



SGB Cambodia Newsletter



WHAT IS IN THIS ISSUE?

In this issue you will find an update on our sister school, as well as the highlights from the Year 13 visit to Cambodia.

Finally, you will find out about future events and how to continue to support SGB Cambodia.

Our School in Cambodia

SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN CAMBODIA: HOW YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we are proud to share the lasting impact of the English and Computer Education Program at SGB Cambodia. Your support has helped bring life-changing learning opportunities to students who would otherwise have limited access to such resources.

During this academic year, your donations have helped:

- 125 students benefit from English and computer lessons
- Support 340 students in total, including 160 girls
- The whole community see the positive ripple effects of improved digital and language education

LOOKING AHEAD - RENEWING NEXT YEAR

To keep this vital program running, we are aiming to raise £5,000 every year.



SGB Cambodia Update

LET'S FIND OUT WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN SGB CAMBODIA

We're excited to share the wonderful progress children have made in English and Computer classes. Students have been enthusiastic and engaged, building both academic skills and confidence every day. Here's a quick look at what they've been learning:

ENGLISH CLASS

Grades 4 & 5 - This month, the focus was on greetings, weather expressions, and nature vocabulary. Students practiced useful phrases like:

- "Good night!"
- "Where do you live?"
- "How's the weather?" - "It's sunny!"

They also explored words related to nature (tree, cloud, puddle) and practiced asking and answering questions like:

- "How many flowers are there?" - "There's one flower."

To make learning fun and interactive, they played games such as:

- Jumbled words
- Clap, don't clap
- Beach ball adjectives (e.g., big, small, round, square)

Students also improved their literacy and speaking by reading aloud together and in pairs. They enjoyed using new words in short conversations and learning sentence patterns that help them communicate with confidence.

Grade 6 - Students continued their journey with everyday routines and personal information. They practiced asking and answering questions like:

- "What time is it?" - "It's six o'clock."
- "Where do you live?" - "I live in Hillsdale."
- "What's your address?"

They also learned new vocabulary for household items (sofa, bed, refrigerator) and daily routines (get dressed, take a bath, eat breakfast), using phrases like:

- "There's a table in front of the sofa."
- "The workbook is under the bed."

They worked on phonics to strengthen their reading and pronunciation skills, focusing on words like kite, ride, grow, and climb. Partner reading, short roleplays, and vocabulary games helped make the lessons fun and effective!





COMPUTER CLASS

Grades 4–6 - In the computer classes, students made great strides in their typing and document editing skills using Microsoft Word and Excel.

Here's what they covered:

- Typing in English and Khmer using the Khmer Unicode keyboard
- Creating documents with tables, chart lists, and text boxes
- Learning how to draw and insert symbols
- Building Excel name lists



They were also introduced helpful keyboard shortcuts that the children can now use confidently:

- Ctrl + A: Select all
- Ctrl + F4: Close a document window
- Alt + F4: Close a program

The young digital learners are becoming more confident and independent in using the computer, and we're proud of their progress!



THOUGHTS FROM THE TEACHER

It's been a joy watching our students grow in both language and technology skills this month. They're showing more independence, creativity, and a love for learning. Thank you for your continued support at home – it truly makes a difference!

I am pleased to have participated in a teacher training workshop. It focused on equipping teachers with innovative teaching strategies, effective classroom management techniques, and new tools for supporting a range of learning needs. It has shown me new teaching methods, including the instruction of consonants, vowels, vocabulary, and grammar. I gained insights into supporting slow-learning students by understanding their challenges.

Additionally, I learned how to formulate questions and provide answers for students. A proficient teacher not only emphasizes instruction but also seeks to comprehend students' circumstances and offer assistance. The area most I liked was class management and games.



DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

sirgrahambalfour.co.uk | office@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk

If you wish to find out more information or donate to our international charity, then please contact us.



