

GHANA 2017

My name's Eden Prince and I'm in year 12. This summer I was fortunate enough to visit Woe, Ghana with Girlguiding to take part in a charity project.



As part of this, we stayed in a volunteer house on the same premises as The Young Shall Grow International, which is an orphanage. As we spent all of our free time in the afternoons as, the older ones especially, were almost fluent. We also taught them songs like the Hokey Cokey and the Macarena, and other guide songs that we knew, and in return they taught us the songs and dances that they knew.

We spent the majority of our time at Shalom School which was where we volunteered. We helped to lay a floor, this process is called screeding, for which, we carried gravel, collected water from the well, mixed the cement, gravel and sand, and laid the mix. When we arrived, the area we worked on was just an empty, sandy space, and by the time we left, there was a new, strong floor for the school to use as an extra classroom. This building work allowed us to leave a legacy at the school to be used and valued long after we left.



We also had the amazing opportunity to teach in the school. We knew we would have the chance to teach, but we thought we would just get to sit in on the classes and act as a teaching assistant, but when we arrived we realised that we would actually teach the classes ourselves. We taught lessons such as Maths, English, Science and Social Studies, which are the main subjects on their curriculum. We also taught the children about the geography and culture of the UK, girlguiding in the UK and some simple Spanish which the older students were very eager to learn.



We spent so much time with the children, we created strong bonds with them and formed friendships that will hopefully last for a long time and will be continued through emails and letters.



Finally, as part of a lasting legacy we



also set up a

rainbows, brownies, guides and rangers unit for the girls. This will be continued by the female teachers at the school. We sang songs and did activities with them. With the rainbows and brownies we made friendship bracelets and with the guides and rangers we take about gender

stereotypes, despite being a bit confused at the start, by the end of the session the girls seemed very empowered and enthusiastic. One girl told us that she wanted to be the first female Prime Minister of Ghana and now believed that that actually was achievable- we hope she's right! It was so amazing to see the positive difference we were making.

By going to Ghana, we made a difference to many lives, and the opportunity to teach about so many things helped others, as well as helping us to learn and grow ourselves. This was such an educational, inspiring and life changing experience that I would highly recommend to everyone!