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PRESS RELEASE

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Local entrepreneur sponsors NKC students for a 2nd year running to head to Africa!

North Kent College are delighted to announce Mark Lindop, local entrepreneur, has pledged to sponsor 3 more students on the charity programme Build Blitz, due to the success of the project last year.

Back in 2017, 3 lucky students from North Kent College had a life changing experience in South Africa, courtesy of local entrepreneur Mark Lindop, who sponsored all three students on an amazing journey with Mellon Educate on "Build Blitz". After supporting the college students last year, he was keen to replicate this financial support for another 2 students in November 2018. The 3 lucky students from North Kent College are Jake Ripley, Kieran Hewitt and Jordan MacPherson. Kieran Hewitt, commented, "We are so lucky to get this experience and we couldn't be more grateful to Mark Lindop for this amazing opportunity."

Build Blitz is a fantastic project, where volunteers from all over the world travel to Africa to lend a helping hand, building better infrastructure in underdeveloped African communities. The purpose of the charity is to help people and improve educational resources within underprivileged communities in South Africa. Since 2002 the charity, in conjunction with the South African government, and thanks to the enormous collective effort of 25,000 volunteers, has built houses for 125,000 homeless people in Africa's poorest townships.

Not only are the students from North Kent College grateful for this incredible opportunity, but they look forward to putting their knowledge and skills they have learnt from their studies into a real life scenario, where they will create a positive change for so many people. The students will also be able to build relationships with other like-minded volunteers who will also be participating in the project.

Phil Miles, Bricklaying lecturer NKC, spoke of how he was "looking forward to taking the students I've taught over the past 2 years on a life changing experience. For me, to give my insights to help build somewhere that will inspire, and improve, the lives of children in South Africa is extremely motivating".

North Kent College are extremely proud that their students are getting involved with this amazing charity again this year and look forward to the result of the build.

ENDS

For further information please contact Sarah West sarahwest@northkent.ac.uk 01322 629643

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Photo L-R: Phil Miles, Kieran Hewitt, Jake Ripley, Mark Lindop, Jordan MacPherson, Debbie Risby

Mellon Educate is a development charity founded by developer & philanthropist Niall Mellon. Since 2002 the charity, thanks to the enormous collective effort of some 25,000 volunteers, has built houses for 125,000 homeless people in Africa's poorest townships. In 2012, we proudly celebrated a milestone achievement for the charity with 25,000 houses completed. In 2013, the charity pledged a 10-year education development programme to provide better education to more than 100,000 African children.

A highly ambitious target in co-operation with local community school collaboration, Mellon Educate has already extended educational access and standards of education to 10,000 primary school children aged between 4 and 12 in Kenya & South Africa.

Mark Lindop is a local business entrepreneur with a keen involvement in Chatham FC and an active member of the Green Party. 2017 will be his 4th year of volunteering with Mellon Educate in South Africa and his first in sponsoring students to join the build team.

For more information on the charity, please go to www.melloneducate.com

North Kent College offer an extensive range of Further Education, Higher Education, Access to Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Part-time courses and Training for Businesses. We provide young people with the next step after their GCSEs as an alternative to A Levels and a route to University or a career. We also have opportunities for people who are looking at studying at an undergraduate level, or who want to change career path or up-skill for career progression.

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