

Schooling for Life

Newsletter December 2016
Edition 5



We are growing! We have 17 new students enrolled in our "Skills for a Successful Future" programme. They have started classes at their various institutes, skills training classes and their personal guidance.

Progress of the students

As promised in our previous newsletter; an update about our students and the progress they are making. We are very proud of all our students who have been working very hard this past academic year. Our I.T. students at Blue Crest College started their classes last December and have passed four online exams with great results so far. They are receiving many compliments about their outstanding behaviour in and around classes.

Our students who did their matriculation at MMCET at the end of January (pictured on the right) are now waiting for their end of year results and the final student of the first batch, Abibatu, managed to come in 3rd out of 153 students for her Nursing entry exam. She is now following her introductory course into Nursing.

We wish all of our students a great journey. They are a true inspiration to us and our future students.



Recruitment of new students

Mid-March we started with the applications for the Skills for a Successful Future programme 2016-2017. The new students started the Skills for a Successful Future programme this September. During the Inauguration Ceremony we had serious moments like signing the Schooling for Life rules and regulations, and of course also a lot of fun moments like receiving the Schooling for Life shirts and ID cards, and taking pictures with fellow students, staff and everyone else supporting this fresh start of their Successful Future.

With this new class of students, Schooling for Life's aim to expand its reach in Vocational Institutes across Freetown, is developing. Our new students are enrolled in different institutions doing a range of courses. Students are doing Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at G.T.I, Information Technology at COBIT, Banking & Finance, Business Administration and Accounting & Finance at IAMTECH and Social Work at MMCET. Good luck everyone!



Master classes

This year we had a Master class at the beginning of our 'Skills for a Successful Future' programme to help our students develop a vision for their future, identify life goals, and acquire skills needed for career building. The first session was given by Christine Sesay about vision mapping and the pursuit of excellence, and the second session was done by Maryam Darwich about building a career Vs. getting a job. Thank you again to Africell for having us and making this day of success possible.



Math and English Workbooks

To improve the students' quality of learning, Schooling for Life has developed Math and English workbooks for our students' skills classes.

Our partner Africell sponsored the printing and binding of the workbooks for our first and second year students.

The books have been distributed to all the students and they were very excited to receive workbooks that will foster additional learning.

Shakespeare celebration

Mid-March, Schooling for Life students attended a Shakespeare celebration, and watched parts of plays like Othello, Merchant of Venice, and Macbeth performed by local artists and students. How fun and education come together!





World Youth Skills Day 2016

Friday July 15 was World Youth Skills Day. This day is officially recognized by the United Nations to raise awareness about the importance of youth skills development. Young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and continuously exposed to lower quality of jobs, greater labour market inequalities, and longer and more insecure school-to-work transitions. Schooling for Life celebrated this special day at the British Council, during a festivity organised by the TVET Coalition of Sierra Leone. The day turned out to be extra special as one of our students, Alimamy Sesay, was asked on the spot to open the session at World Youth Skills Day 2016!

Refreshed parlour

In August 2016, we asked our students to come up with ideas to spice up our parlour, to make it the inspiring place it deserves to be. A competition was held and very creative plans were made. The two groups that won the competition came up with a partition, to divide the waiting area and the study room, they rearranged the interior and they created motivating slogans on the walls, to encourage the students while learning. We are very pleased with the new look and feel of our parlour, and would like to thank all the students for their ideas and effort, especially those who came to the office to help and supervise.



"I want Schooling for Life to help me to become an assertive person in life. I want to stand for what is right and also to help change my people in a positive way."

Abibatu Mansaray – Student of SfL (Nursing student)

Prefects and Assistant Prefects

As the new school year started, new student elections were organised to elect the first and second year Schooling for Life Class Prefect and Assistant Prefect.

The prefect is a student who is the head of the class and takes responsibility of class matters that need to be arranged and is of support to the management of Schooling for Life.

The prefect is a responsible student, who puts effort and time into managing class/student related issues that need attention. Each class has a prefect and an assistant prefect and all four of them were given prefect and assistant prefect ID cards.



