

## UGANDAN VISITORS TO BURFORD

Over the last two and a half years Burford School has had a link with Bishop Dunstan School in the village of Kalangala in Uganda, East Africa. In August 1995, after a year and a half of hard fundraising, a group of 14 Burford students and myself visited Bishop Dunstan School as part of a month's tour of Uganda. The students attended lessons with their Ugandan pen pals, helped with the building of new classrooms and got involved with village life.

"The best part of the visit was the home stay" said 16 year old Ruth Towell. "We all went to stay one night with a Ugandan family. We were all quite nervous about the visit but it gave us first hand experience of how Ugandans in Kalangala live. They have no electricity or running water and I stayed in a house that a family had built themselves out of muddy clay".

"We had to collect water everyday and live off a diet of beans, sweet potatoes and fish, which was kind of monotonous" said Jack Henriques, "but it really made me appreciate my life here and all the things we take for granted".

Since September the whole school has been fundraising for the return visit of the Ugandans. Thanks to a grant from the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and the hard work of students, parents and staff, we are able to bring eight Ugandan students and three members of staff to England this summer. The Ugandans will be visiting Burford for the first three weeks of July. They will be staying at the school boarding house and with families at the weekends.

Their timetable will include taking part in lessons with Burford students, visiting our feeder primary schools, participating in our African Arts Week, camping in Wales and a few sight-seeing tours.

This year's Summer Fayre on Sunday 7th July will have an African theme in honour of our visitors. This theme will include an African craft stall, an African food stall, a mask competition for primary students as well as music and dance performed by the Ugandan students. Other fundraising events include a sponsored 12 hour Dance Marathon for Burford students.

I hope that this exchange visit will bring a little bit of Africa to the Burford community and teach us a little about Ugandan culture. I'm sure the school and community will welcome our visitors as warmly as they welcomed us.

Annie Paget,  
Geography teacher and Link Co-ordinator.