

# The Global Citizenship Awareness programme

In 2017 Methodist Schools formed a partnership with UK charity Edukid ([www.edukid.org.uk](http://www.edukid.org.uk)). Edukid is a Christian charity that helps to remove the barriers to education faced by children living in extreme poverty and conflict zones across the globe. As part of a partnership with Edukid, schools can choose to focus on projects in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South America.

EDUKID promotes and runs a Global Citizenship Awards Programme (GCAP) in UK Methodist schools designed to educate, inspire and empower students to realise their potential as global citizens and become passionate leaders and advocates for change.

Through interactive assemblies and workshops delivered by Edukid staff members, students learn about the culture, community, context and history of their chosen country, and acquire a deep understanding of Edukid's international projects.

In order to embed this learning within daily school life, Edukid produces a rich library of teaching resources readily available to partner schools. These resources, linking the National Curriculum for all Key Stages and subject areas with the international projects Edukid run, are themed around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and look to engage students through experiential learning.



An interactive Zoom meeting with a school in Uganda.

Each lesson is paired with a film which provides the children in Edukid's international projects with a voice to talk about the issues they are experiencing as they see them, while allowing UK students to listen and learn from peers.

Edukid's second aim within

the GCAP is to inspire UK students into realising the impact they can make in the world. Edukid shares real life stories of former students from their international projects who have come through extremely difficult circumstances in life and have been able to gradu-

ate with skills, qualifications and, most importantly, independence and freedom from the constraints of poverty. These stories demonstrate to students that their dreams are reachable, even in the face of huge obstacles.

These former students from Edukid international projects have the opportunity to visit the UK and meet with UK partner schools to share stories, cultures and form friendships. Bonnie from Cambodia, for example, who from the age of four collected rubbish from the streets of the capital to sell, is now a qualified doctor and supports the community she grew up in with free health care. She was able to visit Queen's College in Taunton to share her story with the students there, to inspire and educate.

In the UK, staff and students from Year 10 upwards in participating schools are offered the chance to make reciprocal visits back to Edukid's international projects, experience the issues first-hand and bring

back those experiences to share within their school. These trips allow students to be immersed within new cultures and learn about the history and context of the visited country. Delegates often leave trips inspired with new ambitions, perspectives, and a more profound understanding of the world in which we live.

Edukid's Global Citizenship Award Programme not only focuses on educating and inspiring UK students, but also seeks to provide opportunities for students to react to what they have learnt and be empowered to put their learning into practice. We encourage schools to create an environment in which students are taught to be the change they want to see in the world. To be local and global leaders, passionate about equality and opportunity for all. As a result, partner schools have opportunities to pioneer projects abroad alongside experts within local communities and make sustainable change. Read on to see how schools and students have impacted others across the globe, using the SDGs and Edukid's projects as a foundation and platform to do so.

### THE GLOBAL IMPACT SCHOOLS ARE HAVING

Visits to Edukid projects are limited to senior schools, Year 10 and upwards and as such, for the time being, the examples centre on the work done with Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST). However, Edukid does work with the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST) primary schools and the schools within the Epworth Education Trust (EET).

## Cambodia – Plastic Project

**BEFORE** the pandemic, students and staff from Queen's College Taunton visited Sen Sok village in Cambodia on an Edukid trip. This was the beginning of a partnership between two schools, Edukid and Sen Sok village. Students noticed the issue of plastic waste in Sen Sok and in response to the students' initial concerns, Queen's College together with Ashville College in Harrogate and Edukid (and with the permission of Sen Sok village) began the "Plastic Project".

The project aims to alleviate poverty and improve education simultaneously, by firstly cleaning up the village environment littered with plastic waste, making Sen Sok a safer and cleaner place to live. The plastic is then recycled and crafted into educational resources to be used in classrooms.

Students at Queen's and Ashville College have raised money to build machines that will shred, melt and then mould plastic, such as bottle tops and milk cartons, into educational tools such as whiteboards. This plastic project has also been used to inform local Cambodian students about the wider global environment and recycling. With little actions, big changes are made, and once visible changes are made then the bigger changes follow.

