

We have been incredibly fortunate to have had a fabulous global school partnership with a Molly & Paul school for nearly 20 years. The Molly and Paul Childcare Foundation is a non-profit making Christian charity and registered N.G.O. It was established in 1983 by Molly and Paul M. Wasswa for the purpose of helping disadvantaged children who are in desperate need of help and support.

We have worked with them in many ways over this time, both educationally, to facilitate collaborative work, and financially to support the school. We have also visited the school a number of times, which has provided the most amazing opportunities for our students to explore the wider world, to understand different cultures, traditions and religions.



During our visit in 2018 we spent a lot of time talking to the students about their lives in Uganda, and many of them expressed how difficult it was to complete their education due to finances, travel, and many other issues. An education, is life changing in Uganda, the ability to read and write is taken for granted by many, but for African children it is a luxury that many cannot afford. Imagine not being able to read road signs, medical instructions etc.

The girls explained to my students that when they have their period they are unable to go to school, as sanitary products cost so much, this of course, effects them every month,

which means they are unable to attend school consistently. Our students were deeply affected by this issue, and wanted to help.

Back home my students thought about this, and one student, Jess Hill, began to research ideas.

Our objectives were:

- To set up a sustainable business model and learning opportunity for students at Bunjakko Island Vocational School.
- To extend the current classroom block to provide a dedicated, secure needlework room.
- Girls are often forced to stay away from school during their monthly cycle due to not having sanitary products. Our aim is for the girls to produce reusable towels, that they can also sell to provide an income to pay school fees.
- The project will consist of the supply of sewing machines, materials and teaching to allow the students to develop skills to produce garments and sanitary items to both wear and sell. It will provide the students with a skill that will enable them to work in this industry when they complete their education.
- Students will be required to keep records of all outgoings and incomings in order to evaluate the project. As the project progresses there will opportunities to develop the range of products. We also hope to be able to build a dedicated classroom in the future, to enhance this project further.

She wrote to a Rotary Club in the north of England who she has seen promoting reusable sanitary towels. She paid for the pattern and was duly sent the information. This led to a discussion about supporting the students in Bunjakko. At first, we considered making these sanitary towels, and collecting others to take in 2019. Then we had an idea to raise money to buy some sewing machines, we believed that if the students could learn to sew, they could create their own products, which they could use and also sell to provide an income for their school's fees. We asked the school in Uganda for some ideas of costs, and approached our Launceston Rotary Club, which have always supported us so well. They were keen to help, and with their amazing generosity we were able to purchase 15 sewing machines, a knitting machine and 2 over lockers, and other equipment totalling £2443.00



Then Covid19 arrived, and instead of the machines heading directly to Bunjakko, they were kept at Molly & Paul's house in Kampala, where they were immediately put to work to make masks for students and staff and also provided a revenue stream for the charity.

During this time, Launceston Rotary Club discussed the possibility of extending on the existing classrooms to provide a dedicated DT room. We asked for quotes and again, our amazing Rotarians donated £3880.00 to enable the building of this room. Covid19 hampered progress considerably during this time and it took much longer to complete than previously anticipated. But, building did begin.



In March 2021 we ran out of money. The school were unable to fulfil their contribution towards the project, due to the closure which of course meant no school fees. The Rotary Club wanted to complete the project as intended and incredibly, they were able to fund the final costs of £3288.00. This meant the school could buy windows, doors, solar panels, furniture, and a roof! Work started as soon as they received the donation. There is so much excitement and enthusiasm for this new subject at the school.



June 2021

The DT classroom is almost complete, it needs a coat of paint, and some additional resources, but it is now a working classroom. The students will now be able to learn new skills and sell garments and products to pay their school fees.

The school have employed two teachers, one of them is an ex-student, to teach tailoring at the school. They are planning evening classes and have other plans to ensure that this classroom is used fully.



The impact that this project will have is incalculable.



- Students will learn invaluable skills.
- Girls will be able to attend school full time.
- Students will be able to make and sell garments to help pay for their school fees.
- The local community will be invited to attend evening classes to help empower them.
- The school will attract more students as they have a larger curriculum.
- The school will have more money for food and to pay the teachers' salaries.

...and so much more.

This project will change lives.

Paul & Molly Wasswa (Directors of the Charity) write:

We are so very happy to see this great project here at Bunjakko!

We wish from the bottom of our heart to thank you Emma, Sandra and all the supportive members of your Rotary club.

We can justifiably call our school a VOCATIONAL SCHOOL!

All at Launceston College want to thank Launceston Rotary Club for their continued support and enthusiasm for this amazing project, which is going to change lives in Uganda. We look forward to being able to visit the school and see this project in action at some point in the future.

