



JUBA DIOCESAN MODEL SECONDARY SCHOOL

# Update

June 2020  
Issue 36



### Give thanks for:

- Excellent results in the School Certificate, coming top in the whole country!
- The dedication and commitment of all our teachers.
- The headmaster, now living in the school house adjacent to JDMSS.

### Please pray for:

- Continued retention of students, teachers and activities.
- Funding for renovations to the Girls Boarding House.

## JDMSS in lockdown

The Covid-19 pandemic reached South Sudan on 5 April, 2020. As of 25 May, there were over 800 confirmed cases and eight deaths in the country. According to the UN, South Sudan is particularly vulnerable, with social isolation a virtual impossibility. In addition, there are only four ventilators in the entire country.

JDMSS had to close its doors to students with just a day's notice. The headmaster called a meeting

of all staff and it was agreed that teachers would set worksheets for the students so that their education could continue. Online working is simply not an option! The students have to collect the worksheets and bring them back for marking. They are then given further ones to work on.

With the School Certificate exams looming at Christmas, the students are extremely motivated. High achievement in the exams will secure

them an all-important university place.

Photocopying worksheets for 885 students has presented a logistical challenge for the school. Fortunately, Salisbury Diocese stepped in and provided funds for a new photocopier, which was greatly appreciated by the school and parents.

The worksheets programme is being rolled out to other schools, with JDMSS once again being seen as an education exemplar. The Church in South Sudan has also been very supportive throughout the pandemic.

## Countess pays a visit

The school was delighted to welcome Sophie, Countess of Wessex, on an official visit to South Sudan in early March (prior to the lockdown).

JDMSS was selected because of its excellent reputation and the fact that it benefits from UK Government aid via the Girls Education in South Sudan (GESS) programme. The school is certainly making the most of the money!



# Salisbury Diocese primary schools sponsorship

As well as the 110 students at JDMSS sponsored by Salisbury Diocese and the 90 supported by the Rotary Club of Canterbury, another 37 are being supported in primary schools. A few of these will go on to JDMSS, but the demand for places in the Senior School is so great that very able students are coming from all parts of the country. JDMSS is recognised as being a 'Top School' not only locally but by the South Sudan Government itself.

Moses Kose, the former Juba Diocesan Secretary, who was a great supporter of our work in Juba, recognised how important a secondary school that admitted both boys and girls would be. We are pleased to report that his children are benefiting from financial support too, so they can attend primary school in the Kiryangdongo refugee camp in Northern Uganda.



*Moses Kose's family in their house in Juba, which was destroyed in the troubles in December 2016. The family went as refugees to Northern Uganda where they are now.*



*Pictured with Dr Margaret Griffin are two high achieving JDMSS girls hoping to go on to university*

Keep up-to-date with all the latest news on the school by visiting its website at: [www.jdmss.co.uk](http://www.jdmss.co.uk).

# Student success

The Rotary Club of Canterbury has provided a number of bursaries for students, with individual Rotarians supporting a few more. So, it was very heartening to receive a recent update about one of the school's students.

Lavina Keji received a bursary as one of a number awarded by the Headmaster to children from poor families in Juba. In Lavina's case, the bursary was paid for through a donation by a doctor in the UK.

Lavina was a diligent student and passed her School Certificate with high grades. She went on to study at university in Cairo, where she graduated in nursing. Following the death of her mother, Lavina returned to Juba to look after her family and is now working at the Juba Medical Clinic, where currently some Covid-19 patients are being treated.

Lavina herself sent the information to her donors because she wanted them to enjoy her success. But hers is not the only success story – there are many.

Last year, when Dr Margaret Griffin was waiting in Juba to board her plane back to the UK after a trip to the school, another charming young woman tapped her on the arm in the waiting area. The young woman recognised Margaret from her time at JDMSS and told her that she was (at that time) in her final year at Kampala University studying engineering. Not only was she educated in a co-educational secondary school, but she was holding her own in a traditionally male dominated field at a co-ed university! She, too, had been a bursary student.

We wish Lavina (pictured left) and her fellow students well in their future careers.



Thank you for your prayers and gifts. Both are essential to the continuance of the school.

For further details of how you can help (cheques should be made payable to Salisbury DBF (Juba School)):

General Fund: Dr Margaret Griffin, Woodlands, Palmars Cross Hill, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury CT2 9BL. Tel: 01227 457314.  
Treasurer: Mr Dick Beath, 58a, Combe Road, Combe Down, Bath BA2 5HZ. Tel: 01225 832850.  
Chairman/Bursaries: Col. Charlie Thackway, Stable Cottage, Huntenhull Lane, Chapmanslade, Westbury BA13 4AS.  
Tel: 01373 832048.