Now each Friday afternoon Sen Sok children team up with their teachers to clean up the pathways leading to their school, making it a project that involves the young and the older members of their community. This project has undoubtedly created a huge impact on the entire community at Sen Sok in reducing environmental damage and increasing access to learning materials for the children.

## Uganda – special educational needs and diverse abilities

A GROUP of Shebbear College students visited Northern Uganda and learned that children with special educational needs were generally excluded from school. There are many reasons for this, ranging from a lack of opportunities to a lack of resources.

The Shebbear students resolved to work with Edukid to seek solutions and decided to fund an Edukid film to highlight the issues. It was important to the students that the children

with educational needs in northern Uganda be given a voice, which allowed Edukid to raise awareness for the issues being experienced by joining their voice to the children's voices. Following on from the film, Edukid liaised with the UN and Able Child Africa to develop a training programme for exceptional Ugandan teachers.

Two years on, there is now a team of Master Trainers and 40 teachers fully trained on how best to support

children with special educational needs and diverse abilities. Seventy-two children with special educational needs are now being supported within the Edukid programme, most attending school for the very first time in their lives. Shebbear College is supporting two of those students – Isaac and Lucky Peace. It took just one Methodist school to get the ball rolling to appreciate the change that could be made, and empower others.

Both Isaac and Lucky Peace are now enrolled at Koch Goma Primary School and they continue to flourish there. Isaac says, "In the future I want to be a doctor so that I can treat sick people." Lucky Peace says, "One day I want to be a teacher so that I can teach other children."

We pray that Isaac and Lucky Peace make their dreams a reality through the opportunity Shebbear College has provided.

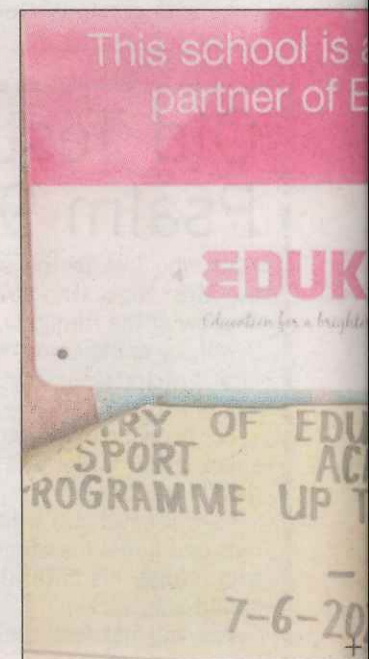


## Former current

A FORMER student from a Methodist school, Molly has spent the last nine months in a placement with Edukid as



Above: volunteer Nell during her placement.





Methodist Schools

# Our students – agent change-makers

part of her degree. She has been an integral member of the team, supporting staff in Uganda with setting up a “Lo-

ckdown Workshops” project. The project focuses on providing 100 children living in extreme poverty with educa-

## Uganda – gender equality

STUDENTS at Woodhouse Grove School have become passionate about addressing gender equality both at home and overseas. On a school visit to Uganda, students learned that many girls living in extreme poverty are often at high risk of child marriage, domestic violence and abuse. Edukid used research from Washington University to establish the “Roles, Equality and Transformation” project, otherwise known as the GREAT project.

As part of this project, workshops are run with the goal of educating both boys and girls about gender equality and the importance of respecting human rights. Common issues such as domestic abuse, child marriage and the root causes of those issues were explored during those workshops.

Edukid and Woodhouse Grove School aim, through this project, to prevent domestic abuse and sexual assault from happening in the first place, therefore reducing the risk of child pregnancy and child marriage and improving gender equality in the community.



time in Cambodia; below: Molly, who supports staff in Uganda.



tional workshops that develop new skills tailored to their future aspirations, whatever they may be.

Molly started this project during the Covid lockdown, meaning that students could continue learning while schools were closed. She still promotes and fundraises for this project so that more children have a chance to develop new skills and brighter futures.

