

Firm gets behind Gordon to help African pupils

A data centre expert is helping raise funds to educate children in an impoverished rural district of East Africa – and is calling on support for his charity mission.

Gordon Liddle, head of service delivery and implementation at Corsham-based data centre operator MDS Technologies, is planning a trip to Kenya later this year to help build a classroom and accommodation for teachers at a school serving a deprived Maasai community.

The school is now named Sherston Musul Primary School because of the strong support it gets from the village school in Sherston, near Malmesbury, where Mr Liddle's wife Debbie is deputy head.

The visit is the latest phase in the project administered by the Wiltshire school, supported by private fundraising and corporate donations from MDS.

"I have seen at first hand the hardships many of its people have to endure," said Mr Liddle.

"Children regularly have to walk several miles to school, often without shoes and with empty stomachs. The opportunity of an education, however, is invaluable and we have already achieved a great deal, including the building of schools and water towers.

"Our work continues and all financial support for our efforts is gratefully received."

He said a fully equipped classroom could be built for as little as £5,000. He and his wife are also planning a

sponsored trek up Mount Kenya while in the country.

The African school, which is 50 miles north-west of Mt Kenya, teaches English, maths, Swahili, RE and science to its 95 pupils.

MDS managing director Phil Lawson said the firm was glad to help.

"MDS Technologies is delighted to help such a worthy cause and support the effort of not only Gordon but everyone who has worked tirelessly to help provide an education for young people

in Kenya – something so many of us in Britain take for granted."

The firm is working on a service which offers safer, secure, mobile internet access for children, both at home and in the classroom in the UK.

The company's clients include organisations such as Vodafone, Hewlett Packard, the Guys & St Thomas Hospital Trust, and Ikon in more than 30 countries.

Mr Lawson said: "We are in a privileged position, however, to be living in a society that boasts such next generation technology to help protect the welfare of our children.

"Very few of the families and pupils of Sherston Musul have ever received an education, let alone benefited from the internet age. By providing them with basic educational resources, from classrooms to exercise books, we can have a considerable impact on their community."

To find out more about the Sherston Musul project, or to make a donation, visit www.sherstonmusul.com.



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GORDON LIDDLE: driven to help a school in Africa

