



JUBA DIOCESAN MODEL SECONDARY SCHOOL

"Building a brighter future"

1st October 2020

Report from Friends of JDMSS

There have been some significant developments at JDMSS in response to the Covid-19 crisis. Firstly, due to the travel restrictions imposed in UK in March, members of Friends of JDMSS had to cancel their planned visit to the school. So, unfortunately the annual prize giving did not take place, but we have managed to keep in contact by regular email and phone calls with the Headmaster.

In April, Covid-19 spread to Juba and the South Sudan government closed all schools, initially for one month and then indefinitely. To continue the students' education, the Headmaster put in place measures so that students could study at home. The teachers worked hard to prepare lessons for the students to collect from the school, and the photocopier purchased by a grant from the Education Sub-Committee was put into good use.

After six months of schools closure, the South Sudan government has just declared a phased re-opening of schools, starting with candidate classes effective on 5th October. Therefore the JDMSS senior students in Year 4 will be reporting for classes with Covid-19 preventive measures to be strictly exercised. Adjusting to the "new normal" comes with extra costs, which Friends of JDMSS will endeavour to support.

Therefore we are encouraging Sponsors to continue to sponsor as usual, as the school needs the funding to pay the staff salaries and to maintain the infrastructure. In addition, the Headmaster is concerned that, due to increasing unemployment caused by the virus, families may be forced to take their children out of school. We have sent emergency funding to the school to help keep it afloat during these difficult times.

We regret that, due to social distancing guidelines, we have cancelled the annual Eye Opener evening this year. Hopefully we will be able to hold it next year. In the meantime, I would be grateful for your continued support to the students and staff of JDMSS in these extremely difficult times.

Thanking you sincerely,

Colonel (Retired) Charles Thackway MBE

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