

## **BRIDLINGTON SCHOOL SMASHES TARGET.**

Young and Old Bridlingtonians, Foundation Trustees, families, friends and supporters of Bridlington School have worked with and alongside each other to raise all the money needed, and a little bit more, to build an additional three classrooms for Hope Primary School, Kenema, Sierra Leone.

Head Teacher Kate Parker-Randall said, "At Easter 2017 I launched our Young Bridlingtonian Pledge with the then Mayor and Old Bridlingtonian Liam Dealtry. The pledge set out qualities that are key for a Bridlingtonian and linked the Young and Old Bridlingtonians of our school. At this same time we launched Phase 2 of our Hope School Fundraising Campaign to build three further classrooms to complete the primary school we built and opened in October 2015 at the height of the Ebola crisis. We had a target of £23,500 to excavate, then lay foundations and build the three much needed additional classrooms. Many fundraising activities have taken place since then over the last 22 months and following our latest Bridlington School fundraiser on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February, I am delighted to report that we have smashed our target raising a total of just over £24,000. I have been formally invited by Mr Christian Martyn Kamara, National General Secretary and CEO of the YMCA Sierra Leone to travel out to Hope School this Easter in order to officially open the new three classroom build. This is a great honour and I feel both humbled and privileged to do so."

Hope School was built following a visit to Kenema by Bridlington School Global School Partnership Lead Teacher Mark Parker-Randall after his first visit to Sierra Leone with the British Council Connecting Classrooms in October 2013. Mark said he went to see the YMCA post-16 Vocational Training Centre and whilst there saw the young children having lessons in each corner of a cleared out workshop area. He said: "It was as I stood looking out over the city of Kenema from its hilltops and seeing the children there being taught in the most basic of situations with no school building and very little learning equipment that something in my spirit said this is the reason you are here. It was at that very moment that I had it in my heart to partner with the YMCA and the people of Kenema to build a school called Hope."

Mark travelled to Kenema during the countries Ebola crisis in October 2015 to officially open Hope School. Mark was the first white Westerner to visit the community at that very difficult and heart breaking time and was honoured by being made an African Chief whilst there. He was given the name 'Munda' meaning 'our own' as officials, the children and their families said he was now part of their community and family.

Mark said "I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together. It is impossible to measure just how much of an impact on so many people's lives our partnership has made, both for our Bridlington School students and for the students of Hope School Kenema. The new extension has brought our two communities even closer together. I am eternally grateful to all those who have made this possible."

Deputy Head Sam Clare said "Having only been at Bridlington School for 18 months, I am blown away at the generosity and community spirit that the students show. They have banded together to scrimp, save and raise the money for Hope School and finish this outstanding project they started some five years ago. They should be rightly proud of the difference they have made, and we look forward to seeing the results of the finished project being outworked throughout the curriculum in both schools."

*Dear OB Officers and Committee Members*

*You'll be glad to hear that Mark has now exceeded his target, raising £24,000 to complete phase 2 of the Hope School building project.*

*In addition to the £500 from our anonymous donor and £500 from the Foundation Trustees, our eblast appeal has raised £640. A fundraising day at School last Friday brought in a further £712.66.*

*Best wishes*

*Roddy*