

## **Report on 2019 Role model visits to exploratory clubs**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Empowering girls to take up careers in the fields of Science and Technology in the near future, remains one of the topmost priorities of the Exploratory as an organization. One of the strategies the organization has put in place to ensure that this becomes a reality is by including in its list of activities, occasional 'Role Models Visits' that is aimed at bringing on board professionals, particularly in the field of science, to share their experiences with students. This program is designed in such a way that, these professionals expose our club members to the realities of their professions as well as how best they (students) can become like them. Aside guiding the students on their career choices in future, the program is also aimed at consolidating the passion that some of these children have already developed for some specific professions such as medicine, nursing, engineering, Information Technology, etc.

### **2.0 Nsawam Clubs**

The term's first role model visit took place at Tieku Basic School on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

The session recorded a total attendance of 60 club members from both the primary and JHS clubs. The entire program was divided into 4 parts; the introductory session, the actual presentation by role models, a question and answer session and a photo session.

The second role model visit took place at the Sakyi Agyakwa cluster of schools on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The program saw 124 students in attendance. The event was graced by the presence of 3 role models who shared their experiences in their various professions.

Mr. Theobald Ayew Tetteh (Quantity Surveyor) and Mr. Jerry Amoah Attah (Geomatic Engineer) both visited Tiekou Basic School. Mr. Christian Afotey Laryea (Biomedical Scientist), Ms. Jaquelyn Tenkorang (IT Specialist) and Mr. Hanson (Telecom Engineer) all visited the Sakyi Agyakwa cluster of schools.

Questions asked by students included: How can we use IT to improve our daily lives? What are some of the challenges you face at work? How do you feel when you are not able to help someone get better as a biomedical scientist?

### **3.0 Accra Clubs**

The Role Model Visit took place in Rangoon Primary, La Wireless on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 and a joint program by the Mateheko and Abossey Okai R/C schools on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. In total Seven (7) role models consisting of Architects, Auditors, Bankers and a Telecom Engineer were involved with the Club members. The sessions were very much interactive, educative and fun-filled. Experiences while growing up, obstacles that came their way, how they were able to withstand such challenges and how successful they have become were shared by the role models with the students. Questions related to their professional careers and other science related questions were asked. The role models

were very impressed with the attitude and general comportment of the students and also the support from the teachers.

#### **4.0 Pokuase Clubs**

Pokuase Methodist 1 and 2 Basic organized a joint Role Model Visit on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019 while Pokuase M/A and Nii Otto Basic Schools had theirs on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019. Pokuase A.M.E Zion School had their visit on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, 2019. Methodist 1 JHS and St Sylvanus held their visit on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 respectively.

An Environmental Engineer, a Laboratory Manager, an Entomologist, a Crop Protectionist, a lecturer and a Biomedical Engineer were the profession of the role models. The sessions were very inspirational and emotionally charged as some of the Role models recounted how they couldn't get the opportunities available to this present age yet were able to go through the odds to be who they are now. This was to inspire the children to aspire and persevere in life no matter the objections and negativity of people they encounter in life. Other role models charged their audience to form a mental picture of how their career in science will be and start now to work to assuming such positions.

#### **5.0 Berekuso Clubs**

Role Model Visits to the Berekuso clubs occurred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2019. Three (3) role models with background in Mathematical and Computer Sciences volunteered to engage in the program. As the numbers were large, members were divided into three groups for better engagement by the role models. Role models visited all groups in turns within an

allocated time of 30 mins for each group. They focused more on possible roads to achieving dream careers and how to tow such roads. They also admonished the students to join and be active in educational clubs like The Exploratory, for their lives to be shaped and their dreams realized. The Children asked questions geared towards their chosen careers. Others asked reproductive health related questions such as; ‘how to tell when a lady is pregnant during early stages’, ‘How to identify flirting words from boys’, etc. In the final stages of the sessions, the lead explorers rendered a vote of gratuity to the role models for their time, experience and the knowledge they have shared.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

The Role Models were very much impressed with the general idea of the program. They also enjoyed their time with kids. They asked for more of such opportunities like the Role Model Visit to keep volunteering.