



### VISIT TO GHANA –FEBRUARY 2017

14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Parents and Students,

I am writing to invite sixth form students who are interested in participating in voluntary activities abroad to visit our partner school, St Georges School, in Accra, Ghana during February half term 2017. I also attach an information page which gives you an indication of the work undertaken with the school and links we have had so far.

We intend to take a small group of year 13 students (current year 12) to Ghana. We plan to fly by British Airways from Heathrow to Accra and stay in local, reputable accommodation.

During the visit we will undertake planned voluntary activities. This could be teaching and working with children, coaching sport, helping to develop ICT awareness, organising activities, painting and designing murals or undertaking renovation work. There will also be a day excursion to the rain forests and Kakum national park and some local sight-seeing visits. Taking some ownership of the visit would benefit students and the invaluable experience could form part of their personal statement for university applications.

Students will be supervised by Springwood staff at all times and a full risk assessment will of course be carried out. We would have a driver to drive us around the city and surrounding area.

To help fund this trip we plan to form a fund raising committee and hold fund raising events, such as bric-a-brac sales, car washes, race nights, cake stalls etc. The Springwood PTFA has agreed to help us with this as much as possible. I think that local businesses may support us too.

I envisage the cost, before fund raising, being in the region of £1200 – £1500. This would include food, accommodation, airport transfer and flights. The earlier we book the flights the cheaper they will of course be. Exact timings can be given once we have an idea of numbers and flight prices.

In addition to a current passport, each student will need to have vaccinations and a visa, which I will discuss during the first parents' information evening.

Please complete the slip below and enclose a £100.00 **non-refundable** deposit by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. Please place in the trip box in reception. The envelope must be clearly labelled with the name of the student and GHANA visit. A parents' evening will follow, in early February 2016.

Yours sincerely

Karen Williams (Assistant Headteacher)

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GHANA VISIT

My son/ daughter ..... is interested in taking part in the February 2017 trip to Ghana and I enclose a deposit of £100, **which I understand is non-refundable.**

Full name as to be used on the passport/as on the passport .....

Email address to be used .....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

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In 2014 we were successful in gaining a small grant from the British Council to help us link with St Georges School in Accra, Ghana. In addition to this we held fund raising activities and organised a themed week at Springwood, when we collected books to help set up a much needed school library at St Georges.

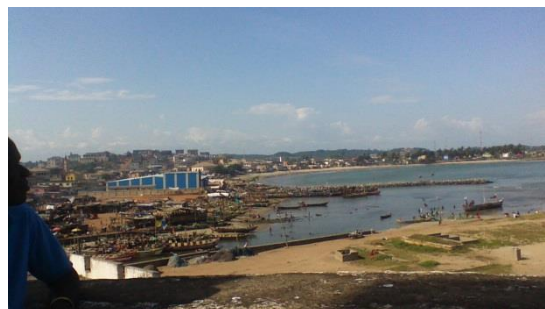


In October 2014 we sent the books to Ghana and members of staff visited St Georges. We set up the library and, with the help of the wife of the Vice President of Ghana, who equipped the school with computers, founded a further link with Ossu Junior High School, also in Accra. A volunteer coach from King's Lynn football club accompanied us to deliver outreach football coaching sessions to clubs around the city.

2015 has seen further activities, including Mr Quartey, a teacher from St Georges, visiting Springwood and we now feel ready to take sixth form students with us to complete voluntary work at both schools. Depending on the students' interests this could be teaching the younger ones, improving ICT facilities, developing the library further, delivering sport coaching sessions or helping to provide a more efficient water system at the schools. We can also learn a lot from students in Accra: African drum lessons or Ghanaian dances are always available.



During our visit of 2015 we had amazing visits to the rainforest at the Kakum National Park, a slavery castle at Cape Coast the House of the Vice President.



In 2016 the ICT department intend to run a cross school ICT project, the Maths department plan a Maths initiative and we hope to get funding for teacher training opportunities across the schools.

February 2017 would be the icing on the cake for us if we could take our first students to visit.