

Tracey Emin open's The New Forests Company's first Secondary School

23rd January 2008



Acclaimed British artist Tracey Emin today officially opened a new Secondary School for one thousand impoverished students in rural Uganda built by The New Forests Company as part of its commitment to community development and corporate social responsibility.

At a colourful ceremony of singing, dancing and acrobatics attended by Uganda's Commissioner of Secondary Education, the local MP and district officials, Ms Emin cut the ribbon on a library and computer block built with a £20,000 donation by the celebrity artist. The rest of the buildings including two dormitories, 6 classrooms, an administration block and a laboratory were built with funds contributed by NFC and its partner UK charity PEAS (Promoting Equality in African Schools).

The secondary school, called "Forest High School Kikandwa", is near the company's Namwasa plantation and is the only secondary school in the area. The school will seek to provide affordable, sustainable and non-denominational education. Fees are expected to be about £10 per term with boarding fees about £18.

The move into secondary school education by NFC marks the company's continuing strategy of helping invest the capital costs of educational infrastructure in the

communities which borders its plantations. The company has previously focused on primary education building classroom blocks and distributing a free educational newspaper to primary school students who do not have textbooks and educational materials. The school will be run by PEAS, who already have established two other secondary schools in Uganda. NFC will is equally represented on the board of directors with PEAS.

