



Press Release from Bournemouth University

6 August 2009

Further information:

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Bournemouth University students get set for African sports adventure

Students from Bournemouth University (BU) are preparing for a month-long African adventure, to help underprivileged children.

As recruits of the Camp Kenya Sports Development Expedition (SDX) 2009, the students will coach sport activities to school children and staff in Kwale, Kenya as well as organising an inter-schools sports festival and district fun run.

Twenty students from Bournemouth University (BU) and Universities of Southampton, Portsmouth and Surrey were selected to participate in the expedition, which is led by the sportBU team in association with Camps International, an organisation that runs volunteer programmes in East Africa and Asia.

The team will be involved in the teaching and training of sporting skills in schools within the Kwale region of East Kenya building up to an organised school sports festival and 5KM district fun run.

With an average temperature of 30 degrees Celsius, the group will be facing the elements to help schools construct football and netball pitches whilst erecting purpose built goals and netball posts.

As part of the project the SDX team are also helping to support the Boots for Africa appeal, which collects used football boots, cleans them up and distributes them to school children.

Recently the group received a large donation of used boots from generous Poole-based company Sport Kit Pro Soccer, a leading supplier of football equipment, and will be taking these with them when they embark on their trip on 15 August 2009.

BU Head of Sports Development and project manager Barry Squires said: "Learning how to interact and coach the Kenyan children with the noticeable communication

barrier is initially very hard for the English students, but it is a key confidence booster once the team fully immerse themselves into the local communities.

“The ability of using sport for development in providing a unique student experience and leadership tool has been sustainable for the last three years. Over this time the schools have seen great results in both improvements in attendance and usage of newly constructed facilities and equipment we donate.”

Notes to Editors:

1. Barry Squires and SDX team are available for comment and this can be arranged by contacting the BU press office on 010202 961033/
cknight@bournemouth.ac.uk
2. SDX team have technical facilities for a live link-up whilst in Kenya. If you would like to use this facility please contact Charlotte Knight on 01202 961033/
cknight@bournemouth.ac.uk.
3. BU is the UK's Number One New University (first place among all institutions that became universities since 1992) according to The Guardian University Guide 2009 & 2010. (www.guardian.co.uk/education)
4. In the 2008 [Research Assessment Exercise](#) (RAE) BU is the 4th most improved university in the UK for the quality of its research (according to *Times Higher Education*).

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