

25 June 2010

Dear friend of Bridgebuilder,

>>>> Empowerment for young people

As well as educating young people about the Christian faith, we believe it's important to empower young Christians with the skills and confidence to share their faith with friends. This is a key part of the daily approach of our schools workers, Rosie, Rachel, Lex and Tony, as they work among children and young people. For us empowerment is about developing Christian maturity and leadership skills amongst secondary school pupils, helping struggling young people to overcome their problems and supporting the primary school leavers preparing to move to secondary schools.

>>>> Empowering Bridgebuilder

All this Christian input - and much more - goes on in Milton Keynes schools on a daily basis throughout the school year. Schools workers, Rosie and Rachel and our students, Lex and Tony deliver assemblies and lessons and run a variety of specially designed projects in collaboration with churches and schools throughout the city. But **taking the Christian message to MK children and young people can only happen if MK Christians support this local ministry as enthusiastically as MK schools request it.** Your help is needed to 'empower' Bridgebuilder!

>>>> Empowerment - Training young leaders



This year we've seen pupils in seven secondary schools planning and running 'Emulate' Christian groups - supported on a weekly basis by Lex and Tony. Some of these pupils were also able to attend Bridgebuilder's young leaders' residential training weekend in April. Co-leaders Rosie and Bev Hollins were particularly impressed by the young people's response to the challenges issued to them. Here's what participant Jaz Dangana said about the weekend:

"The weekend away was totally awesome! Hanging with friends, raft-building and, most importantly, learning how to be a good Christian leader, it was all totally worthwhile, but I am NEVER doing high ropes again!"

>>>> Empowerment - Building confidence

Appropriately equipped and empowered, these young leaders will be joined by additional Christian post-GCSE young people – all of whom are volunteering to be full-time members of the 'Moving On Up to Secondary Education' teams this summer.

So popular is this project with primary school heads and Year 6 teachers that the **number of MOUSE teams is increasing from two to three this year!** Using biblical role models, Q & A slots and fun activities, the aim of this interactive project is to build the confidence of the Year 6 pupils facing change and uncertainty in the future, whilst communicating a clear Christian message.

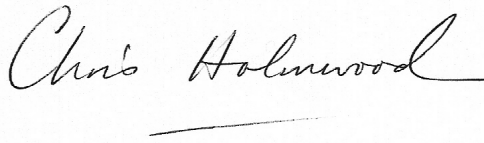
>>>> Empowerment - Looking to the future

There is an ever growing number of requests from schools for input from the Bridgebuilder team – including increasing invitations from schools we've not been to before. We want to be able to take these opportunities for Christian service and witness. If you are able to, **please support us financially**. No gift is too small – even providing the cost of a litre of fuel will get Rosie or Rachel to a school!

The doors of our schools are open – let's maximise Christian input now!

Thank you for all your support – for being part of the wider Bridgebuilder team.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Holmwood". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chris Holmwood
Chair of Trustees