

SCHOOLING FOR LIFE NEWSLETTER



11th Edition

December 2019

Introduction Week and progress of new batch

Schooling for Life's Introduction week is an exciting three day event. For the first time, students are in an entirely new environment taking on an entirely new challenge. Introduction week is the way new students start their Schooling for Life experience. For some, this is the first new programme they have enrolled into since their Senior Secondary School Education. Introduction week is the perfect place for new students to meet their batch mates and familiarise themselves with the SFL environment. As usual staff were on hand to provide information to students who were a little nervous about this event. During this year's Introduction Week, there were both current and past students who worked to make the Introduction week an exciting one. The current students and alumni were passionate about Schooling for Life and knowledgeable about skills classes, personal guidance and their areas of studies and most importantly—willing to be of assistance to the new students. Schooling for Life puts a lot of effort into the Introduction Week by bringing in professionals from dif-

ferent backgrounds to train, motivate and inspire students. This year, Batch 4's Introduction week was held in September 2019 at the Africell American Corner.

ANNUAL FIELD TRIP

Last academic year's field trip was a visit to the Sierra Leone National History museum. The objective was for students to learn from the tour guide about the history of the country, the various tribes, and even some mystical aspects of cultural beliefs. Students were very engaged in gaining experience as they asked the tour guide many questions and took careful notes. A student studying tourism was especially excited to have gained the experience, even though she had visited the museum previously, she never had a guided tour to get the educational experience.

Newsletter Outline

- Introduction week and progress of new batch
- Graduation Day for first batch of students
- Annual Field Trip
- Personal Guidance Update
- Employability Skills Training
- Christmas Activity

Personal Guidance Update (Quotes from students)

"I feel so good about personal guidance because I have never had the opportunity to have someone who can sit, listen, and talk with me about how I feel, what I am good at, and what I want to improve on".

Batch 3 Student

"In personal guidance, I have learned that I can also use my soft skills in developing other skills".

Batch 3 student



Graduation Day Celebrations

Graduation Day

Schooling for Life organised the 1st Graduation day ceremony on the 14th of September, 2019 for the 1st batch of students who completed the two-year programme. The guests on the event were SFL guardians, trainers and staff. Speaking on the event was Country Director Sjerly Pereira, who welcomed everyone and recalled the time spent with the graduates preparing them for their next steps in their lives. Other speakers were Patrick J. Mambu, the first prefect of this batch and Moses Bangura, the Math trainer, who spoke about how proud he is of what the students have achieved. The celebrations ended with the awarding of certificates.

Trainers Reflection
Moses Bangura
Mathematics trainer

" My principle of teaching is that the trainer must care deeply about the class and be fully invested in the students' learning. To show my investment, I show up early for class respond quickly to phone calls and try to give substantive feedback on students' work. I learn my students' names early on. I intentionally convey my passion and enthusiasm through my words and my body language. I tell my students that I expect to learn much from them As they from me, and I ask for their input on how to improve the class. I always encourage students empower them to take ownership of the

class. Over the years I've been with Schooling for Life, I've had the pleasure of working with many different students. I've seen students come in with a good amount of knowledge in mathematics and improve. I have trained students with almost no knowledge on the subject and I have seen them improve. Students have taken the skills they've acquired from SFL and have gone on to succeed in life. I am proud to say I am a part of this programme and I am able to contribute to the success of young people in our country. Thanks to SFL for giving me the opportunity to make a difference."

Success Story of a Schooling for Life graduate

"My name is Patrick Barber—Batch one student. I studied IT (Network Engineering) at Bluecrest College. Presently working with United Bank for Africa (UBA) as Digital banking assistant. Through my years at Schooling for Life, both as a student and as an Intern -Trainer for computer skills, I gained a lot of new skills and experience. During my internship at SfL, I learned new things like developing computer skills curriculum and preparing lesson plans. Submitting documents by email can be a stumbling block for people my age but SfL staff were really helpful in walking me through things I didn't know. My training in communication, time management and work ethics are all skills that I am currently putting into use and are helping me to thrive in my place of work."



Master class 2019!!

As part of Schooling for Life's key skills development, and learning opportunity provided for its students, a master class for all batch two, three and four students was organized on 30th November 2019 at the Africell American Corner. The session was designed and facilitated by Mr. Mokay Kamara.

