



# Sierra Leone News

St Mary Queen of Martyrs VC Academy takes seriously its responsibility to safeguarding all children and adults and has a rigorous procedure in place to do so. The Academy does not tolerate bullying and deals with all forms very seriously

## Freetown Newsletter - 9/3/17

Mr Guthrie and I would like to share with you some of our experiences from our visit to Freetown, Sierra Leone and our incredible time spent within the Empowering Children School!

Initially, we both met with our Head Teacher and some of the staff from school on the first day and were shown around Freetown. We had the chance to get an idea of the differences between our school culture and theirs, also the environment and the history of Freetown, to support our time in school.



What an incredible welcome we had, it was thrilling to arrive and hear the entire school singing to welcome us. They had created signs to welcome us from the city of Hull and were so excited to meet us both! It was incredibly emotional!

After our amazing welcome, we got down to some hard work! We tried to spread our time evenly across the school and worked with different teachers throughout the three days in school. We observed teaching, looked at resources and made an action plan of what the priorities were.



We helped teachers with planning, delivery and new approaches such as teaching phonics in Foundation stage. We introduced our 'talk for writing' approach which we use in literacy lessons to encourage our pupils to share ideas and build vocabulary. This was difficult at first but we felt this was vital for the pupils to developing their understanding of English.

Our main focus was to develop their use of digital equipment to promote reading. Mr Guthrie showed the teachers how to teach in groups using kindles and iPads, and work with children to develop their language skills further. We also ensured that by using the internet further, we can continue to develop our teaching skills together connecting via skype and facetime.



Our trip was not only incredibly successful but thoroughly enjoyable from start to finish. On the final day we were given our tailor-made Africana outfits which we have worn in assembly to show our school. They're fantastic! What an experience it was to see our partner school in reality and our now firmly built friendship will be a longstanding one.



Thank you to all parents who helped to contribute to our fundraising or our digital equipment. It was overwhelming to see how thoughtful our school family has been. We will continue to fundraise for a water tank for the Empowering Children School! If anybody is interested in helping, please get in touch with Mr Guthrie or Miss Tindall!