

Laptops handed over at Mponela CDSS



Date: 17th November 2014

Last week Malaptop handed over 76 laptops to ten secondary schools in Malawi, to enable the pupils to receive an education fit for the 21st Century. The handover ceremony at Mponela Community Day Secondary school saw pupils and teachers from three local schools (Mponela CDSS, Tchawale CDSS and Natola CDSS) receive laptops from Malaptops partner organisation in Malawi, Centre for Youth and Development. These laptops will enable the schools to set up computer classrooms and teach the Computing Studies syllabus.

The schools receiving the laptops are able to start using them quickly and have been a real boost for the pupils. Chibavi CDSS received laptops last term that were donated by pupils at Stirling High School and the pupils in Malawi have already started to feel the benefits. "Computer studies is fascinating and having the laptops available is helping us to put into practice what we are learning" says Bertha Nkhoma, a form 3 student. The headteacher of Chibavi CDSS is also convinced of the long term benefits that the laptops give the pupils, "The impacts the laptops are making in the lives of students is long term, these students will use these skills for the rest of their lives, be it in college or even in the work place"

Stirling based charity Malaptop have been supporting schools in Malawi by developing their IT resources. Computer education is becoming increasingly important to the country as the economy develops, however most schools find it very difficult to get the computers needed to teach these skills. Simon Cleary, one of the trustees of Malaptop says "We realised that the laptops that were sitting unused in Scotland would be able to be put to great use in Malawi, giving the pupils real life skills rather than gathering dust in a Scottish cupboard".

The laptops were originally donated by the Wellcome Trust as they looked to put their laptops to good use once they had been replaced. The Wellcome Trust at Glasgow University has also provided laptops and health educational resources that includes comics to explain how malaria is transmitted. These resources are put on every laptop that Malaptop sends to schools in Malawi so that the expertise of the Wellcome Trust is passed on to the people who can benefit from it the most.

Malaptop are looking for further donations of unused laptops from companies and individuals so they can support additional schools next year.

ENDS

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PICTURES



James Gondwe of CYD Malawi and the pupils



James Gondwe of CYD handing over the laptops to the Ministry of Education officials