

**Development Education
Linking Programme**

Rockbrook Park School, Dublin

and

John Paul II Mixed Secondary School, Nairobi

Partnership Agreement

October 2008

[TO BE REVISED IN OCTOBER 2009]

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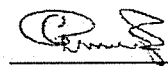
Agreement Signatures

Signed:

John Paul II Mixed Secondary School

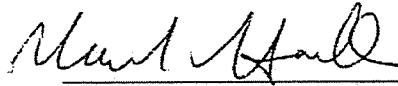


Cosmas Kivindyo
PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL



Geoffrey Marwara
PROJECT COORDINATOR

Rockbrook Park School



Mark Hamilton
PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL



Jude Mulligan
PROJECT COORDINATOR

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Background

The linking programme between the schools with initiated in 2007, through the assistance of Strathmore Outreach Programme, a community educational activity of Strathmore University in Nairobi.

Purpose

The purpose of the linking programme is to enhance the development education of students, integrating it where possible with subjects already within their school curriculum. Development education is an active learning process that aims to deepen students' understanding of today's world by provoking critical thinking about the challenges and needs of their communities in the context of global realities like injustice, lack of peace, poverty and educational disadvantage. The linking programme creates awareness in students of their potential to effect change for a better world.

Organising Committees

In both schools the linking programme is run by committees consisting of staff members and of students (from a cross-section of years/forms). Among the staff coordinators in Rockbrook Park School are Mr. Mark Hamilton (Principal), Mr. Jude Mulligan and Mr. Edward Kellett (teachers); among the staff coordinators in John Paul II Secondary School are Mr. Cosmas Kivindy (Principal) and Mr. Geoffrey Marwara (teacher).

Activities

Numerous collaborative activities are run in both schools during the academic year.¹ Each year these activities focus on a series of themed *Project Areas*. These Areas change and evolve from year to year. At the outset of the programme each year, the coordinators in both schools sign off on the schedule for the year and assign teachers/students to each Area. Student teams then begin work as soon as they can.

The first week of May is "Solidarity Week" in both schools. This is the high point of the year for the linking programme, creating a sense of accomplishment among the students involved. It is also useful for communicating with the wider school audience: parents, community, parish, etc.

Timing

The linking programme runs from September to April (in keeping with the Irish academic year, but straddling two academic years in Kenya²). During this period Rockbrook takes two weeks of holidays at Christmas and two weeks at Easter; John Paul II School takes five to six weeks holidays at Christmas and two weeks at Easter.

Expectations

From this programme both schools expect (1) to engage students in development education issues through awareness and action (2) to develop students' research, organisational, team-work and communication skills (3) to facilitate the personal growth of students and strengthen their virtues of responsibility and commitment (4) to promote teacher-student working relationships.

Rockbrook contact details: Mark Hamilton, Jude Mulligan and Edward Kellett can be contacted at: solidarityproject@rockbrook.ie. John Paul II School contact details: Cosmas Kivindy can be contacted at: kivindyoc@yahoo.com; Geoffrey Marwara can be contacted at: godido76@yahoo.com.