Cambodia Trip 2025

In February 2025, 13 of our Year 13 students embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Cambodia, visiting our sister school – Sir Graham Balfour School in Koh Kong Province – engaging in a powerful blend of teaching, cultural exploration, and reflection.

This unique opportunity allowed students to not only share their skills and support pupils in rural Cambodia, but also to experience the rich history and diverse beauty of the country.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY – TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2025

Phnom Penh:

Our adventure began in Cambodia's capital, where students visited the Killing Fields, a deeply moving historical site that offers insight into Cambodia's tragic past under the Khmer Rouge regime. Students also visited S-21 Tuol Sleng, the former school turned prison. A sobering but important visit, it gave context to Cambodia's resilience and the value of education in rebuilding the nation. These visits set the tone for a thoughtful and respectful journey.



Koh Rong Island:

From Phnom Penh, we travelled south to Sihanoukville, followed by a ferry ride to Koh Rong, a stunning tropical island known for its clear waters, sandy beaches and peaceful surroundings. Students had time to relax, bond as a group, and contemplate the experiences ahead.





Chi Phat & School Teaching:

We then journeyed into the Cardamom Mountains to Chi Phat, where students spent two inspiring days teaching English and computer skills at our partner school. This was a true highlight of the trip – our students helped lead lessons, practiced conversational English with pupils, and supported the local teacher, leaving behind both knowledge and new friendships.



Siem Reap & Angkor Wat:

The final leg of the trip took us north to Siem Reap, home of the world-renowned Angkor Wat temple complex – a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the largest religious monuments in the world. Students marveled at the breathtaking ancient architecture and rich symbolism, providing a powerful cultural finale to the trip.



Return via Singapore:

On Monday 24th, we began our return journey, flying via Singapore, where we had a 9-hour layover before our connecting flight back to the UK. During our time at Singapore's Changi Airport, we explored the Jewel shopping and entertainment complex – a stunning space featuring the world's tallest indoor waterfall and an indoor rainforest. It was the perfect way for students to unwind and reflect on the journey before flying home.

We arrived back in the UK on Tuesday 25th – a little tired, but forever changed.



REFLECTIONS ON THE TRIP

Here are the thoughts of some of students from the trip.

“Cambodia with SGB was a once in a lifetime experience. I wish I could recreate the memories that were made in Koh Rong, as well as how rewarding it was to watch the children at SGB Cambodia grow in confidence and how grateful they all were for us to be there. I would definitely visit Siem Reap again as I wish we had more time there. Overall, the trip was the highlight of my experience at sixth form.” **Ellie**



“The trip was a valuable, eye-opening experience that helped me to understand the importance of learning about other cultures.” **Tom**

“Going to Cambodia is a once in a lifetime experience, being able to visit a county with a vastly different climate, geography and culture was eye opening. Teaching the children was amazing, they were all ecstatic to see us, it is not often you can teach people in general let alone in a different country.” **Karol**



“Visiting and teaching at the school in Cambodia was unforgettable. From the moment we arrived, the energy was electric. The kids were full of life—curious, kind, and eager to learn. Even with limited resources, their enthusiasm for education was powerful. Teaching them was a privilege. It wasn’t just about sharing knowledge; it was about connecting, learning from each other, and realizing how much you can communicate through simple acts of care and attention.

The trip changed me. It put a lot into perspective—how much we take for granted, how important community and resilience are, and how real impact starts with showing up and giving your full effort. It’s made me more grounded, more grateful, and more motivated to stay involved in work that actually matters. I came back not just with memories, but with a clearer sense of purpose.”

Jacob

This trip was more than a visit — it was an immersive experience that gave our students the chance to contribute meaningfully, learn about global history, and grow personally. From teaching in a rural classroom to walking through ancient temples and confronting difficult history, the trip opened minds and hearts.

A huge thank you to all the staff, students, and supporters who made this journey possible. The impact of your encouragement and fundraising has reached across continents.