The aim and objectives of the master class was to provoke thought, discussion and learning on positive leadership skills as a personal development objective through the application of emotional intelligence. The main discussions points and topics included: -

1. Self-identity and discovery
 2. Leadership and leadership theories
 3. Communication skills of a good leader
 4. Leadership styles
 5. Emotional intelligence
- The facilitator used a range of presentation tools and techniques to keep the students engaged throughout the two-hour session including PowerPoint presentations, activities, games and videos.

The first activity was an opportunity for the student to say who, were and what their desired superpower could be or greatest achievement or life lesson learnt.

Students were also provided the opportunity to say who they viewed as strong leaders in their community and why. Examples of positive leaders were discussed including the common trait among these leaders identified as emotional intelligence.

Students found the 'Chinese Whispers' activity and the numbers game most interesting due to the high level of animation and cognitive skills required for the activity.

At the end of the session there was an opportunity for students to complete an exercise on individual leadership skills and develop a personal action plan. Students were also able to ask questions throughout, and at the end of the session.



Master class 2019

Best All Rounder Photo



Best All Rounder

John Alimamy Bangura

Studying: network engineering in Information Technology

Institution: BlueCrest College

Batch 3 student

John Alimamy is the current prefect for batch 3. He is reliable, always in class and on time and most importantly, he is one of our top performing students in skills classes. He has been since his first semester. As the prefect, he has been very supportive to his classmates and to the organisation.

Upcoming Events and Activities

- Start of second semester skills class
- Application process
- Field trip



Christmas Activity day singing competition



Proud sponsors of the Schooling for Life Christmas Activity Day

2019 Christmas Activity Day

The Schooling for Life Christmas Activity Day provides a forum where staff, trainers and students can interact in a non formal setting, and have informal conversations with each other - it is about everyone enjoying a day out and having a great time on a variety of team building activities.

The Christmas Activity Day is an excellent way to show appreciation to hard working staff, trainers and students. The day is loaded with serious entertainment and super fun teambuilding activities for all ages to enjoy!

This year's Christmas Activity Day was held on Saturday, 14th December. The day kicked off with Yoga exercises. The yoga instructor explained what yoga is, and the different types of yoga. After the morning relaxation, we played volleyball and a blind fold games. The day closed with a extremely entertaining singing competition. The games were highly interesting and hence attracted maximum attention and cooperation of all students, trainers and staff of Sfl.

The most surprising thing that happened on that day was that the Batch 3 I.T students introduced their brand new song titled 'Thank you Schooling for Life'. This song was sang in appreciation of all that Schooling for Life has done for them in order to change their lives for the better.

We want to thank the Q'Bar staff for the support and for allowing us to use their space, and of course, as always, our sponsor Africell for supporting our Christmas Activity Day. Special thanks to Protec for providing us with security throughout the day.

In November, Schooling for Life received an amazing donation of almost 30 computers, laptops and accessories from primary school, De Willem Van Oranje school in the Netherlands. The donation was initiated by teacher Annmarie. Her husband personally delivered the donation in Sierra Leone.

We want to share our great appreciation for the computers and laptops to the Willem van Oranje school. We are setting up a small computer lab for our students in our library to practice their computer and researching skills, and you have made this possible! Thank you so much!

Donation

Do you also want to help Schooling for Life in getting the youth in Sierra Leone a good quality education and the skills to create a better life? Share your festive season spirit with us and donate however big or small. We count on you.

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

Get involved

We need your support in the Netherlands

Our volunteers in the Netherlands are important support to our work in Sierra Leone. Do you want to be part of this support system and driving force? Please send your motivation letter explaining your experience and interest, and a curriculum vitae @ application@schoolingforlife.net

We are looking for Board members and volunteers in:

- Communications and administration
- Social media
- Web management

Speaking both Dutch and English skills is required

Donations to Schooling for Life



Donations done in/to Sierra Leone

Send your donation to:

United Bank for Africa

Schooling for Life

Leones account number: 540110030005931

(Charlotte Street branch)

Thank You!

We would like to thank Africell 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 organization and our objectives.

To all our partners; Latour Foundation, MWH4impact, Social Capital Foundation and Peter Van Vliet Foundation, and all anonymous donors. Thank you for supporting us financially and otherwise, and thank you for believing in us as we build towards more skillful youth in Sierra Leone! Our work would not be possible without you.

If you want to subscribe to this newsletter, please go to www.schoolingforlife.net

The Board of Directors, Staff and Students of Schooling for Life wish you a Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year

Schooling for Life

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