

**Sudanese Supplementary School
Annual General Report
31st August 2013**

The Sudanese Supplementary School, SSS, held its AGM on Saturday 24 November 2013 at Pimlico Academy, Lupus Street, London SW1V 3AT and was attended by 68 members.

The AGM opened at 11am and closed at 14.30 hours after passing the General Report, the Audited Accounts and electing a new Parents Management Committee.

The SSS was set up in 1991 as a small Mother- Tongue class. On 21 September 1994, it was registered as a Charity No. 1040959. The SSS is one of the largest and most successful community schools in London with 235 pupils, aged 5 to 16+, including 119 girls and 116 boys. Due to our continued growth in size and reputation, the School has been oversubscribed every year and we had to move premises from Hallfield Primary School, Queensway in 1994 to North Westminster Secondary, and later to City College Paddington in 1998 and to Pimlico Academy in 2011. Our top objective is to provide lessons in GCSE Arabic, English, Mathematics and General Studies in support to the National Curriculum. We also engage the pupils and their teachers and families in music, sporting, cultural and recreational activities within a secure educational framework. However, the chief stakeholders are the children as well as their parents and community associates. The direct beneficiaries of our services total about 600 people coming from nearly all the Greater London Boroughs with more than 45% of them from most of the 20 wards of Westminster. The SSS has done very well over the years, a 100% Pass rate in GCSE Arabic exams achieved annually with most of our candidates scoring A* , A and B grades. In the English Language and Literature GCSE exams last year , out of a class of 27 students , seven gained Grades A* or A, 4 had B while the rest got satisfactory results. A good number of our students are in fulltime higher education, some in top universities and others have pursued fulfilling academic or professional careers. The Youth Factor Network, a voluntary group organized by a number of our former students is in partnership with us on mentoring, career development, cultural events, theatre visits and sports tournaments. (Please visit www.theyouthfactor.co.uk).

To promote voluntary teaching of English back home we have been working for many years with Sudan Volunteer Programme, www.svp-uk.com, a British charity that sends native speakers of English to promote the teaching of the English in Sudan.

We work hard to supplement the role of mainstream schools in teaching the core subjects of English, Math. and Science as only 16% of students in Britain achieve GCSEs in them and either history or geography (The Observer 18 Dec.2011). We should continue to strive to beat the wasted potential of our children from the less advantaged ethnic minorities. It is understood that bilingual students stand a better chance to advance their learning levels, boost their self-esteem and confidence and grasp opportunities to strengthen their skills, further their education and enhance their employability in a competitive environment.

Amongst our pupils and parents for example are recent arrivals from displacement camps in Darfur, Western Sudan. Three sisters of 10 ,12 and 14 years old are receiving one to one teaching by our trained teachers as they have never been to school in their war torn villages. This is one evidence of our efforts to promote social inclusion and cultural integration within the British Society.

We are happy with our ongoing campaign against Female Genital Mutilation FGM, the Health Awareness co-coordinator Ms. Saria Nageeb is liaising with the FORWARD African Women Foundation in London. The Schools Mothers Health production of the short film ' It is For Us to Decide "was acclaimed all over Africa and was instrumental in the establishment of the St Mary's

Hospital Maternity Clinic for circumcised women. Our Home/ School coordinator Ms. Hagir Idris is undertaking a Doctorate research on combating Malaria and is involving some families in her fact-finding survey. We have over the years developed strong links with the Metropolitan Police Safer London in association with the London Mayors Authority (pia@kitmalhouse.com) in our efforts to contain bad behaviour , gang culture , domestic and drug abuse , within our community for the good of parents , children and youth alike.

In recognition of our achievements, the SSS received the Bronze Award in May 2011 and got the Gold Award in March 2013 from the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education in London. However, we are aware of the difficulties we face, the biggest being to secure an adequate and affordable venue to run the school on weekly bases. We are short of up-to-date educational aids, music and sport equipment and resources, coupled with poor understanding and co-ordination with local authorities and mainstream schools. They are yet to appreciate the benefits of Supplementary Schools and their positive contribution to social cohesion and more commitment on the part of ethnic minorities to good education, cultural values and gainful employability etc.

We would have asked for expert advice and business support to secure a long-leased venue, or appeal to the councils and local authorities to appropriate one of the school premises for our weekend classes. However the School Parents Committee is grateful to all those who contributed in no small measure, one-way or the other, to the continued progress of our educational endeavour. We cannot serve our purpose and go further in fulfilling the set objective without your support and encouragement. So please continue with that.