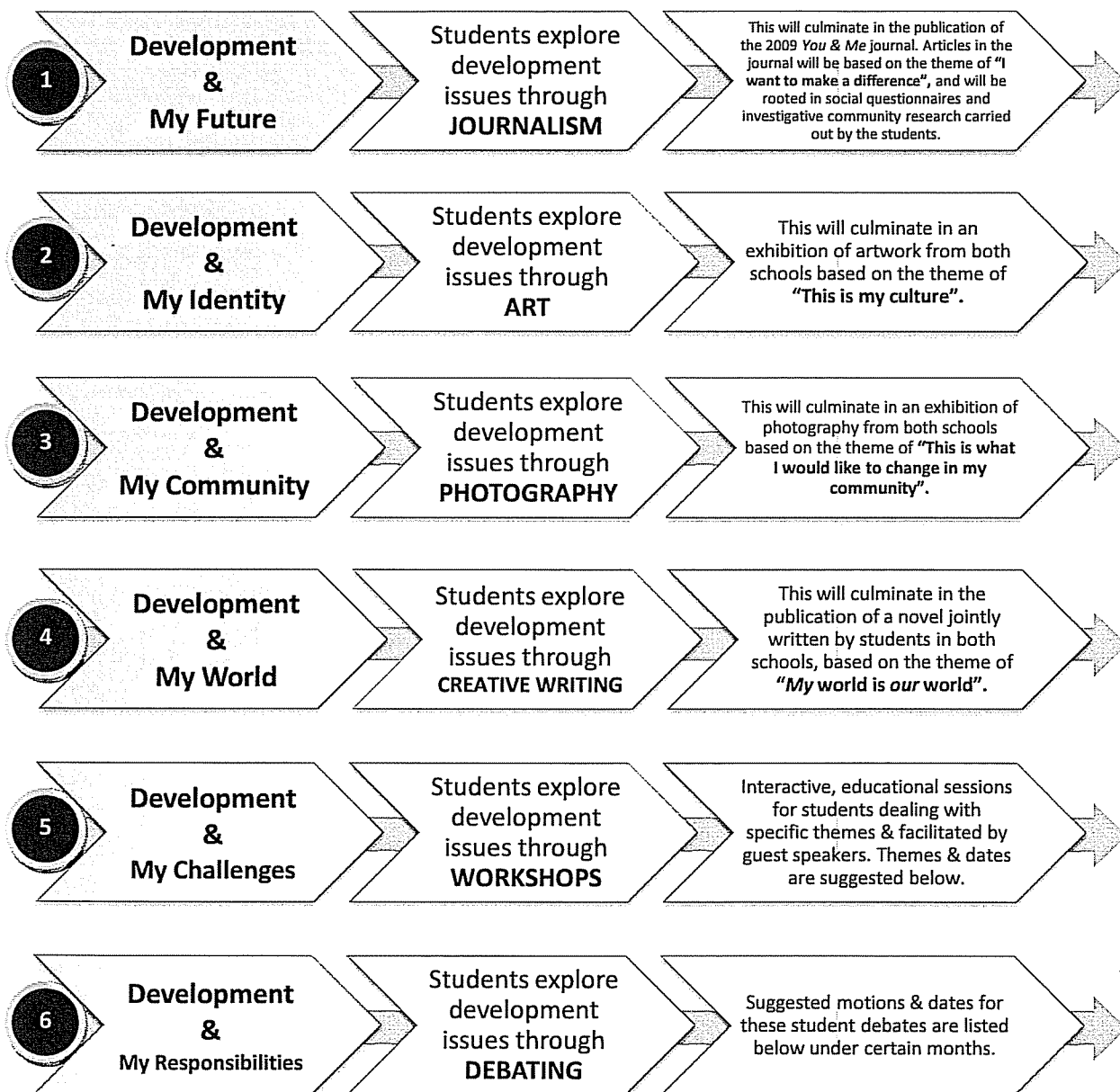
¹ Activities that are purely of a fundraising nature are not envisioned by the programme, which is primarily about education.

² The Irish academic year runs from September to May; the Kenyan academic year runs from January to November.

PROJECT AREAS

Six development education Project Areas are envisaged for the Linking Programme:

1. Development & **My Future** (which uses the medium of JOURNALISM to explore issues).
2. Development & **My Identity** (which uses the medium of ART to explore issues).
3. Development & **My Community** (which uses the medium of PHOTOGRAPHY to explore issues).
4. Development & **My World** (which uses the medium of CREATIVE WRITING to explore issues).
5. Development & **My Challenges** (which uses the medium of WORKSHOPS to explore issues).
6. Development & **My Responsibilities** (which uses the medium of DEBATING to explore issues).



Project Areas 1 → 4 involve a *collaborative activity* of students of Rockbrook and John Paul II School. **Project Areas 5 & 6** are organised separately in each school, with reference to suggested topics.

As this list of six Project Areas was not finalised until the Rockbrook Visit to Nairobi at the end of October 2008, only three of these Areas will be implemented in during the 2008-2009 academic year:

(1) **Journalism Project** (2) **Art Project** (3) **Photography Project**

SCHEDULE SCHEMATIC

