



PELICAN NEWS

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School Farm of the Year Awards encourage the next generation



Blue Skies is encouraging the next generation of agricultural entrepreneurs after crowning the winners of its 2019 School Farm of the Year Competition in Ghana.

The School Farm Competition of the Year was launched by the Blue Skies Foundation in 2015 as a way of encouraging more young people to take an interest in farming, and to help raise the profile of agriculture. In the competition, schools are required to setup and manage their own 'School Farms' and submit business plans to ensure their sustainability. Teams of inspectors made up of agricultural experts visit the participating schools periodically to assess their performance and ultimately determine the winners.

Over 1,000 students attended this year's award ceremony representing sixty schools who participated in the 2019 competition. This year the SHS School Farm of the Year was awarded to Akwamuman Senior High School, Asokore (pictured below), and the JHS School Farm of the Year was awarded to Damang School.

Find out about all our 2019 School Farm winners on Page 4



Rediscover 10 years of the Foundation

The tenth year of the Foundation has almost passed, and in that time it has approved its 112th project and agreed its first project for Brazil.

If you've not seen it already, you can download our ten year report and watch our short film 'Ten Years Transforming Lives' by going to:

www.blueskies.com/foundation10

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

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BLUEPRINT MONTHLY REPORT

Highlighting our Blueprint Award Finalists

Helping the community to reduce plastic pollution

In Siyathemba, the community near our factory in South Africa, the local waste site had over the years got in to a bad state. Plastics were strewn all over the fence and were polluting the nearby area, and animals had been able to enter unfenced areas and become affected by consuming waste plastic materials. As a responsible member of the community, Blue Skies took action by working with its local contractor and the local environmental department to clean up the site and clear it of all plastics. Blue Skies SA Maintenance Manager, China Mokoena, coordinated the project and has put in place measures to ensure that the site is no longer used for dumping plastics. Plastic materials are now directed to a local recycling enterprise. As a result, the waste site is now looking a lot more tidy and the local community and animals are no longer affected by plastic pollution. This is a great example of our people taking the initiative and working with the local community to solve a problem.



TAKING ACTION

An update from our Action Groups



Our Blueprint Action Groups are just getting going, and in 2020 we will feature regular updates of what our Action Groups are doing across the group. Our Pitsford Action Group has been going now since January 2019 and in that time it has already achieved a lot. In the last twelve months the group has instigated a number of actions, including:

- Introducing recycling bins
- Bringing in dual toilet flushes to reduce water consumption
- Creating a stand-up hot desk to help reduce back problems.
- Introducing Mindfulness sessions to help with stress relief.
- Replacing the dishwasher with a new energy efficient model.
- Providing 'Happy to Share' labels to encourage people to share food in order to reduce food waste.
- And many more...

Thank you to all our Pitsford Action Group members, especially to Hella, Katherine, Rachel and Mary for all your support in 2019.

Share your Action Group updates!

Tell us the great things you are doing.
Email: simon.derrick@blueskies.com



Introducing... MONTHLY CAMPAIGNS

2020 will mark the start of our new Blueprint Monthly Campaigns. These campaigns will focus on one of our Blueprint Priorities every month and will provide an opportunity for raising awareness, sharing ideas, and agreeing actions.

MONTHLY CAMPAIGNS JANUARY IS...

Training and Education Month



Our first monthly campaign will be in January on the theme of **Training and Education**. To help Blue Skies grow, we need our people to have the necessary skills and knowledge to do their jobs to the best of their ability. Blue Skies is therefore committed to ensuring all our people have the necessary training and education needed to fulfil their roles to their full potential, and we seek to encourage the next generation by supporting schools both through our Foundation and our FutureFresh initiative.

Next month, we want you to think about your future and how Blue Skies can work with you to meet your development needs, and help the business to thrive. And we also want you to think about how we can best support education for the next generation.

Look out for the launch of our Training and Education month in January. And if you have any ideas, please suggest them to your local Action Group, or submit them through our Big Idea at: www.blueskies.com/ideas

Mohamed Shalaby speaks at supply chain summit



Mohamed Shalaby our Logistics Manager in Egypt, recently gave a talk at a supply chain innovation summit. This was the first summit of its kind in Egypt and was held at the American university in Cairo.

Mohamed said in his talk that "if you think managing a supply chain in a company is about wearing suit and tie and sitting routinely at a desk doing paperwork, then you're mistaken!". He went on to say that supply chain management is about facing bottlenecks and solving mind challenging problems on a daily basis.



