

Akwaaba!

Welcome to the Future Leaders UCC Newsletter Mar-May 2012. It's been a long time since we last published, and we have plenty to share about the children and volunteers as well as exciting news about the future development of the project.

A message from Billa

"I have many people to thank for their support of the UCC. Thanks to the partners of the UCC [Future Leaders UK & Akosua Foundation], all donors, sponsors, volunteers past and present and partner projects in Ghana." Too many thanks to fit in one box, so there are more on the next page...



CCCU students get peak volunteer season off to a cracking start

Seven Primary Education undergraduates from Canterbury Christ Church University spent a successful and rewarding month volunteering at the UCC as part of their degree. Their aim was to improve the reading levels of our youngest children by focussing on teaching phonics, a skill which allows children to build and break-up words as individual sounds. They also worked with the older pupils in the school to give them more confidence in their own reading abilities, and work on their spelling and comprehension skills.



At Wli Falls: The CCCU students (from right) Jo, Harriet, Emma, Gemma, Andy, Charlie and Louise with fellow volunteer Hannah from Canada.

"I have had a great time teaching and this has been a major learning curve for me", said Charlie Warner, who is studying for a Ba(Hons) in Primary Education.

Outside of the classroom the volunteers enjoyed trips to Wli Falls, Cape Coast and Kokrobite beach.

And did their hard work pay off? A second phonics and reading level assessment at the end of the month showed some pupils moving up as many as 2 levels in reading! A big thank you to them from everyone at the UCC!

New Future Leaders beauty salon opening in La Billa

is pleased to announce the upcoming opening of a second beauty salon in the heart of La, sponsored by the Akosua Foundation.

This new salon will offer free three-year beautician training to girls from the area. So far ten women have applied to train at the centre. The salon was built in just over a month, and cost GhC4000 to build.

However funds are still needed to fit the salon with all of the equipment it needs to operate. If you or perhaps your local hairdressers would be interested in fundraising towards the completion of the new salon then please get in touch.

Billa is keen to open more salons in and outside of Accra, and we are hoping for sponsorship towards these centres too.

Future Leaders' new proposals for dedicated SEN support

We aim to provide the best educational support for all of our students, no matter what their abilities might be. Staff at the UCC have identified five special education needs (SEN) children who regularly attend our centre, and are in need of specialised schooling. SEN schools do exist in Accra, but student fees are over GhC1500 a year. Consequently we are looking to employ a Ghanaian SEN teacher to work full time at the centre. We are very pleased to be able to offer dedicated support to these children who might otherwise get little benefit from the mainstream curriculum.

Future Leaders will very soon begin constructing a new classroom for these children and we are looking for a qualified SEN teacher to fill the position. If you are interested in donating or fundraising for this cause then please visit the website www.futureleaders-ucc.org or email us brendan@futureleaders-ucc.org.



Sponsor a Child

If you would like to join our Sponsor a Child scheme, to support the running of the UCC, then please email brendan@futureleaders-ucc.org. Sponsoring a child costs £15 a month and can be paid direct debit through your bank.

Congratulations!



To Estelle and Felix on the birth of their son Kevin who was born in May. Estelle is a coordinator at the UCC and trustee of the Akosua Foundation, based in the Netherlands, which provides funding to send students of the UCC to government schools. Estelle and Kevin will be back in Ghana in September.

More congratulations!



UK charity founder Steve Hirst and ex-Volunteer Coordinator Jess Hobbs are pleased to announce their engagement. Congratulations from everyone at the UCC and we wish them luck in their wedding preparations for next Spring.

Introducing our new staff



The UCC welcomes Volunteer Coordinator Laura Norman (left) and returning volunteer Kirstie MacGregor who fills the new role of Education Coordinator. Kirstie and Laura met in 2010 whilst backpacking in Zimbabwe and are happy to be reunited through such a great project. As well as developing educational structures including a curriculum for the school, Kirstie will be there to help volunteers develop the skills they need to give the students the best education possible, and get the most out of their placement.

Volunteers brighten up classrooms

Volunteers from Future Leaders, Projects Abroad and United Through Sport had a busy African Liberation Day holiday repainting some of the classrooms at the UCC. Apart from touching up the alphabet and animals painted by Richard and Lucy in 2011, they created a fantastic Gruffalo mural in Class 1. Volunteer Julie from France, came back the next day and stayed well past sun-down to complete the Future Leaders logo on one of the walls.

It was a great last day for the CCCU students who finished with a leaving BBQ and beers on the balcony with Billa, Phyllis and Bernard. Before they left for the airport, the volunteers enjoyed an amazing performance by Bernard and his gospel choir band Brothers of Faith, which brought on tears all round!



Julie did a fantastic job painting the Gruffalo in Class 1.

New volunteering website:

www.volunteerucc.org

Check it out and share with your friends!

• Why us? • FAQ's • Gallery • Testimonials

To our supporters,
from Billa,
a big: Thank You!!

In particular, Billa wants to thank:

The Akosua Foundation for sending 160 UCC children through state school - Future Leaders UK for their support

since 2010 - Steve Hirst, for his recent completion of the Edinburgh Marathon which raised over £800 - The British in Ghana for their past donations, including materials for a new roof for the sewing centre after it recently blew off! - Lauren Davies (USA) for support of the Noha sewing centre - Julie Bertrand, new UCC coordinator in France - Tom Vernon and Right to Dream - Regina Richmond for her sponsorship of the food programme at the UCC - Socrates football club's (Yorkshire, UK) support of Socrates (UCC) girl's football team Ghana - Estelle's family and friends for sponsorship of the fruit project at the Centre - the Australian Embassy, Projects Abroad, United Through Sport, Real Gap and Petra Oblak for past donations and support.

New curriculum

After a considerable amount of work over the last year by Kirstie and Billa, the new curriculum is now finished and will be implemented from this May. This curriculum brings together the Ghanaian syllabus taught in government schools and the UK national curriculum to ensure that our pupils receive a well rounded education whilst still being able to integrate into the state school system.



Sounds good - phonics enters daily timetable

After regular use of Jolly Phonics in assembly and class, the UCC has timetabled a daily phonics mini-lesson into each class's curriculum to accelerate reading development. We use the Jolly Phonics and UK Letters and Sounds programmes which are specially designed to engage young children so that our pupils will have fun whilst reading and learning new words.

Like us today

Visit the Future Leaders Facebook page for photos and news from the centre. Don't forget to 'like' us and share the work we are doing!



About Future Leaders UCC

Future Leaders UCC is a registered Ghanaian charity and grass-roots education project. For 14 years the UCC has provided free schooling to disadvantaged children and sponsored them through state education. Funding for the centre and state education fees comes entirely from donations and through our volunteer project.

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