



WATOTO CHOIR COMING

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

On Wednesday afternoon, next week the Watoto Choir are coming to Becket Keys Church of England School main hall to perform a concert to the students and staff.

Years 8 & 9 will see the performance first. Years 7 & 10 will see it second. There will be no charge for the concert. However, there will be opportunities for students to purchase merchandise after the concert and they may wish to bring some money to school for this.

I have had links with the Watoto Choir for many years now, having hosted them at St Thomas of Canterbury Junior School. Their message is so compelling that I think it needs to be brought to Becket Keys. Staff and students I have worked with in the past now have their own personal links with the choir, including Mrs Gould, who will be known to many St Thomas' families.

For those of you who do not know, the Watoto Choir are a children's choir from Uganda. They come to perform music and songs from Uganda and to share what their life is like. All the children involved are orphans. There are many thousands of orphan children in Uganda, largely as a result of AIDS, but also poverty and war.

The Watoto project looks after the children, in small family sized groups in community

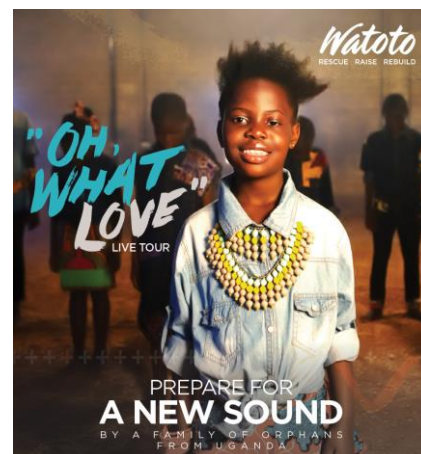
settings. There are thousands of children in the care of Watoto. However, their mission is not simply one of survival or 'getting by'. The aim of the project is to raise future leaders for Uganda, well-educated and motivated young people who believe in themselves and who know about truth, justice and respect.

The choir tours to raise money for the project and to share news about the current plight of the children. It shares a message of hope and encouragement and helps us to see our own issues and problems in a new perspective.

It is also a great musical experience. The energy and sheer volume with which the children sing is a joy to behold. How so few children can create so much energy and passion is a marvel!

As we sit in the middle of exam season, I really hope that this choir will bring much joy and light to our school, setting a whole new context for what our students may see as 'challenging' and encouraging us all that God really can work in the most difficult of circumstances.

If you have not seen the choir and would like to do so, we can accommodate some visitors during the afternoon here. Please email me via the school website and I will reserve you a seat (I should be able to seat about 12 in



each concert, so feel free to bring a friend).

If you would prefer to see an evening performance, they are singing on Thursday 16th June (7pm) at All Saints Church in Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch. For details contact: 01277 210422. The concert is free, but there will be an opportunity to make a donation to the project, buy merchandise or sponsor a child. If you want more details in general go to www.watoto.com or find them on Facebook or Twitter (@Watoto).

We look forward to welcoming them here next week.

**Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher**

OTHER NEWS

BUSHCRAFT REPORT

Mr. Harries writes (once again):

Once again we took our Year 7 students to Oxfordshire for a Bushcraft Adventure weekend. Once again we whittled and cooked and swam and built fires and once again we went without showers and television and (to some extent) sleep and once again, we absolutely loved it! As soon as we arrived, students were taught to collect sticks and shown how to start and maintain blazing fires. The students worked incredibly well together in their tribes to set up camp, make fires, cook dinner (flame-grilled lamb kebabs) build shelters, hide in the woods, solve riddles, devise tribal chants and dances, make flags and play games. And that was just day one! It was a real pleasure to see our students in a completely different light, learning a completely different set of skills and adapting to survive in a totally different environment. I say “survive”, but we were looked after exceptionally well.



The Bushcraft staff were amazing as always, teaching the students how to stay safe while whittling with knives, open water swimming, sleeping outdoors, setting traps for food, eating fish eyeballs (oh yes) and doing it all with their larger than life spirit and energetic sense of fun and adventure.



