



Dear Friends

Last month the school's guest rooms were completely taken over by some of the runners in the annual Street Child marathon in Makeni. 118 British runners travelled to Sierra Leone at the end of May to join over 500 runners from Sierra Leone and 15 other countries. They were joined by 15 of the students at the school.



And the tailoring department took the opportunity to sell some of their goods to the visitors.

As you are aware from the last newsletter we are working with Sister Mary to help her refurbish and or/redevelop the school buildings. This will inevitably be a slow process but plans have been drawn up and they are currently being costed. We will keep you updated as we go along. We are really grateful to all our individual supporters, schools, colleges and other organisations who have risen to the challenge and donated to the school. If you want to help support the school and Sister Mary's work please go to the Virgin Money Giving page:

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/FriendsofStJosephs](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/FriendsofStJosephs)

In these uncertain economic times please spare a thought for the people of Sierra Leone. Three years ago it was one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. Now, due to the Ebola outbreak and the decline in commodity prices, two of the largest mines have closed and the economy has shrunk. Rice is now almost twice the price it was before the Ebola crisis and the poor are going hungry. For some of St Joseph's children their school meal is the only one they get.

If any of you would like to contribute an article that we can publish in a future edition of this newsletter we would love to hear from you. Please email us on [forthehearingimpaired@gmail.com](mailto:forthehearingimpaired@gmail.com) We try and publish a newsletter every six to eight weeks but without any paid staff that intention doesn't always translate into reality! In between issues you can follow us on Facebook: (<http://www.facebook.com/stjoskids>) and Twitter: ([www.twitter.com/Frnnds\\_StJosKids](http://www.twitter.com/Frnnds_StJosKids)) for all the up to date news.

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Joseph's School will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm at 8 Spindle Street, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5WX. All are welcome but if you intend to come please email us on [forthehearingimpaired@gmail.com](mailto:forthehearingimpaired@gmail.com) as we may need to change the venue if there is a good response.

All good wishes from Linda Freestone (Chair) and all the trustees

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