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Banbury International Community School

Just 6 weeks ago we started to dig the trenches for the footings for the compound wall - today I have received this photo showing the latest progress - **AMAZING !!** The perimeter wall is **190 metres** and **2.5 metres** high. As you can see we have used some of the existing classrooms to reduce the work BUT I estimate (including the footings) that the guys have made, on site, about **five thousand** concrete blocks - **EVERYTHING** is done manually – no machinery !!



We have decided that we **are** going to install double gates and they, plus a single gate to give access to the well for the community, are currently being made by a local guy, at cost price, as he is a parent of the school.

All that remains is to render and then paint the walls, as funds become available. We will concentrate on the external facade initially and do the interior as phase 2. I have sent a first tranche of money today to get them started.

A note of appreciation

All we wanted, for now, is the compound wall and we got it and we will exercise patience in waiting for the funding for the rendering and painting because we are aware of the effort you have made to fund this project.

Everybody is admiring the work. Banbury Community School is one of the best schools in the community and you and your supporters have made a real difference to our entire community and in Sierra Leone as a whole.

You have done marvellously well, God bless you all.

A bit of background information

It is worth remembering that back in 2014 there were 84 children being taught in a cramped hall, with very little furniture and it was called The Good News Pentecostal School. It was early in 2015 that we began work to build a new school for them. We have funded the building of 6 classrooms, an office, staff room and store, sunk a well and built 2 toilet blocks. All the buildings have basic water harvesting systems, including handwash stations at the toilet blocks. We have started to run Junior Secondary classes at the

School, as well as the original junior classes, and there are now approximately 140 children on the school roll.

The community re-named the school “The Banbury International Community School” in recognition of all the support that they had received from donors and supporters in the Banbury area (and beyond).

I have just received the estimate for the rendering and painting of the wall and hope to send some initial money to get them started whilst continuing to generate the remaining funds required.

Covid-19 & Sierra Leone

Covid 19 today's figures: 2,277 confirmed cases with 72 recorded deaths and 1,710 recovered

Mahera Wharf Oxford United

8 lads from the Club recently attended the Regional trials for the National Under 17's football squad.

This is a massive achievement for this small impoverished club, when you remember that in 2018 they didn't even have a team football strip!! They run Under12, 14 & 17's with over 60 boys in the Club – a real Community asset.

Whatever the outcome I think they deserve to win the award for the “best turned out” team and I would like to thank Oxford United Football Club for the donations of kit to the Mahera Wharf Club which has enabled them to play in local leagues and help the Club develop. Just this week I have had another donation of kit from Oxford United.

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I have just heard that 2 of the lads have been selected to go through to the **National final trials**. They are the Club captain Mohamed Tenanah Kamara, a midfielder, and goalkeeper Potho Conteh.



I wish them ALL the very best. It has generated a lot of interest on Twitter from lots of Oxford United fans. All they need now is a new pair of boots each !! I will be hopefully sorting this out in the next few days.