

DUNBLANE-LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON AIMS, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

AIMS

The aims of the Dunblane-Likhubula Partnership are to:

- improve the education, health and wellbeing of the inhabitants of Likhubula.
- learn from each other about the values, needs and priorities of our respective communities.

For learning opportunities the Dunblane Committee have identified:

- the manner in which the Likhubula community supports the educational and social needs of its citizens.
- the values, educational, social and political structure of the Likhubula community
- their experience promoting education and supporting those in need

The Likhubula Committee have identified the following;

- The spirit of hardworking
- The spirit of love and giving
- To value other people's lives
- Encouragement and support during difficult times
- Good education leading to better living standards
- Fearing God is the beginning of wisdom

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Dunblane and Likhubula Committees will seek to create a close working relationship and a mutual understanding of needs and capabilities for the effective management of agreed activities.

The Committees will make full use of email and social media communications to ensure speedy exchange of information. Additionally, as funding permits, exchange visits between Dunblane and Likhubula Committee members may be arranged to allow face-to-face discussions on Partnership objectives and priorities and strengthening of mutual friendship.

Projects and tasks to be undertaken in Likhubula will be focussed towards achieving the aims of the Partnership and will include:

- A Bursary scheme to provide four-years of secondary education in local day or boarding schools for up to five pupils per annum (ie up to twenty in total) who would not otherwise be able to afford a school place

- Tertiary education for selected Bursars to attain vocational or academic skills as a means of helping to secure meaningful and life-long employment as funds allow.
- Support for agricultural activity and to improve availability of food supplies for the local community as funds allow.
- Provision (in exceptional circumstances) of new infrastructure of benefit to the local community or enhancement of facilities in local primary schools
- Support as and when necessary in response to natural disasters, health emergencies or other unforeseen events affecting the Likhubula community .

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Dunblane Committee will take lead responsibility for raising funds to support all Partnership work. They will pursue a range of activities to maximise income but funds will never be sufficient to allow every desired project or task to proceed. Priorities for action will therefore be discussed and agreed between the Dunblane and Likhubula Committees prior to any commitments being made.

Both committees will maintain and control a bank account in their own country. There will be at least three signatories on each account with at least two required to authorise withdrawal of any money.

The Dunblane Committee will transfer funding to Malawi as soon as formally agreed though transfer of funds can take up to ten days to arrive in Malawi

The Dunblane bank account is subject to an annual audit and report to Companies House and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. The Likhubula Committee will provide a full financial report to Dunblane of all expenditure at the end of each school term.

BURSARY SCHEME

The Dunblane-Likhubula Partnership is committed to providing selected bursars from Likhubula with secondary school education and the necessary knowledge, qualifications and skills to allow them to find a worthwhile career and life-long employment to support themselves and their families.

The Dunblane Committee will provide funding to support five bursars per annum through four years of secondary school education up to a total of twenty Bursars at any one time.

The Likhubula Committee will be responsible for selecting five Bursars each year based on setting local tests. Whenever possible, and based on satisfactory test results, the Likhubula Committee will seek to ensure that a good proportion of female bursars will be selected each year.

The Likhbula Committee will arrange to supply each bursar with the agreed 'outfit' of clothing and supplies each year to support their studies. They will monitor the progress of each bursar throughout the school year and provide any necessary support to help ensure they maintain a good standard of performance.

At the end of each term the Likhubula Committee will obtain and forward the exam results for each bursar to Dunblane for information highlighting any significant issues in respect of performance, attendance etc

A small honorarium may be paid by the Likhubula Committee to someone appointed by Likhubula to liaise with each school and to support individual bursars.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

The Partnership will look to support suitable bursars into Tertiary education as and when available funding permits, noting that tertiary funding for one college or university course can be equal to the cost of supporting 10 school bursars for a year

Responsibility for deciding which students are able to successfully undertake a course of tertiary education will rest with the Likhubula Committee. They will review a student's request / offer for tertiary education and where they consider that he/she can successfully undertake the course of study they will forward the request to the Dunblane Committee for consideration of the required funding.

The Dunblane Committee will require to see and consider the following information before any approval for funding for tertiary education can be given:

Advance information that the student is considering applying for a particular course of study together with as much information as possible on likely costs and dates.

- A statement from the prospective student as to why he/she wants to undertake this course and the benefits they expect to achieve.
- A copy of the formal offer of acceptance from the college/university
- A detailed breakdown of all anticipated fees and costs, including
 - o Course fees and dates of payments
 - o Food and Accommodation costs
 - o Any other necessary costs required by the college/university, eg books, stationery, laptop (if needed for the study course)
 - o Travel costs
 - o Allowance for toiletries
 - o Cost of obtaining necessary tools, materials to practise chosen vocation.

Note

- It is very important that all anticipated costs are identified ‘up-front’ so that proper consideration can be given to the ability of the Partnership to support the funding required.
- A minimum of 30 days notice is requested to allow sufficient time for full consideration of a funding request

Students wishing to gain financial support for tertiary education should also consider the following

- Satisfactory performance in their final bursars’ exams will be an important indication of their ability to successfully undertake a course of tertiary education
- Advance communication to the Partnership on their desire to undertake a tertiary education course will be very helpful.
- Students will be asked to provide a written update on their progress at the end of each term of study and a copy of any exam results undertaken during their course of study.
- There is no restriction on the type of study course that students can consider but available funding is limited and preference may be given to supporting more students attending courses providing vocational skills such as those provided by Green Malata College.
- A commitment by the student to use the skills and training they will gain from tertiary education for the benefit of the Likhubula community (during the training or after) will be an important factor in deciding to support their training.
- The Dunblane Committee will seek to provide every support to prospective students wishing to undertake tertiary education, but funding will always remain limited and no guarantee can be provided at any time that funds will be available to support a tertiary education request.

FOOD SECURITY

Food availability and security is recognised as an essential requirement for the health and well-being of the Likhubula community. It allows bursars and students to concentrate on their studies and to learn effectively.

The Dunblane-Likhubula Partnership shares the values and aims of the ‘Mary’s Meals’ organisation and will work in tandem with them, as appropriate, for the benefit of local students. They will also seek to assist local farmers and families to be self-sufficient and to help them improve the quality and yield of local crops that can be grown for the support of the local community.

The Dunblane Committee will endeavour to provide, as funds permit, an annual supply of fertiliser and the Likhubula Committee will decide and arrange distribution to local farmers and families.

FACILITIES & SERVICES

The Dunblane-Likhubula Partnership will seek to provide, as and when funding permits, suitable facilities and services which will either be of benefit to the local community as a whole or improve support that local primary schools can offer to children.

The Likhubula committee will monitor the condition of the new facilities and arrange any necessary maintenance, in consultation with Dunblane as required for funding.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT

The Dunblane Committee will respond to any unforeseen events or natural disasters - eg flooding, COVID 19, - affecting individuals or the community of Likubula as a whole and will endeavour to provide whatever assistance or help is necessary within the constraints of available funds and resources. They will also share information about unforeseen events or natural disasters as they affect the community in Dunblane.

REVIEW OF MOU

This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed, updated and re-issued as required on a regular basis by the Dunblane and Likhubula Committees to ensure it reflects current Partnership objectives and responsibilities.

(Sgd.....
(On behalf of the Dunblane Committee)

(Sgd).....
(On behalf of the Likhubula Committee)

Date