

THE LANGTON-DOC LINK, MY PERSPECTIVE



I have known of the link between Dr. Obote College Boroboro in Uganda and Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys (The Langton) in the United Kingdom which came into effect as far back as 2003. I am excited and profoundly humbled to be part of the link. The purpose for which the link was established is to foster relationships between staff and students, sharing of expertise, which has been achieved through staff exchange visits. During such visits a number of activities such as observing lessons, meeting staff, delivering assemblies and sharing educational resources are gone through.

The link was established at a time when in Uganda, especially in the northern part, we were experiencing insurgency that characterized displacement, loss of lives and a state of hopelessness. The nearly three decades of insurgency resulted in many orphans, widows, widowers and street dwellers, the homeless. The impact of the insurgency continues to be felt even to this day. To get a link partner willing to offer support to such a community and from this far is clear testament of the extent to which The Langton is committed to providing for the needy.

Since 2003, The Langton has supported Dr. Obote College Boroboro in many ways, including but not limited to the following:

- A printer, server, computers and accessories were sent which are helping many of the teachers and students to be computer literate.
- The internet service has helped both teachers and students to access valuable information that enhance moral, academic, social and intellectual development.
- Textbooks and video tapes have stepped up the number of reference materials in the library
- Literature department received some prescribed texts which eased the teaching of Literature
- The DVD player and other materials improved the teaching and learning of Geography
- The staff kitchen got fridges, cooking and serving utensils
- Games kit boosted the games department so much. In 2010 Dr. Obote College Boroboro football team was named among the smartest during the national championship
- The school fees sponsorship has since helped over 50 disadvantaged but bright students to acquire higher level of education. Many of the students now compete seriously to attain the sponsorship and as such improving the discipline and the academic standards of the school. One of the students sponsored, Ms. Ejang Semmy, qualified as a teacher and is now teaching English Language and Literature in English in Dr. Obote College Boroboro
- The link inspired the community of Dr. Obote College Boroboro to work hard and stand out both nationally and internationally and compete courageously. This explains why Scouts from Dr. Obote College Boroboro became the East African champion for three years and Science and Technology club became national champion for two years
- The visits to The Langton motivate the administration to try to uplift the status of Dr. Obote College Boroboro. The visits also motivate The Langton community to work harder and raise funds for Dr. Obote College Boroboro.
- Physics and Biology Laboratories were renovated at about two hundred million Uganda shillings (200,000,000=). Lira University is now using these laboratories to teach their Bachelor of Education (Science) students
- The link also benefitted Dr. Obote College Boroboro with a Generator and mosquito nets as well as sponsoring staff visits

During my visit to The Langton between 30/09/2019 and 07/10/2019, I have more than admired the school and its community. The reception and hospitality has been very warm and cordial. The Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher were amazingly receptive. Andy, Karen and her mother were very parental, whereas Paul Easterbrook was such an inspiring historian of the English Heritage. The Headboy and Headgirl have incredible and fantastic knowledge of the entire school. The students are wonderfully generous, quite discipline and eager to learn. I urge them to prepare well because the current generation will hand over The Great Britain to them. The staff members, my word!, are pretty true to their calling, not forgetting the humorous staff I played football with. What a nicety it was to be in your midst.

The Langton is a school renown for excellence in academics and co-curricular activities: Rugby, football, MDD, athletics, and the gym are but some of the non-academic activities students are actively engaged in. I like the small class sizes, the coaching strategy, history of ideas lessons, staff appraisal system, treatment of students with special learning needs, the detention of students with behavior issues, the games kits and pitches.

We are very grateful to The Langton for all the interventions and support. There is no amount of money that can pay The Langton for their generosity. But The Langton will continue to occupy a special place in the heart of Dr. Obote College Boroboro. We pledge our total commitment in ensuring that the link is sustained. Long Live the DOC-Langton Link.

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