Fundraising Update and Events

THANK YOU

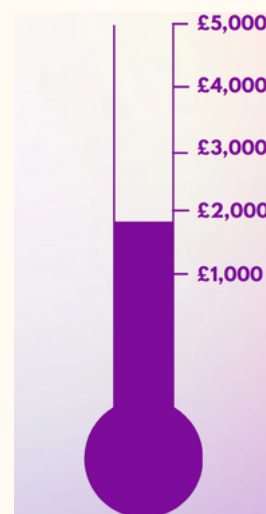
Every year, Sir Graham Balfour School raises funds to support our partner school in Chi Phat, Cambodia – helping provide children with vital English and Computing lessons that wouldn't exist without your generosity.

Your support helps us:

- Fund a full-time teacher's salary
- Keep electricity and internet running
- Provide every child with essential school supplies

FUNDRAISING SO FAR

Each year, we aim to raise £5,000 to keep this vital work going. We currently have raised **£1,875** this year. This means that we need to raise **£3,125** to reach our target.



ART & DT EXHIBITION AND SUMMER SHOWCASE

We're excited to invite you to our **Art and Design & Technology Exhibition** on Monday 30th June from 4:30-6:30pm. Come and explore an inspiring showcase of creativity, talent, and innovation from our amazing students. From stunning artwork to impressive design projects, there's so much to see and celebrate. Cakes and artwork available to purchase, and donations are welcomed on the door to raise money for our school in Cambodia.

Wednesday 2nd July is an opportunity to see students showing off their talents in the **Summer Showcase**. Refreshments will be available with proceeds going to SGB Cambodia.

THANK YOU OPTIMA WAREHOUSE SOLUTIONS

A local business who have been supporting our efforts over the past few years are Optima Warehouse Solutions Limited. They have a super flexible Warehouse Management Software (Optima WMS) that works for all kinds of businesses – whether you're running a small 3PL setup or a massive operation. Their cloud-based system takes the hassle out of managing your warehouse, helping you cut costs, get things right the first time, and stay ahead in the fast-paced world of logistics.



With next level invoicing features and smooth integrations with ecommerce platforms, TMS, ERPs, and courier systems, Optima WMS is all about keeping things efficient and giving you full control. And the cherry on top? They've got years of experience plus a friendly, UK-based support team ready to help you every step of the way. Make your warehouse work smarter, not harder!

BIG WALK FOR CAMBODIA

On Friday 4th July, period 5, all pupils will participate in a sponsored walk around the playing fields to raise money and awareness for our sister school in Cambodia.

£10 Challenge - Each pupil has been set a challenge to get £10 in sponsorship to help meet our target. The form group with the highest total will receive an end of term reward. Last year Mr. Williams' form were the winners. Will they win two years in a row?

Any donation, large or small, is greatly welcomed and pupils should remember that the event is focused on coming together as a community. Last year we raised a massive £2,844. It would be amazing if we could break the £3,000 barrier!



BUILDING FUTURES, BRICK BY BRICK

Over the past year, we've been inviting parents, pupils, staff, and local businesses to be part of something truly special – a fundraising project that becomes a lasting part of our school here at Sir Graham Balfour.

We're creating a feature brick wall in our school reception made up of personalised brick slips. Each brick purchased becomes a lasting symbol of generosity and community here at SGB – and your name or message could be on one of them!

We'd like to thank each and everyone of you who have already purchased a brick. So far, we have raised **£884** for our school in Cambodia.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- £35 per brick
- Two lines of text (up to 16 characters each, including spaces)
 - E.g. Mrs. Bowyer or The Mason Family
 - A short message like 'With Love ❤️' or 'Keep Dreaming'

Whether it's your name, your family's, a team or department name, or a heartfelt message – it's your chance to leave a legacy on our school walls while supporting life-changing education abroad. There are still opportunities to make the wall bigger. If you would like to purchase a brick for Cambodia please contact Vicky Bowyer: vbowyer@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk

