

# Beath Malawi Partnership



# Who we are

Beath HS is a six year secondary school in Cowdenbeath, Fife.

In partnership with two primary schools in Malawi:

Mapanga PS

Njale PS

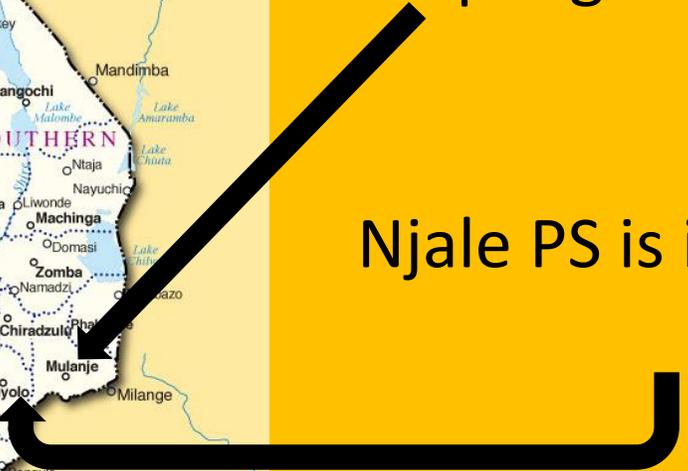
The partnership has been going since 2016.



# Mapanga and Njale

Mapanga PS in the Mulanje area

Njale PS is in Thyolo



# Why Malawi?

Two previous members of staff at Beath HS raised the desire to create a link with a school in Africa.

After much research and discussion, Malawi was the country of choice.

A previous partnership with another Primary school fell through, despite a visit to Beath from two Malawian colleagues, Peter Mchenga and Maevie Chiponda. Thankfully, it took little time to arrange the present link due to the increasing number of contacts, understanding and trust and Peter and Maevie are still actively involved within the partnership.



# Visits

Beath Malawi Partnership has been able to visit our partner schools on four occasions, twice with learners (2016 and 2018) and twice as staff only (2017 and 2019).

Whilst there, we have been involved in teaching lessons, upgrading classrooms, community activities and cultural exchanges.





# Highlights and Challenges

The highlights of the partnership have undoubtedly been the visits to Malawi.

The individual events which raised a smile and brought a tear are too numerous to mention but I would draw attention to our distribution of girls underwear at both schools.

The smiles on the faces of the girls at both schools show how a small gesture can mean so much!



# Highlights and Challenges

The greatest challenge is the ability to communicate with each other in an effective manner.

Mapanga PS has no electricity and Njale PS has only one computer in the whole school. Email etc is not possible.

WhatsApp is the method of choice but data in Malawi is expensive and this adds to the problems.

# Highlights and Challenges

The partnership appears weighted towards Mapanga PS and Njale PS with the support from the community of Beath HS.

This is due to the differing availability of resources and basic materials e.g. paper, pens and, as stated previously, electrical energy.

We have been able to support scholarship pupils through Secondary education, with some now heading off to college and university.

We, in Scotland, are always impressed by the creative methods employed by our Malawian friends to overcome day to day problems.

There is a great deal of support from our colleagues in Malawi, especially in these pandemic times. The partnership has demonstrated that we are all in this together.

# Three Schools, Two Continents, One Goal

All members of the partnership have benefitted from the link.

Staff and learners in both countries are now much more aware of the lifestyles and cultures of the other. Our Malawian link is used regularly in classes as a teaching point/strategy.

The similarities between the two areas are more evident than one might expect and the differences are more in what we do to meet and overcome challenges.

# Partnership

There is no doubt that the partnership is worth the time and effort necessary to make it work. If communications were more consistent and less expensive in Malawi, there would be even greater contact and exchange of resources.

There will always be a perception of the “haves” and “have nots” but a partnership is much more than this.

We have understanding for another culture, a desire to effect change in both countries and a willingness to support others in the same role as ourselves.

Education is a very powerful tool for the future.