Left to right: Alimamy Sesay, Abibatu Mansaray, Emmanuel Deoud and Aminata Kamara

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with TVET Coalition partners

Schooling for Life is one of the partners of the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Coalition of Sierra Leone. Schooling for Life is part of the Coalition to support improvement of the quality and employability of TVET graduates on the Sierra Leone job market. On Tuesday 8 November 2016, partners of the Coalition (government, donors, private sector, supporting (I)NGOs) came together at the National Youth Commission (NAYCOM) to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, to show their dedication to supporting the TVET Coalition and therewith the government in the improvement of TVET and TVET graduates. The event was hosted by the National Youth Commissioner at NAYCOM. Our Country Director, Sjerly Pereira, was asked to give a talk on the future aspirations of the Coalition and the position of youth in Sierra Leone as a whole.

Continuation of partnership with Africell Sierra Leone

We would like to thank Africell Sierra Leone, one of the biggest Telecom companies in Sierra Leone, for their continuous support to our work as they renewed their sponsorship in providing our skills training facility and helping Schooling for Life spread her message through radio and tv coverage. Africell also recently sponsored the printing and binding of the English and Math workbooks for our students, which is providing them a unique learning experience.



To all our other partners; Latour Foundation, MWH4impact, BAM International, Stichting Autonomia, World Child Fund, thank you for supporting us financially and otherwise, and thank you for believing in us as we build towards more skilful youth in Sierra Leone! Our work would not be possible without you.

Looking for laptop donations!

Our students pass their theoretical exams successfully, but also need practice to learn. To provide our students with the best preparations for the Sierra Leone labour market as possible, we have to teach them how to work with a computer. This is where we ask for your help. We are looking for laptops!



Well working laptops running on Windows 7 (or higher), in good condition and with a proper functioning battery, so our students can study for a long period of time. A laptop provided with Microsoft Office 2007 would be perfect, so we don't have to install this anymore. We have received several laptops already, but we are still looking for more!

If you don't have a laptop for donation, but would like to contribute by making a financial donation, so we can buy the laptops for our students, we would very much welcome this way of support as well!

You can find more information on our website on how to make your donation <http://schoolingforlife.net/support-us/laptop-donations/>

If you have questions about the donation, you can always contact us at admin@schoolingforlife.net.

"Schooling for Life has actually made me achieve one of my dreams by going back to school and have a better life. For this I am grateful."

Harry Cole – student of SfL (IT student)

The Dinnerbox

Are you looking for a unique gift for someone? Have you ever thought about making a special dinner for yourself, your family, friends or even colleagues? Then the dinnerbox is for you!

The dinnerbox is a Schooling for Life initiative, where you can order a box, filled with African ingredients, a special and easy recipe for dinner and information about Schooling for Life.

Instead of your guests bringing a bottle of wine or flowers, they can make a donation to Schooling for Life and like that, you have an exciting dinner to fundraise for Schooling for Life!

Go to our website for more details about the dinnerbox and how to order <http://schoolingforlife.net/support-us/dinnerbox/>.



Vacancies (Voluntary) in the Netherlands



Schooling for Life in the Netherlands is the behind the scenes support system of Schooling for Life Sierra Leone. Do you want to help us and be part of this driving force, do you know somebody or do you want to receive more information? Send an e-mail to info@schoolingforlife.net or visit our website www.schoolingforlife.net.

We are looking for an **Operational manager**, a **Fundraiser** and somebody for **Communication and Administration**.

Donation

Do you want to help the youth in Sierra Leone receive good quality education and the skills to create a better life? Please help Schooling for Life accomplish this with your donation.

Donations done in/to the Netherlands

Send your donation to:

Rabobank
Schooling for Life,
Account number (IBAN):
NL49 RABO 0171749022
BIC Code: RABONL2U
Rabobank, The Hague

Donations done in/to Sierra Leone

Send your donation to:

United Bank for Africa
Schooling for Life
Leones account number: 540110030005931
Euro account number: 540110130016516
Swift code: UNAFSLFR
(Charlotte Street branch)

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The students and the Schooling for Life team wish everyone Happy Holidays and a very Educational and Prosperous 2017!!