



# Link Schools Programme News

April 2010



## Events

### Stand Comedy Club, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010

We would welcome your support at our first ever comedy night at the Stand Comedy Club in Edinburgh on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April to raise funds to support our work to improve the quality of education for primary school pupils in sub-Saharan Africa.

The comedians for the night will be: [Vladimir McTavish](#), [Sian Bevan](#), [Antony Murray](#), [Mikey Adams](#) and [Lucy Oldham](#). Find out more about the comedians at [www.thestand.co.uk/listings.aspx](http://www.thestand.co.uk/listings.aspx).

Tickets are selling fast, but we still have some available so call us now on 0131 243 2685 or email [scotland@lcd.org.uk](mailto:scotland@lcd.org.uk) to order yours!

### Malawi Bike Ride 2011



The **Malawi Bike Ride 2011** takes place from 16<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and travels through some of the most beautiful scenery in Malawi, taking you through the Liwonde National Park, where you will have the chance to see elephants and hippos, by Lake Malawi and the Mulanje tea plantations, as well as giving you the unique opportunity to visit some of our project schools in the Mulanje District of Malawi.

All money raised from the **Malawi Bike Ride 2011** will go towards supporting our school improvement projects in Malawi and helping children to access a better quality of education.

**Take advantage of our early bird offer** - Registration fees are reduced from £250 to £200 if you register by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010!

Places are limited, so to request a copy of the registration pack from the LCD office email [louise@lcd.org.uk](mailto:louise@lcd.org.uk).

**Link Community Development**

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## LTS Africa Event 'Bringing Africa into the curriculum': 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Link Community Development and two former Global Teachers held an interactive workshop at the LTS 'Bringing Africa into the Curriculum' day. The LCD workshop focused on teaching using locally available materials (TALULAR) in Malawi and the presentations outlined the issues around access to resources in Malawi and the need for teaching and learning resources in the African curriculum.

Teachers discussed how using TALULAR as a teaching and learning resource could support CfE outcomes and experiences, and were involved in an activity where they created a TALULAR resource that could be used to deliver a lesson on numeracy or the environment using the materials provided. Participants created some fantastic resources including counting apparatus, number cards and wind vanes. Later they discussed how the topic could link into the eco- schools programme and form part of a joint curricular project with their African partner school on recycling and making your own resources. **Please email me if you would like a copy of any of the presentations from the day.**

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### My visit to Malawi

I have recently returned from a visit to Malawi where I was interviewing teachers, headteachers, Primary Education Advisors (PEAs) and the District Education Manager (DEM) on the impact of the Global Teachers Programme from 2006-2008. I can report that everything that I had been told beforehand about Malawians is true- the people really are exceptionally welcoming and friendly! Children would even shout 'Madam, you are most welcome' as I passed by in the street and come from afar to talk to me.



'Circles in the sand' for group work

Travelling in the rainy season was a real eye opener, tarmac roads are few and far between and when the rain came the clay roads turned to mud and made travelling by vehicle let alone by foot and bicycle very difficult. Some of the more remote Link Schools became virtually unreachable, and I met with teachers who walked 6 km each way to school. We passed through beautiful valleys and villages and even repaired bridges to reach some of the more remote schools. This highlighted the challenges our Link Staff face during the rainy season when visiting Link Schools, for example to collect and deliver the Link Schools mail.

From the interviews with headteachers and district education staff it was apparent that LCD's work in Malawi is making a real difference to the quality of education received by pupils. For example, as a result of Global Teachers' support and work in partnership with specific schools, I was able to see teachers engaging the pupils in participatory learning activities, group work taking place, hear about how the Global Teachers Programme had helped teachers to introduce peer assessment methodologies into the classroom and how simple ideas like 'thumbs up' could really make a difference to a lesson.

*The report on the impact of the Global Teachers Programme 2006 – 2008 will be made available shortly via our website.*

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## National Museum of Scotland project

The National Museum of Scotland approached LCD to take part in a pilot project to gather stories and photos for their new exhibition planned for summer 2011 entitled 'People and Possessions'. The museum was looking for stories from Malawians about their daily routines, clothing and days which had specific cultural significance.

If you would like any resources from my visit to use as teaching materials or if you would like me to come and talk at your school about my experience in Malawi then please get in touch either by phone 0131 243 2685 or by email [louise@lcd.org.uk](mailto:louise@lcd.org.uk).



