

Our International Friends

TOP VALLEY ACADEMY LINKS UP WITH SCHOOLS IN CAMEROON AND SPAIN

At Top Valley Academy we feel it is extremely important for our pupils to develop their understanding of countries outside of our own. In addition to cultural elements of the curriculum, we are proud to be developing several international links with schools all over the world.

Two of the links we have worked to develop recently are with a secondary school in Murcia, Spain and a primary school in Cameroon. Both schools have allowed our school to widen our knowledge of alternative cultures and school policies. We are now continuing to work build on relationships with both schools in exciting future projects.



Spanish Partner School



We have quickly established a very warm friendship with our partner school 'Instituto San Juan de la Cruz' in Murcia, Spain.

The school has 600 students who all study English. The pupils study from 8am until 2pm with a short morning break and they return home for one hour at lunch time.

Our partnership with the school first began in June 2013 when four TVA pupils flew to Spain to take part in Spanish lessons and visited some of Murcia's top tourist attractions.

In October, Top Valley Academy was honoured to host a visit for 8 Spanish pupils and their teachers. The Spanish pupils were placed in classes with TVA pupils and given the opportunity

to converse with one another in both Spanish and English. They also visited Nottingham Castle and Spanish tapas restaurant 'La Tasca' where TVA pupils practised their Spanish by ordering food and drinks under the guidance of our visiting pupils.

Spanish pupil, Elena, 14, praised TVA student Connor, 13, on his Spanish: "*He had the best accent and I really understood what he was saying.*"

After our two highly successful pupil and staff visits, we are proud to announce that in April 2014, the first full exchange programme begins. This programme will allow for 25-30 Spanish pupils to visit us for one week where possible, staying with TVA pupils in their family homes. A return visit for Top Valley pupils will take place in the Summer Term, building upon the successful relationship we have grown this year.

You can see more pictures in the Gallery on the TVA Website!

Cameroon Connection



During the summer, with the help of TVA Science teacher Mr Ndumu, Top Valley Academy sent over a small gift of 6 desktop computers to a school in Cameroon.

Government Primary School, Ntoh, Bamendankwe was created in 1990 and was built by Bamendankwe residents. Currently, there are 410 pupils on roll and learning is carried out in 7 different classrooms.

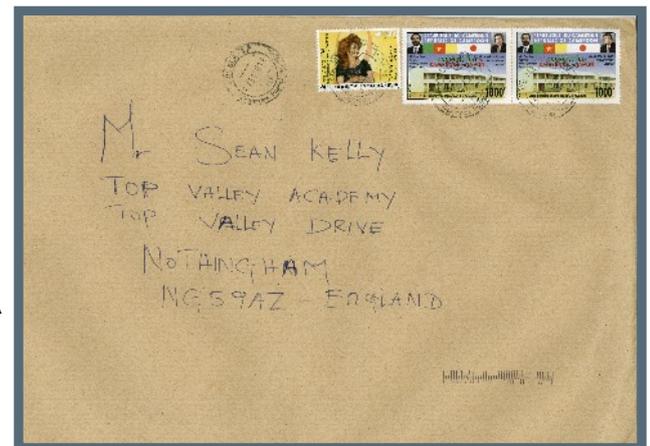
The primary school pupils study a normal curriculum and at the end of year six they complete two exams – Common Entrance (English and Maths) and First School Leaving Certificate of Education (English, Maths, History,

Geography and General Knowledge). The Common Entrance Exams are vital for pupils to gain admission into a secondary school.

Although computers are often a readily available commodity in the UK, the six computers we sent were received with enormous gratitude by the pupils in Cameroon.

We were also honoured to receive a written letter of appreciation from the paramount ruler of Bamendankwe, Fon Forsuh Fongwa II, alongside photographs of the children.

We are now proud to reveal that Top Valley Academy has begun talks with the Fon for the possibility of forming a solid partnership with the school in the future. This would include TVA supplying resources to provide educational improvements for the children at the Cameroon School whilst aiding our own Pupils' understanding of other cultures.



This particular village is of great significance to our Science teacher Mr Ndumu as it is his childhood home. It is our aim that with help from Mr Ndumu we will form a solid connection with our friends in Cameroon and support their educational improvements and provide resources.

It is with Fon Forsuh Fongwa II's blessing that an international relationship will be formed, allowing Top Valley Academy pupils, parents and carers several cultural benefits including the possibility of an Academy visit to Cameroon in the future.

