

9 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Opportunity to visit Uganda - February Half Term 2026**

Prior to 2020, The Weald had built a strong bond with the staff and students at Namilyango College, our partner school situated just outside Uganda's capital, Kampala. Between 2015-2020, Year 11 students visited Namilyango College each February as part of an exchange partnership. The project originated from the London 2012 Olympic Legacy project when interested British schools were paired with Commonwealth countries and schools around the world.

I am delighted to announce that, following a very successful trip in February 2025, we will be running this trip again in partnership with Midhurst Rother College and we will be sending approximately 25 students in total from across both schools (and 3 staff members) to visit Uganda during the February half term 2026 (8 nights, 6 in Uganda) Exact dates to be confirmed. The trip is open to current Y10 students, Y11 in February 2026.

Students will largely be based in and around Namilyango College, a vast and impressive site which includes its own functioning farm, in order to get a real sense of what life is like for a young person in education in Uganda. There will be opportunities to visit the local area, including a day trip to Jinja and the 'source of the Nile', as well as the chance to support children in local primary schools: both in the classroom and through sports leadership. An important part of the visit over the last few years has been the opportunity to work with some of Uganda's most deprived children through 'Hands for Hope', an organisation with which The Weald has developed close links.

The trip is challenging and rewarding on a personal and an educational level. Weald students should be prepared to take and deliver presentations on life in the UK to Namilyango students as well as working on a number of cross-curricular projects in the school. Students will be accommodated on the school site, eat with Ugandan students and attend a number of classes alongside their other activities. The cost of the whole trip is likely to be around £1,500 - £1,600 dependent on securing flight costs. In addition to sending our students to Uganda, we have made a commitment to welcoming Ugandan students at The Weald within the next 18 months. The cost of the 2026 trip will include a contribution towards the cost of a flight for one Ugandan member of school staff to come to the UK.

A major attraction for The Weald in getting involved in this project is the potential to host a group of Ugandan students. The students work incredibly hard at the Ugandan school, one of the highest-performing schools in the country. In a school like The Weald, which is less ethnically diverse than many schools in the UK, we are keen to welcome and host a group of students from another continent, whose lifestyle and life experiences are very different from our own students.

If you would like to register your child's interest for the trip, please [complete this form](#) by **Wednesday 14 May**. I will then invite those interested to a lunchtime meeting where we will go through the trip in greater detail. Students will then be required to submit an application letter, no longer than 1 x A4 page outlining why they would like to attend and what constitutions they think they will make. We will then offer spaces to students. A non-refundable deposit of £300 will then be required by Monday 2 June 2025.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Sperring', with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Miss E Sperring  
Enrichment Coordinator