

ZAMBIA PROFILES

MEET THE TEAM WHO WENT TO LUSAKA

1)Name- Alex Bradley

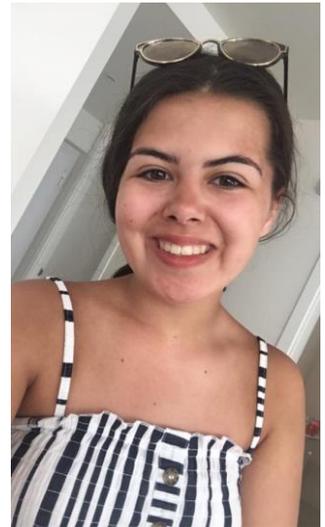
From- Killyclogher

A Level subjects- Chemistry, Maths, Geography and Home Economics

Future plans- I'm hoping to apply for Actuarial Science at UCD to become an Actuary

Fave Food- Ice Cream

Fave Song- Unwritten



Why I applied- Over the past few years I have seen many young people from my local area travelling to various countries in Africa to volunteer. Seeing these people made me decide that I was going to do something like that when I was older. Little did I know that I would get this opportunity so soon! So, When Mrs McHugh announced this project at assembly, I just knew I had to apply.

Best part so far- The People! The people we have met throughout our journey so far have been so generous with their time and money. Anytime anyone hears about us they are always asking how they could help or get involved. That's not to mention the team either! From the very beginning we called ourselves the Zamfam, but I can truly say that over the past years these girls have become like family.

Excited for- I can't wait to experience the culture in Zambia. The people over there seem to have such a positive mindset, despite living in dire poverty and I think they will definitely be able to teach us something over the ten days.

Scared for- Tan lines and the food. I am a bit of a picky eater so there's a bit of the fear of the unknown when it comes to food over there.

Quote- "If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far, go together"- African Proverbz

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I think this quote describes Loreto to Lusaka well because, yes, the team could have just travelled over to Zambia themselves to volunteer our time but without the support of our friends and families we would not have been able to make such an impact in Zambia.

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2) Name- Alice McMullan

From- Omagh

A level subjects- biology, geography and sociology

Future plans- physiotherapy in Liverpool

Favourite food- sushi

Favourite song- Like Gold, Vance joy/

Why you applied- I've always wanted to visit Africa since I was very young. I am a people person and have a desire to help people throughout my life so when I heard about this opportunity I had to take it



Best part so far- Such a hard one but definitely the retreat in Lough Derg- it was such a lovely, relaxed day where we really got to bond and get to know each other.

Excited for- I'm excited to meet the people in the community and see how positive they are with how little they own and hopefully their positivity can influence my everyday life

Scared for- the insects. I can deal with spiders at home but I'm not sure how I'll get on with the Zambian insects.

Quote to describe experience so far? - "No act of kindness, however small is wasted." Over the past 11 months people have been so kind in donating to our fundraising in so many ways- no action has gone unnoticed by any of us and it's so humbling to see people so willing to help.

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3) Name- Aoife Conway
From- Omagh
A-level subjects- Biology, History and Maths

Future plans- I hope to do computer science in Belfast or Dublin.

Favourite food- Strawberries

Favourite song- Fools gold by One Direction

Why I applied- Ever since first year, when we were fundraising for Loreto Sudan, I was sure that I wanted to do something like this in the future. After being a part of the justice and peace group in school I wanted to see how our fundraising could make a real difference.

Best part to date- My favourite moment so far has to be the fashion show. It took so much preparation, but it was definitely worth it! It was an amazing night and I felt that we really came together as a team.

Excited for- The completely different culture! I am also excited to see how our fundraising is benefiting the people of Lusaka and helping to make a difference in the community.

Scared for- Leaving home. This is the first time I've been properly away from home, so it will be a new experience.

Quote- "It's not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts" St. Mother Teresa.

I feel that this describes the team because no matter how long you go, there will always be a part of you that wants to do more. What is important though is that we came together as a team to play our part and this project is something we will all hold dear for the rest of our lives.



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4) Name: Aoife Mc Girr

From: Clanabogan

Subjects I'm studying: English Literature, Religion and History

Career: Hope to do Teaching at St. Mary's Belfast

Favourite song: Dreams by Fleetwoodmac

Favourite movie: 13 going on 30

Favourite food: Pasta, bread, the whole carbohydrate family

Why I applied: I've always wanted to be a part of something like this that allows me to give back to a less fortunate community.

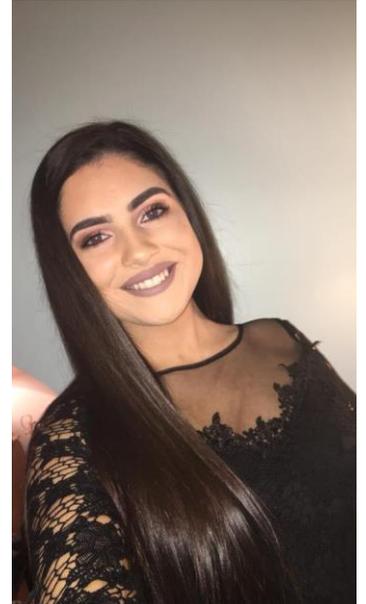
When I found out about this opportunity I didn't hesitate to apply because you don't get these chances very often. Projects like this can definitely be daunting but I'm so glad I applied, I've loved every second of the journey.