They really helped to get the best out of our students as the weekend progressed. Who would have thought that George Knight was such a great dancer; that Bertie Barden could out-backflip Mr. Khoo; that Sam Hume would prove to be such an expert with a knife; that Terry Sullivan could camouflage himself so convincingly under a pile of leaves; that Will Ballantyne, Ted Clark and Callum Smith could outswim Mr. Wray with pond moss on their heads; that Lucy Taylor was such a fine pizza chef; that Ben Shipley was an expert make-up artist with camouflage paint; that Billy Dobson was such a brilliant motivator and team leader and that Archie Van Klink would prove to be a champion joke-teller?



to see them with fresh eyes and a renewed sense of hope and excitement for the men and women they are becoming.

This is just a tiny handful of the highlights of this trip and it was a real privilege and a blessing to be able to watch our students discover things about themselves that they may never have known otherwise and for us, as staff, to be able



MORE NEWS

ALICE DVD

Mr. Haywood has outdone himself and edited together a beautiful 3-disc DVD package as a memento of this year's school production, 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'Alice through the Looking Glass'. The DVD includes beautifully edited multi-angled shots of the whole production and an amazing Behind the Scenes DVD extra. This last item in particular is absolutely incredible and it was hard not to get choked up watching cast interviews and behind the scenes footage. The students talk about their characters and their process expertly and the way Mr Haywood has spliced them together with shots from the show make this a professional feature worthy of the National Theatre (I am really not exaggerating this time – see for yourself).



We will be selling the 3-disc DVD set for £7 and, for the first time, we will also be selling Blu-ray discs for £10. Please complete the form which has been sent you by email this week (attached again with this newsletter) and return to Reception so that we can let Mr. Haywood know how many to produce.

Anyone who bought the Oliver DVD last year will know what a precious keepsake these recordings are and, if you or your son/daughter were involved in any way, I would strongly encourage you to get yourself a copy. Massive thanks to Mr. Haywood for the hours and hours of work he put into producing these.

THEATRE TRIP TO SEE 'CATS'

Final call: Students who wish to purchase a ticket for the theatre trip to see 'Cats' on **Thursday 21st July**, please send your reply slip and cash or cheque payment to the office by no later than this Monday 13th June, as we will need to confirm seat numbers by the end of the day on Monday. A further copy of the letter and reply slip sent to you for this trip is attached with this newsletter.



JACK PETCHEY AWARD

Mr. Scott-Evans presented the latest Jack Petchy award to Archie Mowatt this week. Archie (Year 9) proudly received his award for his excellent character in school. Voted for by the students themselves, Archie was chosen as the student who most lives out our Christian values. His involvement in various clubs, Eucharists and public speaking were also highlighted as reasons for his selection. Also noted in the nominations were his smile, his warm friendliness and positivity. Students and staff agree Archie is respectful, responsible and caring; he is a genuine asset to our school community. Well done Archie! He will attend the Jack Petchy awards evening next week and will receive £200 to spend on the school. Another winner will be announced next week.

NOTICES

BERLIN TRIP

We mentioned a Year 11 trip to Berlin in the last edition of the newsletter. Please note, this trip is for Year 11 GCSE History students only (current Year 10s).

SPORTS DAY

Parents are welcome to attend our Sports Day on **Friday 8th July**. Morning events will include jumping, throwing and the 1500 meters, with sprint races, relays and the tug of war in the afternoon. More information to follow.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

Parents are welcome to join us for our Patronal Festival Eucharist at St Thomas' Church, Brentwood on **Thursday 7th July**, from 11.15 – 12.15. We will be leaving school to walk to church at 10.45.

CONTACT DETAILS

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VACANCIES

Please see details of current vacancies here:

<https://www.becketkeys.org/vacancies.php>

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 16th June Enrichment Day

Friday 17th June INSET Day

Monday 20th June INSET Day

Tuesday 21st June Patronal Festival Concert at
St Peter's Church

Saturday 2nd July
FoBK Patronal Festival and Picnic

Thursday 7th July Patronal Festival Eucharist

Friday 8th July Sports Day

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