Do you have an idea that can help us improve?

Send us your Big Ideas!

It could be an idea for a new product, ways to become more environmentally friendly, ways to enhance how we work together or ways to become more efficient. Send us your ideas by completing the online form at:

<http://www.blueskies.com/ideas/>

Secret Santa visits Blue Skies Corby



Blue Skies Corby were recently paid a visit by Santa Claus, who popped in to distribute this year's Secret Santa presents. Santa, who is rarely seen before Christmas other than at garden centres, is pictured in the middle in red. He is familiar with factory environments since he runs his own BRC approved toy-making facility in Lapland, which has some similarities to Corby.

Blue Skies delights its French customers

Pictured below: Khamis our sales rep for the South of France letting customers taste a sample of our delicious fresh-cut fruit, as we seek to expand our sales across more stores in France.



Corby's Hero of the month



The Blue Skies UK Hero of the month for November is Ciufu Ioana. Ioana has focused on becoming fully trained across a variety of roles. She is multi-skilled and plays a key part to ensure all production jobs are covered throughout the week. Congratulations Ciufu on being awarded the November Blue Skies UK Hero!

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Pelican News wishes all its readers a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2020. Thank you for reading and see you in the New Year!



Share your Blue Skies Heroes!
Send details and a photo to:
simon.derrick@blueskies.com



FOUNDATION FOCUS

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

Our School Farm Winners

Congratulations to all the students and teachers who participated in our 2019 School Farm of the Year Competition. Here is a list of all our winners:

THE JHS SCHOOL FARM OF THE YEAR

- **2nd Runner-up** - Kwakyeokrom M/A Basic School
- **1st Runner-up** - Wirenkyiren M/A JHS
- **Winner** - Darmang M/A JHS, Darmang

THE SHS SCHOOL FARM OF THE YEAR

- **2nd Runner-up** - Nifa SHSI, Adukrom
- **1st Runner-up** - St. Paul's SHS, Asakraka
- **Winner** - Akwamuman SHS, Akosombo

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

- **Best Female JHS Student** - Deborah Opare (Darmang M/A JHS)
- **Best Male JHS Student** - John Mark Sitsofe (Church of Christ Basic School)
- **Best Female SHS Student** - Esther Boateng (Akwamuman SHSI)
- **Best Male SHS Student** - Francis Adzrago Kumekla (Adidome SHS)
- **Best JHS Teacher** - Samuel Mensah (Kwakyeokrom M/A Basic School)
- **Best SHS Teacher** - Michael Kumatse (Pope John SHS and Minor Seminary)

SPECIAL AWARDS

- **Most Entrepreneurial School** - Chinto M/A Basic School
- **Most Committed School** - Pope John SHS and Minor Seminary
- **Most Innovative School** - Akwamuman SHS
- **Most Environmentally Friendly School** - Chinto M/A Basic School
- **Most Sustainable School** - Bepong SHS
- **Lemuel Mantey Agric Leadership Award** - Frank Boakye (Nifa SHS)
- **Ruth Adjei Special Recognition Award** - Zenabu Musa (Akwamuman SHS)
- **Dr. Anthony Pile Special Award** - Dr. Mrs. Benedicta C. Foli (Pope John SHS and Minor Seminary)



The School Farm Awards in Photos



Akwamuman SHS, Akosombo, Darmang, winner of SHS School Farm of the Year



Darmang M/A JHS, Darmang, winner of JHS School Farm of the Year



Best female JHS Student - Deborah Opare (Darmang M/A JHS)



Best SHS male student - John Mark Sitsofe (Church of Christ Basic School)

New Resource Centre nearly ready to be opened to public

A new community resource centre in a mango growing area of Ghana is almost ready to be opened to the public. The centre is in the town of Agomeda and will feature a library and computer room which local community members will be able to use. The centre is pictured in November when it was visited by the Foundation board.



New school classroom block takes shape in Senegal



A new classroom block for an Elementary Public School in Senegal is nearing completion. The school is located in a community near to the Blue Skies packhouse in the Ties region of Senegal. The school has a population of 152 students, therefore the new classrooms will make a big difference in helping to reduce overcrowded class sizes.

NEXT MONTH...

- Our first Monthly Blueprint Campaign update
- We look forward to the start of our 2020 Foundation projects