

Email: revdjohn60@gmail.com

BACSECT Newsletter No 8 December 2022



First and foremost may I, on behalf of the Headmaster Richard, the Teachers, and all the school children wish you all a Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful 2023!

Dorothy and I were able to go out to The Gambia in November and spend much time with the school catching up on all the news, good and not quite so good, and making some important decisions.

The building work on the new classrooms has progressed well and at least the roof is on keeping everything more waterproof. The rooms still need internal work for ceilings, walls, windows and electrics etc. but work had to stop so that the school could function normally. It had delayed its reopening after the summer holidays to try and get the building work finished but the exceptional heavy rains prevented a lot of days working so work halted at the end of September.

It is apparent that the unusually heavy rainy season has caused damage to some of the buildings foundations and substantial work to repair and protect for the future will have to be done. After a great deal of discussion with Richard, the Headmaster, we have agreed to personally fund the work which will be done over the Christmas period. The cost of this work will not be underwritten by the charity but it will mean that the work on the new classrooms will have to wait for the time being.

Using some BACSECT funds we were able to purchase school books and paper which was needed for the end of year exams. We also were able to settle outstanding invoices for printing work.

**B
A
C
S
E
C
T**

Registered charity number: 1187921

It is good to be able to spend in The Gambia as it supports their economy and we continue to build excellent relationships with school stationery suppliers.

Over one weekend we arranged a food distribution to the local community from the school and a representative from the Ministry of Education came to see how the school was assisting the local area. It was a very good opportunity to get feedback from the Ministry Official who confirmed that the education the children were getting was of a very high standard.

The Minister of Education asked the representative to press upon us the need to complete the additional classrooms so that senior school education could expand. The government is very keen for this to happen because of the high standards set. That is very good to hear but it will need the school, through BACSECT, to invest in more teachers of a higher level and more books and equipment.

Success breeds more problems but they are good ones and we will endeavor to fulfil all the schools requirements as it continues to grow and flourish.

We took out with us a large sports bag full of sports equipment, mainly footballs, basketballs and pumps. The school is very keen to get some team strips for the football teams so if any one knows any youth football teams that have a spare kit they could donate, size age 6 to 11, please do get in touch. We are still able to ship items out from UK although the costs have almost doubled in the last twelve months!

We will be back at the school in January and March and will particularly be monitoring the effect of rapidly rising prices. Most of the equipment used by the school is imported and prices have nearly doubled in some instances.

Seeing all the children working hard to learn and enjoying the fact that the school is providing a safe environment for them is really rewarding. If only we could bottle their enthusiasm!!

Thank you so much for your support, both financially and prayerfully. It means everything to the children and will at least give them a chance of a better life.

Just to remind that, apart from CAF bank charges, 100% of all donations to BACSECT are spent on the school without any being used for expenses.

God Bless

Revd John Baxter
Chair of Trustees