Molly also supported Edukid staff in Uganda by connecting communities digitally. For the first time, every UK primary school supporting the Edukid project in Uganda had the opportunity to Zoom live into the classrooms of our Ugandan partner schools. Molly facilitated this for the Epworth Education Trust Methodist primary schools. Small groups of students from both the UK and Uganda took turns to ask questions about each other’s cultures, schools, language, favourite foods, colours and games. They sang traditional songs and nursery rhymes to one another, starting global and local friendships that go towards making changes.

## Trip

Elena (Nell) is a former student from another Methodist school who joined Edukid on a trip to Cambodia in late 2017. During the course of the trip, Nell spent time learning about Cambodia’s devastating and cautionary history when ruled over by the Khmer Rouge dictatorship. Nell comments on what she learned: “On this trip, I saw the incredible potential of humanity to do good through Edukid’s work. I also visited sites that remind us of the horrific consequences of humanity’s potential to do evil. It was partly this experience which encouraged me to study history at univer-

sity, where I am currently in my final year.

“I believe that if we can document and remind people of what happened in the past, it will hopefully help to prevent a repetition of such atrocities and build a better future. However, being attuned to what has happened, and what could happen, is not enough if action is not taken. That is why Edukid’s work is so important.

## Experienced

“Through education, communities have been rebuilt from the devastation that Cambodia experienced in its recent history. Hopefully, through giving young Cambodians the tools to learn, to build prosperous futures for themselves and even to achieve their dreams, as many already have through Edukid, the future will be a lot brighter.”

Since her return, Nell has spent time volunteering with Edukid, visiting UK schools with Edukid staff to support the delivery of assemblies and workshops. Nell is able to share knowledge and teach other students in the UK about her experiences in Cambodia. She speaks about the importance of education and supporting others in small ways leading to bigger changes.

Methodist schools are using their partnership with Edukid to demonstrate what is possible when they “Do all the good they can, by all the means they can, in all the ways they can, in all the places they can.” In doing so teachers and students are providing not just hope to their counterparts all over the world, but also a template of how this world could be when we properly love our neighbour. We are learning from them and they from us – together we will hopefully improve the world.

# Partnership in practice: Edukid and the Epworth Education Trust

THE partnership between Edukid and Methodist schools has flourished at the Epworth Education Trust, which is currently a family of six schools in the North West.

Each school fundraises so that they can collectively support a total of 12 children in Uganda through Edukid and one intrepid teacher even got the opportunity to visit those children this summer to see at first hand the impact that these efforts were having.

Chief executive officer of the trust Julie-Ann Hewitt said: “Our aim across our schools is simple. As a trust we want to ‘do all we can’. That is not just in terms of us helping others, but also in finding innovative ways to make learning across our schools as exciting and engaging as possible.

“While our hope is that fundraising in our schools will directly help these 12 children in Uganda, it is important to recognise that our pupils get just as much from this partnership. It is fantastic for our children to learn about another continent and see how interconnected the world is. Small actions can make a big difference both here and somewhere else thousands of miles away.”

## Teacher

A deputy headteacher at Westleigh Methodist Primary School in Leigh, Sarah Taylor, was the teacher who flew off in early July to see the work that Edukid does at first hand.

She said: “I flew out as part of a team of about 40 teachers, secondary students and

Edukid staff from across the country to learn about how the education system works in Uganda. This really was a once in a lifetime experience and is the next step of the partnership that has been developing over the last two years between Edukid and the trust.”

## Region

As part of the trip, Sarah visited Kirombe Primary School and Koch Goma School, both in the northern region of Gulu. During the visits Sarah taught lessons, met the children and their families and discussed how the Epworth Education Trust community can support their aims and aspirations in the future.

Sarah added: “It was unreal to meet the brilliant children who we have had a small role in supporting. I got to take letters from our children saying hello and have also brought letters back to read out in assemblies and lessons. The impact of that will be huge.”

The hope is that Sarah’s trip will also be the first of many for the trust.

Julie-Ann added: “I really hope that this visit is the next stage of what is a very special partnership. We have collectively made a commitment to support these 12 children throughout their education and there is a real possibility that we may have other staff who will also visit them in the future.

“There is a real buzz around the trust whenever our work with Edukid is discussed or talked about. It is a partnership that we all love.”



Ivan from Koch Goma School, one of the schools Sarah Taylor visited.