

## Tshesebe Orphan Project in Botswana



Psychology teacher and tutor at Wyggeston Queen Elizabeth I College, Samantha Tallis, went out to Botswana in July to spend the summer on a new project helping to set up an orphanage. With sponsorship from the Leicester Mercury, she joined Rick Hall, Dave Munn and Jo Brown, the management team of the [Top Banana](#) project, in a village called Tshesebe.

The country has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in the world at the moment, with approx 38% of the adult population infected with HIV, and the projected life expectancy in 2010 will be just 27 years. As a result there are many orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs).



Samantha spent a month looking after and getting to know the families in the village, and playing team games every afternoon with them such as football, softball, netball, with warm-up activities such as tug of war and three-legged races. Further time was spent on 'making' activities using donated recycling materials. Samantha is pictured with a giant Sudoku puzzle using cut up carpet tiles.

She also helped to plan arts and crafts activities, team games and sports, and gave advice on child development and monitoring for when the project is launched as an after-school care centre. The centre, an officially registered trust, will be run from an old Red Cross building and will be opening in the next few weeks.

On her return Samantha will be involving students from WQEIC in organising fundraising activities throughout the year, including an AIDS awareness day at the college on [World AIDS Day](#) (1st December).



She has also organised a pen pal scheme with the local 14+ school in Tshesebe, so that students from WQEIC can learn about life in a culture where, for example, people have to fetch water as part of their daily routine.

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