



School for Peace Update



Autumn 2019

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1151173

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Latest News from Congo

In September the new President, Felix Tshisekedi, pledged to make primary education free but his promise is being monitored and we will see if this will impact on The School for Peace. As you know parents have to pay fees to cover the cost of admission, facilities, the running of the school as well as teachers' wages. In Congo nearly 7 million children aged 5-17 are out of school and half of all girls in that age group also, so this state school is clearly an exception.



Four of us visited Sr Virginie in Zambia this year and the head teachers from the school came over the river Luapula to update us and answer our questions. One pupil had died. All the Year 6 primary pupils passed the end of year exam and so can continue if they have the means or a sponsor. 325 pupils had enrolled in Secondary in September and they will need two more

teachers this year. There are many orphans or extremely poor children who need sponsoring both in primary and secondary this year and we hope to have enough money to cover their costs. Many sponsors have died in recent years but fortunately we have five new ones this year.

Success! (See main picture)

These sixth form students all passed the end of secondary school exam and now have the 'diplôme d'état' which enables them to proceed on to higher education. Three of them were sponsored and cannot afford the fees. We have managed to find funding for two students and would be grateful for any help with the third, Ilunga Mwembo.



The Library This two-storey building with staffroom above has been developing with every sum we have sent this year. Unfortunately the engineer in charge of the project has recently been offered a job with an NGO in Kolwezi so it was not ready for the autumn term.

Someone else has just started to pick up the pieces and so we will update you later in the year.

Fundraising

Peter Hobbs successfully completed his marathon bike ride from Land's End to Shetland for three charities. He raised over £5000 in total including £1668 for the School for Peace. The head teacher of Glebeland and Barnby Schools, Clare Williams, and her husband, Darren,



have completed their road trip to the Arctic in this old car and have raised

over £1,200 so far for the school. Another couple from Winchester have completed a sponsored walk for the school. We are extremely grateful to these enterprising supporters and for all those who sponsored them.

Garden Party Joy Jeffery kindly opened her garden again in August for this very successful musical event. We hope to have news of more musical fundraising soon.

If you can organize an event or help us in any way please contact Mary Ellwood (Secretary) or Alan Williams (Treasurer): congoschool4peace@gmail.com