

Newspaper Article

On the 6th February 2019, my school, Naas CBS plans on sending nine students and three teachers on an immersion project to Mazabuka in Zambia. It will mark our school's eighth return to Mazabuka. Naas CBS has already fostered a very close relationship with the people of Mazabuka. We will be spending two weeks working and volunteering with the Irish Christian Brothers and The Irish Mercy Sisters in Mazabuka. We will be working on various aid projects and going to the different schools in the area to share their skills and knowledge with the children. Throughout the long and difficult days, we will be exposed to the harsh realities of life in the developing world.

We hope to be able to take some of the values in Zambia back home to our school and the local community. We plan on visiting different schools in the local area by splitting into smaller teams and sending each team to a school. One of the schools we are planning on visiting is The City of Joy. It is the "Home for Girls at Risk", founded in 2008 by Salesian sisters. Girls come here from a referral by the Social Welfare Sector or by other institutions or individuals who are seriously concerned about the welfare of a child. The ages of the girls vary between 7 and 20 years old.

Since 2005 the Naas CBS immersion project continues to make a difference. In 2005, over two hundred children were schooled in the shade of trees in one of the villages we had visited. Since then our funds have supported the construction of three blocks of classrooms, a number of lodgings for the teachers and contributed to covering the costs of the schooling available. Now in 2018 over four hundred children attend school on a two-shift school day. Many other projects have gained momentum from our support including; a mother education programme and the provision of foster homes for some of the many orphans living amidst an aids ravaged region.

There is a need for extensive fundraising throughout the school year to fund the cost of travel. We are currently planning on holding a concert for Zambia in the school on the 13th of December. The Island of Ireland Choir will be joining us on the night. The past pupils that went to Mazabuka two years ago will be explaining their journey and giving a song, as well. There will be free admission to the event and donations will be welcomed. We would like to provide information regarding the Zambia trip to the community on this night.

The main fundraiser will be a race night in the Town House Hotel in Naas on Friday the 23rd of November at 8 pm. The race night is always a great night full of fun with some amazing raffle prizes and good atmosphere and company. There is free entry on the night and the event is open to all. We are also looking for some race sponsorship for the night from local businesses. If you have any questions or would like to sponsor a race you can email the team at zambiaproject@naascbs.ie.



Back row (left to right): Eoghán Kelly, David Connolly, Charles Choiseul, Andrew Moore, Daragh O'Shaughnessy

Front row (left to right): Joe Eustace, Cathal Ó'Luasa, Sean O'Rourke, Daniel Woulfe