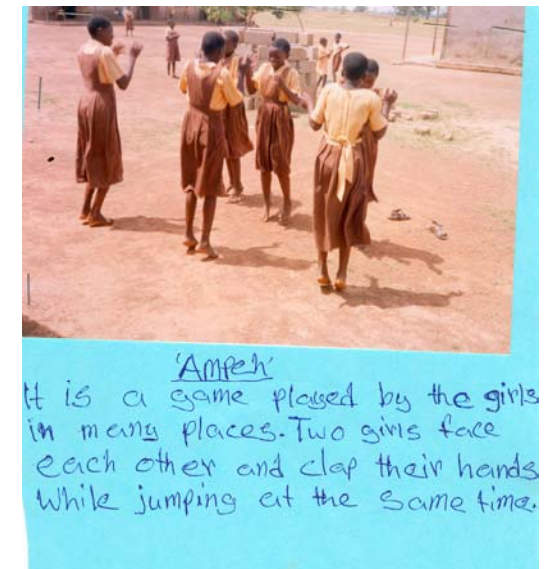
To build pressure on politicians to provide more money and political leadership to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of gender equity in education and universal primary education, GCE is organising the "Send My Friend to School" campaign during Global Action Week 2005. Children from all over the world will be making life-size cut-out "friends" to symbolise the 105 million out-of-school children globally. Watch this space for more information from CAMFED about how you and your partner school can get involved.

Classroom Workshop in Ghana

Last November, Samed, RAINS' Education Programme Manager (*holding the book below*), visited Gbanyamni School to talk to the pupils about the lives of their friends in the UK. He encouraged pupils to use what they had learnt so far from the letters they had exchanged to think about the similarities and differences between their lives and those of their peers on the other side of the world. Both the teachers and the students at Gbanyamni enthusiastically welcomed Samed's input.



After receiving a wonderful folder from pupils at St. Philip's School documenting their local area, children at Gbanyamni School wanted to return the favour. The page below is one of a number of sheets they sent to help teach their friends in the UK more about their lives.



Coming Soon: Fair Trade Fortnight 1st -13th March 2005

Harambee can provide classroom workshops on Fair Trade to all UK schools involved in the Ghana-UK School Partnership Project free of charge. Call now to arrange a session in your school.

Global Citizenship Awards – Successful Applications

7 UK primary schools have been awarded £250 each to develop some exciting new curriculum projects to support learning activities with their partnership schools. The range and creativity of the projects has been impressive and goes to show how the partnership can enrich a variety of curriculum areas whilst making learning fun and more real. Some of the projects are detailed below.

'What We See Around Us' – Bourn Primary School pupils in Cambridgeshire will participate in a textiles workshop run by a local community artist to produce a hanging to depict local environment. The hanging will be made from fabric and natural materials and will be sent to Tali RC Primary School in Tolon.

'Weather Watch' – Pupils from Henham and Ugley Primary School in Bishops Stortford and Pong Tamale Experimental School will collect and exchange weather data which they will analyse to give both communities information about their local climates and vegetation.

'Our Animals and Yours' – Pupils from Dry Drayton Primary School in Cambridgeshire will produce an environmental resource about the animals (including birds, butterflies and insects) which live in their local environment to send to their partnership school, Nabugu RC Primary School in Savelugu.

'Traditional Tales – Home and Away' – Pupils at Middlefield Community Primary School in St Neots and 1st November JSS in Tamale will exchange story books containing well-known traditional stories. The books will be supported by drawings, photos, tapes and puppets to link with Middlefield's story sacks project.

Please remember that you are welcome to pass you letters and pictures along to members of staff at CAMFED or RAINS if you would like to ensure that they reach their destination safely.