

MYLOL 2015

Two of the students who visited Malawi this year as part of the Glasgow **Malawi Young Leaders Of Learning** project tell us about their amazing trip:

Conor Pritchard:

Going to Malawi was by far the best experience of my life so far. The amount of personal development that I have gone through in the past year as preparation is amazing. Malawi Young Leaders Of Learning has taught me a lot, from the selection day all the way to the second we landed back in Glasgow. Even then I still further my knowledge of both our great countries, it has changed my attitude and perceptions of the world around me.

The thing I remember most about my experiences in Malawi, is that Malawians are some of the most joyful and friendliest people you could ever meet - a bit like us Glaswegians, the skills and abilities I've picked up whilst preparing to go to Malawi and being there will never be forgotten. I hope to one day return as a leader and lead a group of young people just as I was, and I would strongly recommend going to Malawi to every school pupil and head teacher in Glasgow.

Thanks to the MYLOL programme and the friends I met on the way to Malawi and whilst there, I wouldn't be the person I am today, I certainly wouldn't have thought of taking part in volunteering work or plan to set up my own charity one day, if it weren't for MYLOL. I returned from Malawi with not only knowledge and a new attitude on life. But with new friends, memories to share and most importantly a passion to better our two countries. Thank you and let our Scotland and Malawi partnership thrive.



Laura McGeorge:

In September 2015, seventeen young people and I from St Mungo's Academy and Eastbank Academy, along with our five leaders headed off to Blantyre, Malawi for a whirlwind two week experience. For the past year we have been on a leadership program, the aim of our MYLOL program was to make a difference in Malawi and in our own local communities in Glasgow. Before we went to Malawi we did various projects and events in our local area to try and improve some of the issues in our local community and we went over to Malawi to try and do the same.

While in Malawi we worked with two of our partner primary schools: Chilimoni and Catholic Institute. During our two weeks, our aim was to deliver sports and community development sessions to the children in standard 4, 5 and 6. We did this alongside our 'Malawian MYLOLs', this was 10 young people from each school who had been on a similar journey as us and we worked together to deliver sports leadership sessions within the school.

Working with the Malawian children was so much fun! We learned so many games and activities from the children and being able to teach some of the games that we play was amazing as the children from each year group were so much fun and so enthusiastic! Our aim was to teach sport sessions so that when we left the sessions would be able to continue and they would have a diverse range of activities that they now were able to play.

We also delivered community leadership sessions - In these lessons we worked on perceptions and how to change them, it was so interesting to learn from the Malawians the perceptions that they had on us and our culture and we also found out so much about Malawi and its culture that we didn't know before.

During our time in Malawi we got the chance to work with Mary's meals and a local youth centre. Both of these experiences were amazing and something we will all never forget! We visited a primary school where we got to help make and serve the porridge to the children and as well as that we had the amazing job of giving each child in the school a Mary's Meals backpack - The reactions and gratefulness from the children that day are something that I will never forget, it was such an overwhelming but positive day.

At Bangwe Youth Centre, we worked with the Malawians there to paint our own little masterpiece on the walls there. We worked together to paint it and one wall we painted the Malawi and Scotland flag and on the other we put all of our hand prints on it and painted our quote: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This is a quote that we have been using for our project and it definitely describes the partnership between Scotland and Malawi as without working together, we would never be able to learn so much from each other as together we greater. Waza Waza!

