



1 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Since 2005, Backwell School has been partnered with Angereb Secondary School in Gondar, Ethiopia. This link is facilitated by a registered charity called '[Together We Learn](#)' which is based in the UK and Ethiopia. Our students have had the chance to learn about the fascinating culture of Ethiopia and we recently welcomed Elsa Kebede, the country director of 'Together We Learn' in Ethiopia for a visit and she hosted a traditional coffee ceremony.

I am writing to let you know about the student sponsorship programme run by 'Together We Learn' which you and your family have been invited to take part in. This programme supports students from low-income families who are at risk of dropping out of education, by providing their parents or guardians with money to help with costs like rent, food, and other necessities. This removes the pressure for children to work to support their families and instead encourages children to go to school and to keep learning. In addition to direct financial aid, each student receives a package of school materials at the beginning of the academic year to help with their schoolwork as many children otherwise wouldn't even have a pen or exercise book to study with. Students and their families also have access to medical care to support the family's overall health and further training opportunities to help students thrive in their schooling. All of this support is provided through your sponsorship which costs £19 per month and on the condition that the sponsored student remains in education. As a sponsor, you and your family will receive annual updates on your sponsored student to learn about their progress, life in Ethiopia and how your sponsorship is supporting them and their families as well as the opportunity to write to your student.

The importance of education cannot be understated; every extra year of education can increase an individual's earning potential by 10 - 15%. For a female student every extra year of schooling means she is less likely to be affected by child marriage, providing her with the autonomy to make her own decisions.

Students such as Anteneh have been able to attend university thanks to the sponsorship programme. He studied Management at Adigrat University and now works as an assistant lecturer. His experiences were made significantly easier by the sponsorship programme, as it meant he did not have to work alongside attending his education, and had access to materials, health care and emotional support. In the future, he says he has 'a plan to help children who cannot afford to attend their school like me before,' showing the transformative impact of the programme on future generations.

The families 'Together We Learn' support are finding it harder than ever to pay for the basics with the worldwide rise in prices exacerbated by the conflict in northern Ethiopia. Children are under pressure to stay at home and help contribute to family income.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a sponsor, please visit the website - [www.twlethiopia.org/our-projects/student-sponsorship/](http://www.twlethiopia.org/our-projects/student-sponsorship/) or contact Elle Harris, Sponsorship Coordinator at 'Together We Learn' - [sponsorship@twlethiopia.org](mailto:sponsorship@twlethiopia.org) - who would be more than happy to provide more information and answer any questions you may have.

Alternatively, scan the QR code to find out more:



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. George'.

Isobel George  
Assistant Head