

James Gillespie's High School South Africa Project 2017

We are sixth year students here at James Gillespie's High School and we are working on a charity and exchange project within the Durban area of South Africa. We would like to share a little of this work with you.

Background and link projects:

For the past 12 years James Gillespie's High School has had a close link with **Zwelibanzi High School** in the **Umlazi township** outside Durban. We undertake a cultural exchange with this school but we also fundraise so that we can finance a vital soup kitchen in the school. This soup kitchen currently runs three times a weekend it enables the poorest pupils in the school to get hot food and, at present, we are able to provide Tupperware tubs so that one of those hot meals can be taken home for the weekend. The success of this project has enabled us to create a further link with another secondary school in Umlazi J-Section called **Dloko High School** which we have built up over the past 6 years (their amazing choir (Township Voices) was supported in coming over to perform at the Festival in 2015 and 2016). We fundraise to support a similar soup kitchen in Dloko for the most vulnerable learners there. On behalf of James Gillespie's Primary School we visit a rural primary school (**Charles Memorial Primary School**) and aim to collect donations of essential items (toothbrushes and toothpastes) and a small toy for each child there (approx. 500 children) and lastly we have recently become involved with a child abuse charity in the Ilovo region of Kwa-Zulu Natal called **Bobbi Bear**.



Our Aims for 2016/7:

- 1. Fundraising.** We are in the middle of fundraising this year to ensure that these soup kitchens can keep running (the one in Zwelibanzi was badly damaged in floods last year) and we are aiming for a target of £5000 to maintain the food and Tupperware for these kitchens for the next 12 months. Additional fundraising would go towards additional school improvements (classroom redecoration etc).
- 2. Donations** We are collecting donations that we hope to take over when we visit these schools and charities in the February break. Donations we are focusing on this year are:
 - a. Sanitary towels and nappies
 - b. Toothbrushes and toothpastes
 - c. Small toys
 - d. Small books and activities
(to do with nursery and primary aged children)



- 3. Skills** The exchange nature of the project is vitally important. We use a lot of our time during the year planning ways to share our culture(s) and learn from about the Zulu culture and way of life over there. We learn dancing, traditional music and singing, we plan lessons and organise debates and support links with our younger pupils through pen pal letters: All activities that we hope to use when we visit in February. We also put time into planning how we can best enable some of their students to travel to Scotland to experience our learning and ways of life and further develop our friendships.

Actions:

We are undertaking a number of fundraising events both within our school, the wider community and in our own home communities. Ceilidhs, cultural nights, sporting events, bag packing, links with local churches, quizzes, Christmas parties and raffle events amongst many many others.

For donations, as well as asking family, friends, teachers and visiting primary schools we are also contacting businesses to try and ensure we bring over as many donations as we possibly can from the list overleaf.



Thank you so much for your time in reading this. We have inserted a flyer detailing ways you might be able to get involved or contribute to the project if you so wish. If you would like any more information on the project or feel you can contribute in any way please do not hesitate to contact the trip leader, Miss Grant on Eilidh.Grant@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk.

Thank you (or as we would say in Zulu) Ngiyabonga,

Leah, Adam, Thomas, Emily, Benjamin, Gabrielle, Nick, Maximilian, Andrew, Alison, Euan, Laurie, Ian, Declan, Esme, Corrie, Naomi, Holly, Flora, Rameesah, Megan, Niall, Finlay, Li-Sian, James, Nina, Laura, James and Zoe

