

BRIDLINGTON SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP WITH HOPE SCHOOL KENEMA - SIERRA LEONE

Whilst on an educational visit to Sierra Leone in 2013, Mark Parker-Randall met the Sierra Leonian Deputy Minister for Education and the Chief Inspector of Schools to discuss the educational needs of the country. Sierra Leone is one of poorest countries of the world.

On visiting a YMCA school in the hilled district of Koyagbema, Kenema, it was as Mark looked out over the city of Kenema from its hilltops, and seeing the children there being taught in the most basic of situations with no school building and very little learning equipment, something within his spirit said "this is the reason you are here; you need to build a school for these children."



In response, upon his return, the students and staff of Bridlington School shared this conviction and vision and raised £10,000 to build and equip 'Hope School'. The school, consisting of 3 classrooms, a store room, Head Teachers office and a toilet, was built at the time of the devastating Ebola outbreak and was officially opened on 23rd October 2015.



It was named 'Hope' because the children, parents and teachers said that Bridlington School had given them hope for a future they might not otherwise have. Mark Parker-Randall was in attendance.



CLICK ON LINK TO SEE SHORT 12 MINUTE FILM: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIXbl7H1qP8>

During a special week of whole school assemblies at the end of April 2017, which saw the Commissioning of current students as 'Young Bridlingtonians' by OB Cllr Liam Dealtry and Head Teacher Kate Parker-Randall, every student signed a pledge promising:

- to show to respect to myself, my school and others I know and meet;
- to be an active citizen in my local, national and international community;
- to be the change I want to see in the world;
- to hand on the torch of life to the next generation of Bridlingtonians.

A key part of their pledge is to raise an additional £10,000 to build the additional three classrooms needed so that Hope School has a classroom for each Year Group for the whole of their primary school education from Year 1 - Year 6. In pledging to be 'good Bridlingtonians' each student has promised to raise £1 a month for the next 12 months in order to try and achieve this.

Young Bridlingtonian Pledge

As a Young Bridlingtonian, I pledge:

- ⇒ to show to respect to myself, my school and others I know and meet;
- ⇒ to be an active citizen in my local, national and international community;
- ⇒ to be the change I want to see in the world;
- ⇒ to hand on the torch of life to the next generation of Bridlingtonians.

In addition, I pledge to raise at least £1 a month for the next 12 months to give children in our partner school hope, education and a future they might not otherwise have.

Signed: _____ Date: _____





CLICK ON LINK TO SEE ARTICLE IN THE BRIDLINGTON FREE PRESS:

<http://www.bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk/news/education/pupils-pledge-to-be-good-bridlingtonians-1-8512936>

The cost for the building of each classroom is approximately £3,500. In addition, foundations need to be dug out and laid, and finance needs to be raised for classroom equipment. In partnership with the current 'Young Bridlingtonians' a number of 'Old Bridlingtonians' have also committed to raise and/or contribute a total of £12 to bring this about within the next 12 months.

Both Mark and Kate Parker-Randall are hoping that they might be able to go out to Hope School together during October half-term 2018, in order to attend the official opening of the new school extension.