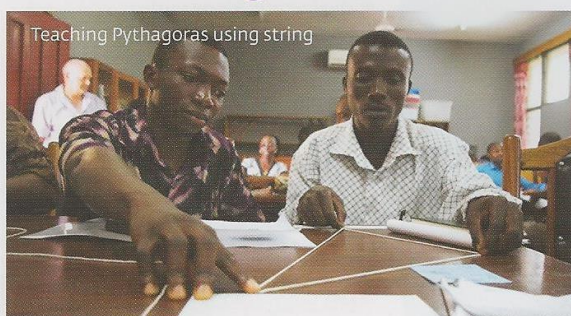


Warwick in Africa: Teacher Training in Ghana



In 2010, the Warwick in Africa project built on its previous success by incorporating a teacher training strand into its programme with a focus on Mathematics and English. A team of five teachers from Warwick flew out to Accra (Ghana) and worked with around 180 Ghanaian teachers over a 3-week period.

The team was made up of Warwick alumni and associates and was led by Adam Boddison (BSc Mathematics 2000-03; PGCE 2003-04; MA Educational Research Methods 2004-05; DPhil Mathematics Education 2005-10). Working with Ghanaian teachers as well as students plays an important part in the sustainability of Warwick in Africa. By developing or inspiring a relatively small number of teachers, the project can have an impact on a larger number of students.

Each day, the Ghanaian teachers attended three teacher training sessions. During the first session, the focus was on pedagogy, whilst the remaining sessions looked at developing subject-specific skills in either Mathematics or English. The pedagogy sessions included exposure to assessment for learning strategies, differentiation techniques, ideas for

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inclusion and methods for facilitating different teaching and learning styles. They were well received by the Ghanaian teachers and many have pledged, in their individual action plans, to adapt their own pedagogical practices. The subject sessions concentrated on subject knowledge and sharing ideas about different ways in which Mathematics and English can be taught. This turned out to be a two-way process with both the Ghanaian and British teachers learning from each other.

Perhaps the most interesting session was the one that focused on mathematical language. The idea was to bring Mathematics and English together in an innovative way. The construction and meaning of words was explored and the Ghanaian teachers produced some mathematical poetry in the form of a haiku or a tanka.

Reflecting on this new teacher training strand of Warwick in Africa, it is clear that it has been a resounding success.

This is not only due to those involved with the planning and delivery of the project but also the positivity of the Ghanaian teachers and the financial contributions of Warwick alumni and friends. This was a fantastic opportunity for those UK teachers who went to Ghana.

Anyone interested in being involved with the programme as it moves forward is urged to contact mary.mcgrath@warwick.ac.uk

Adam Boddison and Ghanaian colleague

