

PROPOSAL FOR A WOODARD SECONDARY SCHOOL

In

THE RIFT VALLEY, KENYA

Frequently asked questions

Why now, and why this school?

Nathaniel Woodard was born on 21st March 1811. This proposal is for a Woodard-wide fundraiser involving all schools of the Woodard Corporation to raise sufficient money (£250,000) to build a Woodard Secondary School in the Rift Valley, Central Province of Kenya to celebrate the bicentenary of Nathaniel Woodard's birth.

Who will build the school?

The school will be built by a UK charity called the Kariandusi School Trust (KST). The Trust has much experience of building primary schools in the area and is a charity registered by the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales - Registered No. 1101103. Details of the trusts past successes may be viewed on its website www.kariandusi.co.uk



Site foreman outside his office, store and caretakers house

By the provision of school buildings, facilities and educational materials KST is committed to the advancement of education for the children and young people

living in the Rift Valley, Kenya. Trustees of the charity are firmly of the opinion that education is the best and lasting way out of grinding poverty.

KST is the brainchild of Col. Harry Vialou Clark, a retired army officer who was born in Kenya. In the last 15 years Harry, with the support and help of his wife Alison and like minded trustees, has built 14 primary schools in and around the shanty town of Langalanga which is some two hours North of Nairobi. KST's sister charity, the Langalanga Scholarship Fund www.langalanga.org.uk, also founded and run by Harry, provides scholarships for the ablest children from the poorest homes to go on to tertiary education.

Is there a video link and leaflets available?

Yes. Please have a look at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDjDQ-WQ30w>

Why build at Langalanga?

Within the local area of Langalanga Township there are three beautiful, large, modern primary schools built by KST. In addition there is one built by Harry with his former charity and two others within walking distance of Langalanga. The total annual output of pupils leaving primary education is some 270 children. From this total about 6-9 win Langalanga scholarships, an estimated 30-40 go to distant and expensive secondary boarding schools if their parents can afford to send them. The remainder, about 230 children, drop out of education at primary level.

There is a very pressing need, understood by the whole population of the area, for an affordable, day secondary school that caters for boys and girls of all faiths, and of no faith, within walking distance of home.

The proposed new Woodard school will cater for an initial entry of 90 pupils per year (double stream of 45 per class) rising to a further entry of 45 pupils (triple stream) if there remains a clear need and money is available.

Will this be a 'Woodard' school?

Agreement has been reached with the District Officer that the school shall be called the Woodard Langalanga Secondary School. This lengthy name will, we hope, be shortened to the Woodard Secondary School over time. It is hoped that Woodard schools in England and Wales will want to forge links with this school sending pupils and staff on exchanges. Woodard officers will be involved in the appointment of the Head.

Where will the pupils come from?

The site (known as Plot 68) is approximately 10 acres. It is situated 500 metres from Langalanga Primary School and from the centre of Langalanga township. The new school will serve Langalanga (650 children), Murindati Primary School (450 children) and Ngumo Primary School (480 children). Pupils from these three schools live within reasonable walking distance of Plot 68. It is certain that some pupils from Mwega Primary School (380 children), Kimbo (300 children) and Komothai primary school (520 children) who live further afield, will want to attend the Woodard school.



Girls from a feeder school entertain guests during the groundbreaking ceremony. Some will be amongst the first pupils in February 2012

How big will the school be?

The school has been designed with 12 classrooms, 3 science laboratories, a computer laboratory, library, staffroom and administrative offices. A large water tank will harvest rainwater from the roof via gutters and downpipes. Water will be pumped to a high level water tank to supplement the mains supply in the likely event of its failure. A 14 person toilet block for girls will be built on one side of the school and a similar block for boys on the other side.

What effect will the school have on the local community?

Plot 68 is on the edge of the township of Langalanga, a shanty town which is by western standards a wretched place. There is little employment in the area and so people are poor. Most children survive on one bowl of ugali (maize flour and water) a day. During the recent two year drought it was not unusual for primary children to faint in class through lack of food. Langalanga Primary school, which was handed over by KST to the local community in 2006, has already had a morale enhancing effect on the children and the town. It has the best buildings in the area and is the centre for community activities. The secondary school will bring renewed hope for the area and, during construction it will bring much needed jobs. All the work will be done by hand. The clearing of the site, the digging of the foundations, the laying of the concrete floors, plastering walls and dressing of stone blocks will be done by the local unskilled workforce. Skilled and semi-skilled labour will initially be sought locally but may need to come from further afield.

How long will it take to build the school?

The land has been bought, land clearance has started so assuming money is available to continue construction, it is anticipated that the first intake of pupils will be admitted in very early February 2012. To achieve this, Phase 1 of the project will include the construction of the first 4-classroom block, toilets, the administration offices, water tank, tower and pump house.



Ground breaking Ceremony at Langalanga

Under Phase 2 the bulk of the remainder will be completed. The building is in phases to match the fund-raising.

How is the school funded once open?

Registration with the Kenya Government needs to be completed before the headteacher and some staff are appointed and paid for by the Government. Until that time it will be necessary for funds for that purpose to be found by Woodard. Initial discussions indicated that registration would not be a prolonged activity.

A Governing body will be formed from the local community to run the school. Future links with the school with UK Woodard schools will be encouraged.

The Kenya Government is always unable to pay for all teachers in all established posts because of a lack of public money. For some years past KST has instigated a scheme whereby KST pays for some half-teachers so long as the local community pays for the other half. There are now 30 such teachers on KST's books. It has worked well in the primary schools that we have built. The same

scheme is very likely to be necessary for the new Woodard secondary school but salaries are somewhat higher. This will be necessary under Phase 1.

What are the time lines for building the school?

The following key dates are for guidance only at this stage. All will depend on the date of land purchase and timely availability of funds.

A	June 2010	Finalise design of school
B	September 2010	Land Title/ Community purchase of Plot 68
C	1 January 2011	Start construction work on site
D	31 January 2012	Complete all essential construction
E	1 February 2012	First year intake

How will the pupils be selected?

On merit, based on the results of the Kenyan Primary School exams. KST's sister charity, the Langalanga Scholarship Fund has a number of years experience in choosing the pupils who receive Langalanga scholarships.

What are the risks to Woodard?

Risks to Woodard and Woodard schools will be nil. The risk will be with the builder in Kenya and KST will stand between Woodard and the Woodard schools and the project.

How can I help?

If you would like to make a donation to this amazing initiative please download the gift aid form on this website and send the form and your donation to Jane Dumeresque, Development Office, Ardingly College, Haywards Heath RH17 6SQ jane.dumeresque@ardingly.com or for further information please call Jane on 01444 893265.

Thank you so much for helping a child in Kenya achieve their full potential