



UPDATE

Latest News from Congo

Sister Agathe, the Headteacher, told us that the money we sent for the chemistry lab equipment had arrived in October but that they are waiting for the school building renovations to be completed before they can fully equip it. The building renovation is in memory of Anne Bauers, the founder of the School for Peace, and also to mark the 25th anniversary since its founding in 2001. Sr Agathe thanks everyone for your valuable support. The main picture shows that new building work has started. A new set of classrooms is being built so that all the children can go to school in the morning rather than in relays. These rooms will need to be furnished and equipped. Most of the sponsored primary children and all of the sponsored secondary children are still at the school.

Sister Virginie has been in Bukavu, the second-largest city in South Kivu Province (Eastern Congo where the mines are), which was taken by rebels from Rwanda last year and retaken by pro-government soldiers during intense fighting. However, she

said that things were much calmer recently and people were going about their everyday lives. "My sincere gratitude for your involvement in the advancement of the School for Peace. May God bless all those actively supporting the Tchamalale School project."

They have finally purchased the x-ray machine for the health centre on the school site. This



centre is used by the children and their families as well as the local community. The machine cost 15,000 dollars. It will be installed soon and she will send more photos.

We have asked her for an updated budget for the whole school. Up until now, the parents of secondary pupils

contributed **\$25** per month per child for 10 months. They divide the money up in the following way:

Taxes for the Congolese State	\$3.75
Taxes for the provincial education authorities (10%)	\$2.50
School running costs (10%)	\$2.50
Night watchman (1 %)	\$0.25
Caretaker (1%)	\$0.25
Teachers' salary (53 %)	\$13.25
Contingency	\$2.50
TOTAL	\$25.00

University students



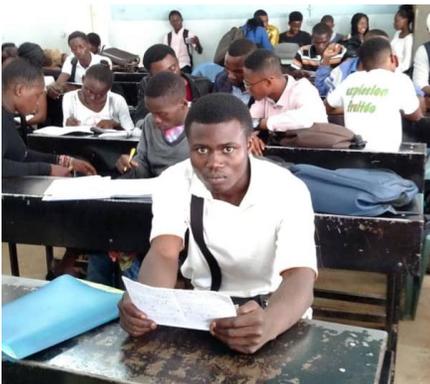
All of the students who are at university are studying hard: Sarah, Mado, Victor and now Anna who has just started:

"I am a student at the University of Lubumbashi (UNILU) in the first year of medical school. The course lasts for 7 years plus work experience. In our lecture hall, there are around 2,000 students! The conditions are dreadful, but at least there are screens and a projector that allow us to see the board, and a microphone for the lecturer. For the first semester, they have scheduled 13 courses in total but we haven't finished all 13 courses yet and the exams are coming up soon! We have various assignments: tests, practical work, tutorials, and group presentations." The photo shows Anna in her last year of school.

Victor Mwembo Ilunga has also written to say how much he appreciates our support during his Master's in Human Nutrition. We will have an update in the next newsletter. We have been sponsoring him since he started school.



Victor Mwembo Ilunga has been sponsored since the age of 5 and is now in the final year of his studies.



Victor during his studies as an undergraduate.

Isaac Tshabata Mutale, who was another sponsored student, is training to be a nurse, having completed a degree in nursing care.

Recent fundraising Events

- Words and Music on Friday 12th December at Hipperson's boat house was a great success. Around 60 people attended and £700 was raised, with further donations being received after the event from people who couldn't attend. We thank Mary, Simon and Nate for their generosity and help.
- The pupils at Sir John Leman High School donated money from their rag week (15th-19th December) and raised



over £2,000. We are very grateful for their wonderful achievement.

- There was another quiz on 14th March at the Sea Cadet Hall in Beccles. Over 50 tickets were sold. There will be an update in the next newsletter.

Future Events

- There will be a garden party at 51 Northgate, by the river, on Tuesday 30th June from 3pm – 6pm. Please come after school or after work if you have time. There will be live music and delicious refreshments. We are very grateful to Mary Nicholson for organising this event.



We hope to have more fundraising events this year. If you can fundraise, find sponsors or help us in any way please contact Mary Ellwood (Secretary) or Alan Williams (Treasurer):

congoschool4peace@gmail.com

Please do not forget to use easyfundraising.org.uk if you shop online, search for **Congo School for Peace**. This has really boosted our funds over the years.

