



JUBA DIOCESAN MODEL SECONDARY SCHOOL

"Building a brighter future"

23rd October 2020

Dear Sponsor,

I am writing to inform you of some very positive news at JDMSS. At the beginning of October the government of South Sudan relaxed some of their Covid-19 measures. This has enabled students at JDMSS from Senior Year 4 to return to school and continue their studies and prepare for their Certificate of Secondary Education exam, now scheduled for March 2021. The Headmaster has informed us that nearly all of the 141 students in this year are reporting daily for their classes, which is excellent news.

In addition, all the teachers have been retained and the Deputy Head (Sebit) has returned to work after recovering from a serious motorcycle accident. The remainder of the students are continuing their studies at home with work packages prepared by the teachers, which the students collect, work on at home and return to the school for marking. As an example of a student's dedication to their studies, we have heard from one student who is the daughter of a Bishop living in an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp close to the Ugandan border. She has recently collected her work from JDMSS, completed the dangerous journey back and is diligently completing her work in the IDP camp.

Sadly, the Covid crisis has only compounded all the insecurity and unrest within the country. Fighting, random killings, cattle raiding, ambushes on the roads and abduction is common. Spiralling inflation is also affecting the general population and the cost of the average food basket has increased by 42%. Despite this, your sponsorship continues to support the students and staff of JDMSS to enable their essential education to continue under the superb leadership of the Headmaster, Robert Kei. The current arrangements will continue for the rest of this year, but the school is scheduled to reopen across all four year groups in April 2021.

In the meantime, we have been able to grant additional funding to support to the teachers and staff of JDMSS in these extremely difficult times, as the hard currency that you provide goes a long way in Juba. We will also use this opportunity to renovate and repair some of the school's infrastructure, in particular the Girls' Boarding House in readiness for next April when hopefully boarding will be allowed again.

May I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to you for your continued support that has enabled JDMSS to continue to provide this essential education to over 800 students. The Friends of JDMSS, the Headmaster Robert Kei and all the teachers, staff and students are extremely grateful for your support in these extraordinarily challenging times.

Thanking you sincerely,

Colonel (Retired) Charles Thackway MBE

Chair of Friends of JDMSS

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