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## Resources for Global Citizenship

Link Community Development, in collaboration with an educational consultant, is producing **6 themed resources** for school partnerships which will be related to the Millennium Development Goals. The resource material will facilitate exploration of global citizenship and development issues by partners in order to enhance the knowledge, understanding, values and attitudes of pupils, teachers and communities involved in school partnerships.

These activities, which will be produced over the next 3 years, will focus on the environment and sustainable development, access to education, gender equality, health, community development and partnership for development. We are pleased to inform you that the first of these themed activities on the environment will be available after the summer holidays.

**IDEAS have created a new booklet with information on the latest Global Citizenship resources entitled 'Resources for Global Citizenship 2010'.**

This new resource uses Malawi as a context to bring a global dimension to your curriculum. The pack comprises resources, teaching materials and ideas which have been collected from practitioners across Scotland and can be adapted to suit your own needs. (Order Code: 1134)



To download a copy go to: [www.ideas-forum.org.uk/sector/schools/resource/1107Malawi](http://www.ideas-forum.org.uk/sector/schools/resource/1107Malawi) .

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## School linking is integral to Curriculum for Excellence

The activities you engage in as a Link School can help pupils to achieve many of the Experiences and Outcomes defined by Curriculum for Excellence. We have created a map of the **Experiences and Outcomes** that are directly relevant to the Link Schools experience in the curriculum areas of Religious and Moral Education, Social Studies, Health and Wellbeing, and Technology.



The mapping documents which will be available shortly will demonstrate how LCD supports Link Schools to achieve these aims and includes examples from real Link Schools to inspire you.

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## Joint Themed Activity on 'Rights and Responsibilities'

This year all Link Schools are taking part in the joint themed activity "Rights and Responsibilities". To help them prepare for the activity, representatives from the Malawian Link Schools attended orientation workshops on 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in Mulanje and Dedza.

In preparation for the joint activity learners were assigned the task of researching their rights and responsibilities from a wide range of sources including their parents, police officers, NGOs, radio stations, newspapers, children's rights clubs, the school curriculum and the constitution. At the workshops in Malawi teachers discussed the responsibilities which correspond to children's rights and planned to help learners present their research in different ways to send to their partners in Scotland.



**Thanks to all Link Schools for taking part in this year's Joint Themed Activity!**

**We will include a full report on the results of the activity in the next newsletter.**

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## The impact of school linking

Aside from benefitting financially from being part of the Link Schools Programme, African partner schools benefit from the Link Schools Programme in many other ways. At a recent training day Malawian teachers and headteachers reported:

- **"Vibrant communication"** between partner schools resulted in improved teaching and learning with a particular impact on English and writing skills.
- The wide participation of learners in linking activities such as letter exchanges and sports has led to **greater motivation, less absenteeism and a reduction in drop-out rates for both boys and girls.**
- A difference has been seen in school administration, **better teamwork and joint planning skills amongst teachers.**
- **Community involvement** with schools has also improved while teachers are becoming more dedicated to their duties because of their involvement in the Link Schools Programme.



**So please continue to support staff and learners at your partner school by participating fully in activities and correspondence. It really does make a difference!**

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## New Link Schools

We are delighted to welcome these new partnerships to the Link Schools Programme:

Scottish School	African School
1. Gullane Primary School, East Lothian	Chimkombero Primary School, Dedza, Malawi
2. Craighdu Primary School, East Dunbartonshire	Lidzinji Primary School, Dedza, Malawi
3. Pumpherston and Uphall Station Community Primary School, West Lothian	Kamedza Primary School, Dedza, Malawi
4. South Morningside Primary School, Edinburgh City	Mpango Primary School, Dedza, Malawi
5. Comrie Primary School, Perth and Kinross	Msesa Primary School, Dedza, Malawi
6. Harmeny School, Edinburgh	Chigonjetso Primary School, Mulanje, Malawi
7. Tullynessle Primary School, Aberdeenshire	Gosheni Primary School, Dedza, Malawi



*Learners from Msesa Primary School in Dedza, Malawi*

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## Support through clustering

Clustering of school partnerships is an effective way of maximising the quality and sustainability of the link. Link Community Development will be delivering cluster training to schools during the 2010-11 school year as part of the new 'Partners in Development' Programme as well as providing support for clustering. In each cluster one school will be designated as the 'hub' and may play a role in hosting termly meetings and other activities. Details of training will follow.

Before then you can keep an eye on the list of schools in your Local Authority area on our website [http://www.lcdinternational.org/scotland/link\\_schools/](http://www.lcdinternational.org/scotland/link_schools/) and look at clustering with schools in your Local Authority area.

If you are interested in becoming a cluster co-ordinator for your Local Authority please contact me.

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