Uganda Trip 2016

On the 14th March twenty TY students and five members of staff from Villiers School travelled to Uganda with four members from the charity Zest4Kidz.

  
  
For 5 days we visited two schools everyday, and gave each school a sports pack that contained soccer balls, volleyball balls and nets, netballs, cones and bibs. We also gave each school a microscope and the Irish flag. We also visited the hospital that Zest4Kidz has built for the opening of the Jean Carley children’s ward, which is named after one of the executive director’s late wives.

Later this summer a group of teachers from our school are going back out to Uganda with Zest4Kidz to help build a new orphanage and school for the deaf kids. Zest4Kidz are hoping to make this the first bi-lingual school in Uganda. This means that they want both deaf kids and local kids with no disability to attend the school together, helping to break the stigma of disabilities in Uganda. Disabilities are something that is very rarely ever addressed in Uganda. When a child is born with a disability, they are hidden from the world, and are not allowed to go out and play, or even talk to their family. A lot of kids are abandoned by their family, and have to be taken in to orphanages. Disabled kids don’t get a chance at having an education, so they never get to talk to other kids their age, or learn simple things like how to read and write. Zest4Kidz is hoping to change people mentality towards disabilities and are working to bring change to communities in the country.

The teachers were extremely grateful for the microscopes. One teacher danced around the school with it in her arms, another teacher was so touched that he cried. The children were excitedly queuing up and each pupil wanted to touch the microscope and could not get enough of looking through it. It made a great contribution in revealing ‘the small wonders of the world’ to these children, who so far never had the priviledge to know about technologies, which make this possible.