



OUNDL

School

To parents of Fifth and Sixth Form pupils

December 2011

Dear Parents

Oundle Kenya 2012 (OK12)

As you may be aware, Oundle has very strong links with Kenya, and in October 2012 we plan to return with another group of twelve pupils to carry on the work we have undertaken since 2001. In essence we have been working in three Rift Valley schools (Murindati, Kimbo and Ngecho) and have added much infrastructure, including classrooms and staff housing, and lots of trees! More recently we have forged strong links with an orphanage (www.saidia-gilgil.org.uk) and a special school (www.kivulitrust.org) in nearby Gilgil, and with one of Kenya's premier conservancies at Ol Pejeta near Nanyuki. Photos of the 2011 trip can be found on the website (www.oundleschool.org.uk/news/newsItem.php?id=856).

For our 2012 trip we will continue with the mixed focus away from "capital" works (unless this is to provide communities with the two key elements that will improve their lives: electricity and water) and towards getting our pupils involved in offering to the children the sort of extra-curricular enrichment we at Oundle take for granted: sports, music, out of school visits etc. There is also the hint of a possibility of a side trip to the dry scrubland and spectacular hills near Voi, but this is something the group can talk about when formed.

The pupils who come on the trip will be expected to take full ownership and leadership of the projects our partners ask us to work on with them, and they will learn vast amounts about the problems associated with working in Africa. They will also have to camp, shop and cook for themselves locally for three to four days. The trip may be particularly suitable for anyone wanting to apply for engineering, sciences or medicine at university (though it will probably help anyone's Personal Statement stand out) and is aimed primarily at members of the present Fifth and Sixth Forms.

A possible itinerary for 2012 is below, though not as yet confirmed, and the group can have a great deal of say in how the final itinerary looks:

Friday 12 October 2012

Bus leaves Sports Hall Car Park 1400. Depart London Heathrow VS671 c.2100.

Saturday 13 October

Arrive Nairobi c.0605. Sheldrick Elephant orphanage. Transfer shop at Gilgil, and on to Malewa Trust (www.malewatrust.org) - set camp and start to plan.

Sunday 14 –Tuesday16 October inclusive

Work at Kimbo, Ngecho and Murindati schools; and Saidia House orphanage, Kivuli Trust special school and the Wana Duma project. Camp at Malewa.

Wednesday 17 October

Transfer to Lake Elementita; fly to Ol Pejeta; live at Research Centre. Evening/night game drive.

Thursday 18 - Friday 19 October

Work at Ol Pejeta – could include radio tracking of lions, chimpanzee sanctuary, cattle and environmental monitoring. Morning and night game drives.

Saturday 20 October

Early morning game drive. Drive to Nairobi. Transfer to Boulevard Hotel for R+R.

Sunday 21 October

Depart Nairobi on VS 672 c.0950. Arrive LHR c.1615. Return to Oundle c.2000.

Two issues will understandably be on your mind - safety and cost.

Kenya has as many problems as any developing country, but we spend little time in towns and cities (where most crime and occurs) and in the past have only received tremendous hospitality and goodwill in the communities we help. We never take pupils anywhere we ourselves do not feel safe, and the trip is fully covered by the School's insurance policies. I have taken trips to Kenya since 2001 and Mrs Gascoine (who will help me run the trip, along with her husband) is hugely experienced.

As to cost, much depends on final numbers, flight costs (by far the most expensive item), currency fluctuations (which at present are of course hard to judge, and we have to use Kenyan Shillings and US dollars at various places), and what the group would like to do, but I estimate the cost should be around £1500, all-inclusive: the 2011 trip came in at £1,435. Once the group is formed, we can talk about precise options, but I do my very best to ensure the experience is as good as possible while the cost is as low as possible.

If you are interested in your son or daughter coming to Kenya on OK12, and would like more details, please contact me by email and I will send you the relevant information and forms.

Yours faithfully

Ian Clark

Mr I D Clark

Trip Leader

idc@oundleschool.org.uk