



UGANDA NFOOD FOR THOUGHT AT MOLESCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Molescroft Primary School, close to Beverley in East Yorkshire, and Kabalega Primary School, Uganda, have decided to carry out a new activity as part of their partnership – the exchange of traditional recipes. As Headmaster Michael Loncaster tells us, the result of this will be that ‘the tastes and smells of our countries will travel through recipes into each country.’



A mixed primary school with just over 400 pupils, Molescroft’s pupils are of a very predominantly English background – English is the only language spoken at school – and as such the school stood to learn a great deal from a school partnership. Molescroft Primary School was officially linked with Kabalega Primary School, a rural school in the Masindi District in Uganda, in 2007, through the Link Schools Programme.

‘we were keen to join with a school in Africa. We believe we have much to learn and share, and that children in countries with apparent contrasts are actually facing similar issues and have similar concerns.’

Michael Loncaster, Head Teacher at Molescroft Primary

By highlighting both the similarities and differences between the children in Molescroft and Kabalega, the children have a chance to learn much about not only other cultures and ways of life, but also about themselves. Mr. Loncaster states that Molescroft is particularly interested on focussing on developing their relationship with the children in Kabalega through art, as this is a medium that translates most easily across continents.

One way in which this is being achieved is through the exchange of information about contrasting traditional foods of England and Uganda. There was also a more traditional art aspect to this project, in which children in both schools created art projects revolving around their favourite fruits and vegetables. Beyond this first step, recipes were exchanged between the two schools, allowing for children to have a taste of a thoroughly foreign cuisine,

LINK SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

CONTACT: Link Schools Programme, Link Community Development

Unit 39 Kings Exchange Business Village, Tileyard Road, London N7 9AH, UK

Tel: 020 7091 1818 Fax: 020 7209 4167 Email: linkschools@lcd.org.uk Web site: www.lcd.org.uk



UGANDA NFOOD FOR THOUGHT AT MOLESCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

perhaps for the first time in their lives. At Molescroft, the school cooks will prepare the suggested dishes, and then the children will select their favourites, which will be added to their regular lunch menu.

This is a great example of mutual learning: the children are not only encouraged to improve their literacy through correspondence, but the children in Molescroft are learning about global diversity in something that they may take for granted, namely food.

Molescroft gets people involved in their link through a committee of staff, governors and parents, which stimulates an active interest in education throughout the community.



'this gives us a better insight into the African Way of life'.

James (11), Molescroft Primary

Molescroft has benefited greatly from LCD's Link Schools Programme, a key reward being the increased awareness of the needs of others in the world. As Mr. Loncaster says, ***being linked with a Ugandan school 'puts into perspective the work of the school, and helps us to realise that our work and education of future citizens has and will have a major impact on the lives of others thousands of miles away.'***

But the art related connections do not stop at food: soon, the choirs of the two primary schools will record CDs for each other, another example of the global appeal of art. To summarise in Mr. Loncaster's words: 'Our school's vision is "everybody cares, everybody learns, everybody matters". Through our link work we are developing this ethos within a global perspective.'

LINK SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

CONTACT: Link Schools Programme, Link Community Development

Unit 39 Kings Exchange Business Village, Tileyard Road, London N7 9AH, UK

Tel: 020 7091 1818 Fax: 020 7209 4167 Email: linkschools@lcd.org.uk Web site: www.lcd.org.uk