

Schooling for Life

Newsletter July 2020

Edition 12

An important message from Schooling for life

We're in this together!

As we navigate through these uncertain times, we want to pass along our positive thoughts to our partners, our sponsors, your families and the world.

We also want to ensure that you are kept up to date of our activities surrounding COVID-19 and let you know that we are doing everything we can to keep our team and students safe.



How is SfL addressing the COVID-19 epidemic?

Many organisations are facing unprecedented challenges as a result of COVID-19. At SfL, we instantly took proactive measures to protect our own team and students by doing the following:

- We conducted trainings on COVID-19 prevention and on best practices for our students in the office immediately when we heard about the disease in the neighbouring countries.
- To avoid busy traffic, our team adapted to do their jobs remotely and we provided items to facilitate work from home.
- All face to face activities had to be closed down until further notice as of the 6th of April including the two most important elements of the programme: Employability skills classes and Personal Guidance.

We will continue to assess whether we need to take further action as the epidemic evolves.

Initiatives of our students

Our students never cease to amaze us. Without any support or indication of what they were planning, we received this amazing sensitisation video, made as a collaboration between all students of Batch 3. They have shown tremendous team work during these trying times and above all determination and initiative through some feedback rounds with the team of SfL. Through this end result they showcase exactly what Schooling for Life is all about. We thank you and wholeheartedly encourage you to keep up the good work!





Click [here](#) to watch the video.

Following continuous training and sensitisation by the SfL team for our students on Coronavirus prevention, two of our students made different flyers to help spread the important messages they had received. We thank Alhaji Amadu Kondeh, studying Network Engineering (I.T), and Alhaji Tejan Bah, studying Business Administration for their initiative. We are super proud of the great work they did with their flyers.

CORONA VIRUS: COVID-19

● STAY HOME ● STAY SAFE

Anyone can spread the virus, practise physical distancing and wash your hands regularly.

Common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Dry cough

When you notice any of these symptoms, isolate yourself and **CALL 117**.

To get the correct information on COVID-19 in Sierra Leone, please visit the website or Facebook pages of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation or the Ministry of Information and Communication.



CORONA VIRUS: COVID-19

Schooling for Life encourages everyone to:

- Wash hands regularly
- Keep physical distance at least 1,5 metres
- Stay home
- Call 117 if you have fever, tiredness and cough
- Avoid touch your face
- Stay informed

Schooling for Life takes COVID-19 seriously and we encourage all our students, trainers, and everyone else involved to take good care and follow the health precautions.

CORONA SPREADS FAST

● STAY HOME ● STAY SAFE



Updates on students in the job market



At Schooling for Life we are proud of our students as they continue to excel in the job market. They aren't just finding jobs, but they are also keeping them through their great work ethic and other employability skills that we helped strengthen them with.

Our batch one students continue to lead the way in showing and using what Schooling for Life has taught them. We are happy to see that our batch two students are following the same direction as all MMCET Social work students are now employed in different organisations in and outside of Freetown. Three out of four IAMTECH students

are also employed, and two out of four students of Government Technical Institute are also employed.

Out of 19 students (14 male, 5 female) who found a job within a year of finishing the programme, 16 (12 male, 4 female) students are still engaged in the job market after a year.

“The basic computer skills training provided me with a foundation on which I am building new skills on the job. During the computer skills training, I was able to learn and understand basic excel which I am expanding on in my current role as finance admin assistant at SENSI TECH INNOVATION.”

Mary Esther Mansaray, batch 2 student, studied Banking and Finance

“The SfL Skills for a Successful Future programme has nurtured my communication skills which is greatly helping me now in working for Sierra Leone Brewery Limited in my daily interactions and report writing on production as a Filter Operator.”

Mohamed Kamara Jnr, batch 2 student, studied Mechanical Engineering at GTI

Updates on our students in the programme

Student Status of students in the programme

Batch One - Our Nursing student at Redeemers College is waiting to graduate out of the SfL programme as well as her institution. The rest of the students of this batch have completed and graduated from the programme.

Batch Two – (at time of writing) We still have the **(4)** engineering students awaiting their NCTVA results at GTI and **(2)** Information Technology students are at BlueCrest College completing their courses respectively on Database Administration and Networking using the E-learning system.

Batch Three - As the government had declared a state of emergency in the country due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all learning institutions were closed. Recently institutions

have embarked on E-learning and all our batch three students have registered for the online classes.

Batch Four - Students of batch four have been enrolled into different colleges within Freetown.

As most of the institutions have embarked on E-learning for students to continue their courses, two institutions we are working with for the batch four students are still in the planning process, i.e. FLS Academy and GTI. All the students have registered except for the two students in the stated institutions.

Note: The Government of Sierra Leone has announced to reopen schools on the 25th of July 2020.

The start of Computer Skills Class for our batch 3 students



Computer skills are important in 21st century workplaces. For that reason, SfL is doing all it can to give its students basic computer skills as a foundation and preparation for the job market. In February, SfL started the computer skills training for batch 3 students.

“Training in SfL is different compared to other institutions that I have been a trainer; it’s full of interaction between students and the trainer as well as monitoring by staff of the organisation, complete hands on deck training, complete attention for all students, and assignment after every training.”

Ansumana Abala Turay, computer skills trainer

“Today, many people all over the world use some form of a computer every day. Having general understanding of computers can help me function in today’s world and can prevent me from getting behind.”

Joseph S.H.M. Kpekai, batch 3 student, studying Accounting and Finance at MMCET

Continuation of Personal Guidance

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools across Sierra Leone were shut down, leaving students, teachers and parents uncertain about the coming school year. At SfL, after closing down the programme, we quickly decided to continue personal guidance through phone calls, to reach out to our students and continue to support them in their personal development goals and find solutions to hurdles arising during this crisis.

"My achievements in Personal Guidance are many, first, I can now share my feelings, experiences and problems with someone, knowing very well that my secret is safe, second, I have been able to build my confidence through the personal guidance sessions, and now I can think of myself as a confident person. Lastly, I have been able to manage stress, through recommendation of the guidance counsellor."

Rima S. Turay, batch 4 student,
studying Social Work at MMCET



"When I called the students for the first time (for personal guidance) many of them were pleasantly surprised by the fact that Schooling for Life still thought about them during this challenging time. It was and still is obvious that this adapted form of care and guidance is most definitely meaningful and appreciated."

Anna Vanmalder
Guidance Counsellor



Ramadan Dinner Delivery



The Ramadan dinner delivery was one of the preventive measures SfL put in place to protect our team and students as an alternative to the Ramadan dinner. SfL, being a religiously tolerant organisation, has organised the Ramadan dinner every year in recognition of the Muslim students, and to give trainers and staff the opportunity to celebrate and break fast together as a family. This year, due to the COVID-19 situation in the country, we had to cancel the part of coming together to celebrate break fast at one venue. However, as we still wanted to show our support to our students, we decided to house-deliver parcels with the main ingredients to a meal for 9 people and

a cloth face mask to all our batch three and four students, in order for them to be able to prepare a dinner with their loved ones at their homes.

Let's stay connected

Thank you for your interest in what we are trying to achieve as an organisation.

We invite you to be part of our work by donating and making our activities possible.

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

(Charlotte Street branch)

On behalf of the Schooling for Life team and students, we encourage everyone to uphold the preventive measures during this COVID-19 pandemic. Stay safe!

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