



# OUNDLLE

School

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011

Dear Parents

I will shortly begin signing up pupils for the 2012 Mozambique Community Aid Project. Pupils chosen for this will spend a year fund-raising for the project. They will travel to South Africa at the beginning of the summer holiday in July 2012. They will be back in plenty of time for the Olympics. After a safari in the Kruger National Park, they will travel by road through Mozambique to the remote coastal village of Pomene where they will spend time meeting the local community and working with them on the finishing stages of the project, as well as enjoying the delights of Mozambique's unspoilt tropical coast. The 2012 community aid project will be a new school building for the local primary school. We are also looking to set up scholarships for deserving local students to study at the Teacher Training College in Massinga. The cost of the trip is likely to be £2200 per pupil, although this will obviously depend on an estimation of costs closer to the trip. The trip is most suitable for those in or about to enter the 6<sup>th</sup> form, so that means the current 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> form.

This will be the fourth Mozambique Community Aid Project. In 2004 we established a hydroponic farm near Inhambane. In 2006 we established Mashungu Clinic near Pomene. This was unfortunately badly damaged the following year by Cyclone Favio, a category four storm which devastated the southern coast of Mozambique. In 2008 we rebuilt and equipped the clinic and added staff accommodation. We have helped to provide primary health care (mother and child clinics, HIV/Aids programmes, vaccinations etc.) to a community of about 10 000 people, who would otherwise have had to walk 60 kms to the nearest hospital. In 2010 we built a bridge over a mangrove swamp and set up a women's sewing collective. These projects are set up by the staff of Pomene lodge, a nearby beach resort, and we are very grateful for their help.

I am making an early start with recruitment for the project in order to give us plenty of time for fund-raising. The last project was very popular and places filled up very quickly. The itinerary will look something like this:

Night flight to Johannesburg

- Day 1 Travel by road to Kruger National Park and establish camp
- Day 2 Game viewing Kruger National Park
- Day 3 Game viewing Kruger National Park
- Day 4 Travel by road into Mozambique. Overnight stop in Mozambique
- Day 5 Travel by road to Pomene Lodge
- Days 6-14 Travel by road to Inhambane. Charter flight to Johannesburg. Overnight flight to London

Pomene Lodge is a small South-African owned beach resort at the end of a 60 Km 4x4 track. It can best be described as comfortable but rustic. There are a number of activities on offer, such as scuba diving on some of the world's most spectacular coral reefs, deep sea fishing, kayaking through mangrove swamps, quad bike tours, and horse riding on the beaches. Pupils will also be given guided tours of the local villages and taught about local culture and history. Mozambique is one of the world's poorest countries. After years of civil war, it is now a stable, peaceful and democratic country, which is rebuilding its infrastructure, agriculture and industry.

There are some photographs of the last trip on the Oundle website in the Gallery section <http://www.oundleschool.org.uk/galleries/gallery.php?id=205> There is also a report on the project in the News section of the website <http://www.oundleschool.org.uk/news/newsItem.php?id=623>

If you have any questions, please do get in touch. I shall shortly be advertising meetings at which pupils can find out all about the project and the trip. I shall then write to the parents of those who sign up and request a deposit to secure their places. There are a limited number of places on the trip and last time round I had to turn away quite a number of disappointed pupils, so it would be a good idea to sign up early if your son or daughter is interested.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Martens**