



Pelican News



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Blue Skies Newsletter

A mission to stand the test of time

Blue Skies has renewed its commitment to the Joint Effort Enterprise by publishing a new poster centered around a fresh articulation of the company’s mission. Called ‘The Mission Map’, the poster highlights how Blue Skies is a Joint Effort Enterprise whose mission is to ‘build together a profitable enterprise where people respect each other, care for the environment and inspire a legacy for the future’. The Mission Map is designed to ensure the values which underpin the business will carry on enduring as the company continues to grow.



Blue Skies calls on Ghana to sign EPA

Blue Skies has called on the Government of Ghana to sign the European Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to ensure continuity of free trade between Europe and Ghana. Currently Blue Skies is entitled to tariff free access to EU member states however with Market Regulation ending this year, this is set to change unless Ghana ratifies the EPA. Those who oppose the trade deal claim that Ghana will lose more in lost revenue on imports than the money saved from tariff free access to the EU for exports. Blue Skies however argues that sustainable economic growth for Ghana is only possible with a bigger manufacturing and exports sector and less dependency on imports. Blue Skies Founder Anthony Pile said: “Ghana has abundant natural resources, a talented and enterprising population and a desperate need for employment. It’s about time the government embraced this and helped to build a vibrant ‘valued added’ manufacturing sector that was the envy of the world”

You can download the Mission Map from www.blueskies.com/missionmap.pdf



Blue Skies inspires local schools in UK



Throughout June and July Jules Furnival and Susan Brightwell have been working with 16-18 year olds in local schools to build their knowledge and improve their skills in the world of employment. One school in particular, Malcolm Arnold, took all children off timetable for the day to broaden the knowledge of all ages from 11 through to 18 years old. Both

Hilario Jesus and Lorna Dix joined Jules and Susan in supporting the initiative to deliver bespoke quality training sessions for all the children. This initiative will continue throughout next year's school term working closely with Northamptonshire enterprise team and local schools.

Report by Julie Furnival, Blue Skies UK HR Manager

New canteen for Ghana takes shape



A new canteen for Blue Skies Ghana is taking shape. Work is currently around 80% complete and the new canteen is expected to be operational by October.

Blue Skies sponsors agricultural boot camp

Blue Skies is sponsoring an agricultural boot camp in Ghana organized by Dain Network. The Bootcamp takes place over three days in August and aims to help aspiring young agricultural entrepreneurs gain the skills and confidence to pitch their business ideas to potential investors.

Blue Skies will support by giving a talk about the business and providing fresh juice and fruits. The BootCamp is also sponsored by Nestle and Ghana Guinness Breweries. You can find out more at www.dainnetwork.org.

The juice bar from the air



Pictured: the Blue Skies juice bar at Dobro from the air.

#SayHello



#SayHello to Baiba Sipola, QA Team Leader @ #blueskiesUK. Baiba likes painting & photography #helloBaiba

Meet Mbali Mbhele



I am Mbali Mbhele 20 years of age, born in November 1995. My family is made up of both parents, I have a brother and two cousins. I am the first child of Morena and Rebecca Nkosi and they both work at Blue Skies Fresh Produce.

I'm a very loud, open and interactive person. I started school at the age of 7 at Bonukhukanya Primary School then went to Balfour Primary school until grade 7. In 2009 I went to Balfour Combined School until 2013 where I completed my matric.

I stayed in Balfour for 12 years until I finished my high school and then left to the city of Johannesburg where I stayed from 2014 until present. I studied Business Administration at Richfield Graduate Institute of Technology for two years and did my practicals at Blue

Skies Fresh Produce under the supervision of HR manager Waydu Nhlapo in the month of January 2016. I am grateful and honoured to be given the opportunity to work with Blue Skies to fulfil my career endeavor.

On the 7th of June 2016 I graduated with my first qualification. I am proud to say I am a qualified business administrator. My dream is to study further as far as I can. I hope in my future I will get the job of my heart desire as I resume with my second qualification. To my parents thank you for making sure that I am well equipped for my future by giving me the best education.

Pelican News Editorial

Stronger Together

Since the UK voted last month to leave the European Union there have been mixed reactions from among our sites over what this means for the UK and for Blue Skies. While Brexit undoubtedly impacts Blue Skies due to the sudden collapse of the pound, far less understood is the message the 'leave vote' sends the rest of the world about the UK's attitude to diversity and inclusivity, two of the cornerstones of the Blue Skies JEE.

Many of those who voted to leave did so for understandable concerns over how the EU is managed. Whether it be the level of bureaucracy, the threat to sovereignty or the lack of democracy, it is widely acknowledged even among the remain voters, that the EU must be reformed. But what has stood out, particularly for those watching from outside the UK, is how Brexit has fuelled worrying levels of xenophobia and racism among a very small section of society. This of course may not reflect the views of the vast majority of leave voters, however it is the side which has been seen by many people living outside the UK, not least by our own staff. So should we now believe the UK, once a beacon for enterprise, charity and multiculturalism, has now closed its doors on the world and declared that it no longer wishes to play its part as responsible global citizens, helping to solve some of the monumental challenges faced by our planet and its people?

No, of course this is not the case, but we have a responsibility to assure people around the world (and put pressure on our government to do the same), that despite Brexit, Britain is now, more than ever, an open, inclusive and proudly diverse society, which recognizes the part that immigration has unquestionably played in shaping our country, driving our economy and putting the Great in Great Britain.

And these are the values that we must continue to promote and defend as a business. They are at the heart of our Joint Effort Enterprise; diversity, equality and profitability. We strive to break down the barriers that divide us and embrace the differences that make us unique. It is this spirit of union – of being part of one family, regardless of who we are or where we came from – that has enabled us to survive and to thrive.

So while we worry about where Brexit will take us, Blue Skies stands tall with unwavering conviction for our values and a complete confidence that they will ultimately see us through.

Blue Skies Weddings



Congratulations to Blue Skies Director and daughter of Anthony and Jenny, Harriet and her husband Henry. Harriet and Henry Churchill were married on the 16th of July at All Saints' Church in Pitsford. On behalf of us all at Blue Skies, we wish them both a wonderful and happy life together.

Baby News



Congratulations to Victoria and Kwame on their first born son, Dylan. The Boamah family are pictured above with Dylan kept carefully wrapped in the cold climate of Ghana!

More Foundation projects completed

Nearly all our 2016 Foundation projects are nearing completion including a new classroom block for Kyinto Junior High School located near to the factory in Ghana and a new primary school for the papaya farming community of Pampanso. Our 2016 School Farm of the Year project is also well under way with over fifty schools competing to be crowned the winners of the competition in December during Ghana's Farmers Day celebrations.



Above: The new classroom block at Kyinto Junior High School with their school farm in the foreground.



Above: the new classroom block for Pampanso Primary School.



The latest Blue Skies Foundation report has been published. It contains an overview <http://www.blueskies.com/foundation2015.pdf>

Amali and Tor visit South Africa projects

Waydu, Stephan and Justice hosted a visit to Blue Skies South Africa by Amali Bunter and Tor Harris from Waitrose on the 18th of July. Amali and Tor visited a number of Foundation projects including a Day Care Centre for disabled children near to the factory in Siyathemba, where the Foundation provided a refrigerator and cooker to assist in the preparation of meals.



Above: The children happy to have their photo taken at the Day Care Centre in Siyathemba.



Above: Amali and Tor with staff at Balfour Primary School.

