

**A report by Catharine Banks  
on her first visit to the school in Utete  
where many of Kindwitwi's students receive their education.**



## ***Elimu Ni Kazi - Education for Work***

This is the motto of Utete Secondary School

From the Devon countryside to the beautiful rural landscape of Rufiji : as colleagues at Queen Elizabeth's Community College in Crediton, this was our half-term journey. As International Co-ordinator, I am responsible for the development of a international partnership with Utete Secondary School. I was accompanied by college librarian and staff governor, Robert Logan.

This is an initiative partially funded by the Department for International Development / Department for Schools, Children and Families via the British Council which is based on the stated philosophy of Julius Nyerere, the first President of Tanzania :

'Take every penny you have set aside in aid for Tanzania  
and spend it in the UK explaining to people  
the facts and causes of poverty'.

We spent a week at Father Lamburn's restful guesthouse, visiting Utete every day. While Mr Kingura took care of us at night, Frank cooked us healthy, appetising meals, ably assisted on occasions by daughters Agnes and Cecile. What must they think of 'mad Englishmen' who like to sit out in the midday sun!



At Utete, we received the warmest of welcomes, as this photograph of some lady teachers and me shows. Both Robert and I feel it is such a privilege for us to have Utete Secondary as our Global Partnership School. Having met the staff and discussed our new friendship and how we would both enjoy equal but different gains from the link, it was time to start work.

We decided to start with Values and Perceptions : how might we challenge the misconceptions and stereotypes we have about each other? Students in Form III kindly agreed to complete a questionnaire about their lives. Back in the UK, their equivalent will do the same questionnaire and then we will share the results in order to compare the perception of people's lives in each country with the reality!

### **A cheer for microscopes**

In the scorching African heat, 580 students gathered around the Tanzanian national flag and spontaneously broke into applause as we presented our gifts of two microscopes.



Their school day had begun at 7.00 am, when they arrived in pristine uniform and swept the dusty, rocky yard with twigs, without being told to do so (this is part of the school day called 'cleanliness').

At the assembly, Mr Muhoza, the headteacher, asked for someone to begin the singing; a girl quickly stepped forward and the school sang their national anthem and their school song. He then asked for a student to give a vote of thanks.

After a pause, a boy spoke, in excellent English, of how much they all welcomed the partnership with QE.

### **The future**

Both QE and Utete see their partnership as a long-term, reciprocal relationship in which we share educational ideas and exchange work between students. Next April, Mr Noel Muhoza and Mr Francis Kilindo will be visiting QE in Crediton so that this can happen. The following year, we hope that more exchange visits will take place , including students.

Robert and I would like to record our heart-felt gratitude to everyone in Kindwitwi who made us feel so very welcome, and who helped to make our visit so enjoyable and successful. Top of the list must be Abdallah, the Manager at Kindwitwi, who put up with our constant questions and responded with such graceful patience.

And the drivers - how do they make every journey such a smooth ride? Magic!

