

Sam (Sept - Dec 2019)

I may not have had the best start to my experience in Africa, having had my phone



and wallet taken on a brief outing in Johannesburg and then my luggage failing to arrive when I landed in Nampula. Despite this, I had made it to RIS and was keen to see what was in store for me.

My first week there was spent getting a feel for the school, seeing where help was needed and what I could do to assist. What struck me almost instantly was how similar it was to schools back home. This added a level of comfort and familiarity to what otherwise could have been a very different school in a definitely different country.

I spent my time working mostly with the younger kids – Grade 00 and 0, ages 3-5, something I was initially unsure how well I'd go doing, but ended up really enjoying it. Little kids are endless fun and joining in with their activities and helping out with their structured playtime was amazingly entertaining. Their boundless energy often had me exhausted by the end of the day but their wonder and enjoyment of learning was so refreshing. It was a joy to work with them every day.





Some of the other classes I was working with were Science and Maths groups of older kids. It involved working with individuals or small groups of students to help give extra assistance to those who need it. Reading is also a big emphasis as an English medium school in a non-English speaking country and I was able to help student with their reading on occasion as well.

Sporting in general isn't as popular in Mozambique, but RIS is trying to change this! To help raise the next generation of Mozambican sporting stars, Mr. Watt decided to start a senior sporting program that as a GTA I had the opportunity to assist with, I was for the most part attempting to coach the volleyball after I revealed that I had played a few years at high school myself. It was extremely rewarding getting to see the improvement over the term and the satisfaction the students got out of playing as a team in the end of term tournament.

I was involved in the swimming program that the school runs, helping Grades 3 & 4 develop their skills in the water. There is a swimming pool which is soon to be constructed at the school.

You will also get some time to relax with the ample public holidays Mozambique has to offer. And if you can figure out the local chapa system, you will be able to explore some more of the country. I made it to Mozambique Island this way, it was a little slow and uncomfortable but it was cheap and fairly easy.

It was an awesome time and I can't wait to see where the school ends up in the future. There isn't a huge amount expected from you but that isn't to say you can't or



shouldn't get involved as much as you want. Knowledge is optional but enthusiasm and a willing heart are a must.

Sam