

Schooling for Life

Newsletter August 2017

Edition 6



Schooling for Life keeps on growing! We have 15 second year students and 16 first year students in our "Skills for a Successful Future" programme.

Progress of the 2nd year students

As usual we will give you a brief update about our students and the progress they are making. We are extremely proud of all our students who have been working very hard this past academic year. We are receiving many compliments about their outstanding behaviour in and around classes.

The Networking Engineering students have completed their 1st year.

The two Software Engineering students have also completed their 1st year. They both decided to specialize in Web Development. So instead of two complete years of Software Engineering, they are doing a separate course of Diploma in Web Development of 9 months & they will get 2 certificates: Honours Diploma in Software engineering and Professional Diploma in Web Development.

The other second year students have taken their exams at their various institutions and are waiting to receive their NCTVA results.

Our Nursing student passed her introductory phase examination. She is now in the first year phase of State Enrolled Community Health Nursing.



2nd Year students - End of Skills Training Classes & Personal Guidance

All students in the 2nd year have finished Skills Training classes, which have helped to increase their abilities and essential skills. During a two year period, they were offered Mathematics, English Language, Civic Education, Computer studies, Communication Skills, Time Management and Work Ethics.

They have also finished their personal guidance sessions, which guided them in reaching the goals they had set out for themselves.

Although Skills Training Classes & Personal Guidance has ended for them, they are still all on scholarships to continue their studies at their various institutions. From next academic year, we will be having a group follow up meeting with them per term and also involve them in our activities. We are proud of all the progress they have made so far!

"As the first student to do internship at the Schooling for Life office, I was able to develop both personal and professional skills. It included being a good and effective, and also better employee. This I believe will help me in different ways of my life." **Patrick Mambu 2nd year student, Schooling for Life**

Progress of the 1st year students

Matriculation

Two sets of students matriculated, at I.A.M.T.E.C.H and M.M.C.E.T respectively!



L-R: Mohamed I.Kamara,Marie Sesay,Mary E. Mansaray & Zainab Bangura L-R: Abu Bakarr Tarawally, Aminata Kamara & Abdulai Kamara



First Certificate for I.T Students

The I.T students at COBIT passed their IC3 exams and are currently doing the A+ Hardware module.

Others at G.T.I, IAMTECH & MMCET have taken their exams and are awaiting their results to continue into their second year of Diploma.

Our students are a true inspiration to us and our future students!

L-R : Emmanuel Deoud, Mohamed S.Tarawally, Alie Gborie, Christopher Marah & David Bamba

"I now understand the importance of team work & its dynamics!"

Harry Cole- 2nd year student

"I can write a C.V & Cover letter and confidently attend a job interview."

Aiah Borway- 2nd Year Student

"I can now manage my time and minimize procrastination."

Patrick Barber- 2nd Year Student

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS ON SOME OF THE BENEFITS FROM SKILLS TRAINING CLASSES

Student Internship

Patrick Mambu, second year Software Engineering student did a seven month internship at the Schooling for Life office as an Administrator which exposed him to the realities of office work & it sharpened his employability skills before he completes his studies. Among other things, he learned how to write reports & minutes, official e-mails, prepare budgets, support the planning and management of events, and developed skills like assertiveness, and proper office conduct. Patrick developed personal and professional skills that are transferable to any organisation and will make him a valuable employee. We are very proud of the effort and hard work he put in during his internship and everything he has learned.



Training for Staff and Students



A one day staff capacity building training on Stress Management, Conflict Resolution & Organisational Management was conducted for our staff in February.

Staff learned about taking responsibilities at work, making sure that the organisational goal is prioritised, the PDCA cycle – Plan Do Check and Act which helps us to plan our work, taking actions and evaluating the work for quality, dealing with conflicts in an organisation through identifying the problem, seeking alternative solutions in solving the problem, and coping

with stress in an organisation.

The Students had two days of training on C.V and Motivational letter writing and Conflict Resolution. The sessions were very interactive and a great learning opportunity for our students to learn new skills.

The sessions were very special to both our staff and students as they were facilitated by the mother of the founder of Schooling for Life.



Recruitment of new students



Students doing their assessments

Mid-February we opened the application process for the Skills for a Successful Future Programme 2017- 2018. By May, we had received 110 applications, of which 50 were shortlisted and interviewed, 30 applicants were invited to take the assessment in English Language, Mathematics, general paper and a career assessment.

At the end of August, 15 new students were to be inaugurated into the Skills for a Successful Future programme. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, Schooling for Life has had to decide not to continue with the acceptance process of new students for the 2017/2018 academic year.

"At first I was using a calculator to solve Mathematical problems, but I can now solve Mathematical problems without using calculators." **Mohamed Kamara Jnr- 1st Year student Schooling for Life student.**

Work experience placement

Aiah M. Borway, second year Construction Engineering student, is doing a 9 months' work experience placement as an Assistant Clerk and Site Supervisor to get introduced into the profession that he dreams of doing after his studies; Civil Engineering. In order to meet his future employer's goal, he is learning about team work and how communication flows between management & staff. Also including the three main angles that make construction interesting, like plumbing, block laying and tiling. When he is on site, he thinks in solutions when a problem arises to ensure assigned tasks are achieved and he is innovative and creative.



According to Aiah, the placement has served as a huge motivation for him to succeed in life, attain his goals and most importantly has made him more enthusiastic to give undivided attention to his studies. We are confident that future employers will be pleased to have Aiah join their team!



Iftar Dinner

During Ramadan, Iftar is the evening meal consumed when Muslims end their daily fast at sunset. Mid-June, Schooling for Life students, trainers and staff gathered to honour the Muslims observing the holy month by sharing a meal. It was a special way to experience how close our students, teachers and staff are; a true Schooling for Life family moment. It was engaging and interactive!

During the Dinner, the top 6 performing students (3 from each year) were recognised to encourage others to work even harder and achieve the same.

Final Guardian/Students meeting

Schooling for Life continues to stay in touch with not only the students but their parents/guardians as well. We had our end of year guardian/students meeting on the 27th July 2017, where students' academic progress was discussed with the guardians. As a token of appreciation for what Schooling for Life has done for them, the second year students presented the office with 11 beautiful new chairs.



"I want to separately pay respect to the staff and management of Sfl for their dedication in being good team players during our learning process. I want to compliment Madam Sjerly for her courage and excellent initiative which has given me the chance of becoming a person who is about to achieve his dream." **Quote by Morlai K. Turay Second student year, Schooling for Life, during his speech at the guardian/students meeting.**

“I need to establish a relationship with Schooling for Life in order to get more of their students at my center!!”

“Schooling for Life students arrive 15 minutes early to start the work day & they use their initiative in getting tasks done!”

FEEDBACK FROM A CHILDREN'S DAYCARE CENTRE DURING A WORK PLACEMENT OF TWO FEMALE SCHOOLING FOR LIFE STUDENTS

Partnership with Africell Sierra Leone

We would like to thank Africell Sierra Leone, the biggest telecom company in the market of Sierra Leone, for their continuous support to our work by providing us with the skills training facility, sponsoring the printing and binding of our skills training workbooks, and additional media attention to promote the organisation and our objectives. The Africell American Corner has become our second home.



To all our other partners; Latour Foundation, MWH4impact, BAM International and Stichting Autonomia, 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!



To provide our students with the best preparation 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 (or higher) would be perfect, so we don't have to install this anymore. We have received several laptops already, that the students are happily making use of!

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.

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 to thank everyone for their support and for sharing our dream to achieve Skills for a Successful Future!!