



BRISTOL
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
for Girls & Boys

10 April 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

Education for all Morocco and Bristol Grammar School

I have known Mike McHugo of Discover Ltd since 1995 and when Mike contacted me just over 3 years ago about a new project connected with Education for girls in rural Morocco I was very happy to be involved and begin to build links between our school and the project.

In April 2007 we visited the site and started work digging the foundations for the building. We returned in 2008 to see the girls in the boarding house and have just completed our third trip, returning three days ago.

The three teams of between 12 and 14 Bristol Grammar Students (a mixture of 16 to 18 year olds) have now raised over £18,000 (200,000 Dirham) for this project in three years. The three trips to Asni have been very successful and have provided some life-long memories and life-changing experiences for our students.

It is significant that all three groups have continued to fundraise after returning. We are now starting to establish links with the girls in Morocco through our School House system and during this visit we presented prizes to Mouna and Khadija - the students who had achieved at the highest level and made the most progress over the previous year.

Benefits of the project

The greatest strength of the project is the scale and relative ease of access for us. We can visit each year and when we raise funds we can see just how they are being put to use. This has been very important as our students and wider community can become involved with the project over the long term.

Our school and the wider community in Bristol are now aware of and support a project which is making a real difference to the lives of young people.

The project enables our students to have a greater understanding of the culture and way of life in Morocco.

The girls in Morocco and our students realise they have much in common and the importance of successful education and making the most of your opportunities is clear to both groups.

Many of our students will go on to senior positions in Business, Engineering, Law and Medicine and an interest in and understanding of issues in Morocco can only be good for the long term.

A typical fundraising event

The Souk - On the 27th November 2008 Bristol Grammar School's Great Hall was transformed into a Moroccan market for the evening. There were lots of stalls including ones selling Moroccan spices, jewellery, ceramics and wooden objects. Every visitor was given a glass of mint tea on arrival; which is the usual precursor to buying something in Morocco! A Moroccan fashion show and a camel were the highlights of the evening. At one stage people were queuing to the School gates to get into the Hall. There was a great atmosphere with perhaps the most eclectic mix of people we have ever had in Great Hall and all the stall-holders were very busy all evening.

A group of 6th formers worked very hard to make the whole evening such a success. The night itself raised £3,355 (40,000 Dirham)

Publicity for the project

We hold many public events in School and at these we are usually fundraising for the project. Thousands of people in Bristol are now aware of the project and we have a lot of support from wider school community.

Every student in the school (1000+) and their parents are aware of the project through newsletters and assemblies.

Local media have featured the project and a diary of our current trip will feature in a regional newspaper.

Our work features on the education for all website and we help promote the project to other European schools.

The future

I plan to continue to develop our links with the project and to visit with a group of students each year. We will continue to raise funds and we hope to see the project extend to neighbouring areas and grow. Following the progress of the first group of girls in the Boarding House as their education continues is very rewarding.

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew J Dimberline
Head of Leadership Development

Headmaster:
Mr R I MacKinnon BSc

University Road, Bristol BS8 1SR
Tel: 0117 973 6006
Fax: 0117 946 7485
www.bristolgrammarschool.co.uk

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