Best part so far: Definitely our trip to Lough Derg this past March. This was such a special day for us all because we really got to bond and find out so much more about each other. One of my favourite parts of the day was when we got the opportunity to write out our fears for the trip to Lusaka, fold them up into a paper boat and send the worries out into the water.

Excited for: The culture! I can't wait to fully involve myself in the joyous atmosphere of this country. Hopefully we will learn some Zambian songs and dances to bring home to Ireland!

Quote: "Life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around once in a while you could miss it."

I love this quote because it completely encapsulates how we can get so caught up in our lives that we forget about other people at home, and around the world who could need our help! And this is exactly what this project is about, giving back!



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5) Name- Chiara Murray

From- Omagh ●○

A-Level subjects- biology, religion, health&social and sport

Future plans- radiography

Favourite song- Grace by the Wolfe Tones

Favourite food- Chinese (noodles curry sauce and salted chilli chicken x)

Favourite tv programme- Brooklyn 99

Why I applied- I have a few friends and relatives who have been able to travel to Africa with different organisations like Friends of Africa and just hearing stories about the people they met, the work they did and the effect it had on their lives when they came home has always made me want to go out!

Best part so far- Lough Derg. I think that was when the team built a really close bond and everyone became even closer friends than we already were, it was also good to be away from normal life for the day, Bosco and Lynette are legends too

Excited for- Being able to see first-hand where all the donations are going; we are normally just used to donating for other groups and seeing pictures or videos of the results but now that we are actually going and seeing how and where the money is being put to use will be amazing. Also, really looking forward to seeing a whole new culture

Scared for- Seeing and coming to terms with the level of poverty; it will be really tough to see how most of the people there are living, as well as seeing people our age and younger suffering. Also, the food better be nice

Quote- 'we can't change the world, but we can change the world for someone.' We as a group know that the work we do in Lusaka will not change the world but for the individuals who benefit from the school and donations to orphanages and other projects in the local area, will hopefully be life changing for them.



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6) Name-Clíodhna McGurgan

From- Omagh

Subjects- Geography Maths and Politics

Future Plans- I'd love to take a gap year and then do law

Favourite song- Champagne Supernova by Oasis

Favourite show- Modern Family

Favourite food- McCullagh's Chicken Goujon wraps

Why I applied- When MrsMcHugh told us about this opportunity it immediately grabbed my attention. Giving back to people who are less fortunate is such an important thing and I'm lucky to have the chance to make a difference, even in a small way to the people in Lusaka.

Best part so far- The car boot sale at Nutts corner, it was such a funny day and we all shared some good laughs despite being in the rain and half falling asleep from being up at 4 in the morning. It taught me a lesson that you can make the best out of any situation, even when you're standing in the rain trying to sell jeans and candles.

Excited for- I'm really looking forward to seeing the difference we make to the classroom and to the children who will get to have an education but also getting to experience a completely different lifestyle

Scared for- getting up really early because I am not a morning person and also the mosquito bites!

Quote- "to be good and to do good is all we have to do"

I think this quote is important as it means that we don't have to be the best person in the world or the richest or the smartest, as long as we're a good person and do good things then we'll be ok.



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7) Name: Dearbhail Killoran

From: Killyclogher

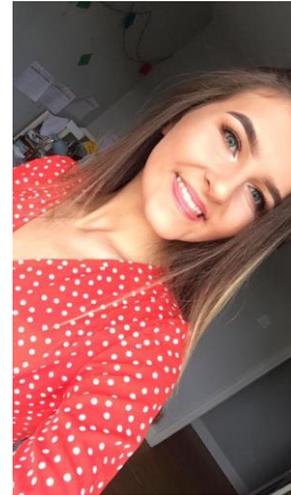
A-levels: Chemistry, Maths, Biology

Career: Hope to do Medicine at Queens, Belfast

Favourite song: Put Your Records On: Corrine Bailey Rae

Favourite movie: Good Will Hunting

Favourite food: Cottage pie



Why I applied: The fact that we take our education for granted at every turn, most girls complaining that they 'have to' go to school. But imagine that we didn't have that choice, didn't have the option to even learn the simplest skill of reading and writing. Bringing this choice to the children of Lusaka will change some of their lives.

Best part so far: Definitely has to be the team itself. I don't think there is a better group of girls for the job. The dedication and time given to each fundraiser as well as all the friendships made.

Excited for: Everything! I've always wanted to be a part of something bigger, actually being there to help make the change. I can't wait to meet all the people and learn their culture and hear all their story. This will definitely be a life changing experience for all of us.

Quote: "We can't help everyone, but... everyone can help someone" -Dr. Loretta Scott

Even if we only can help a small part of the community of Lusaka, our mission will be successful. We are so lucky in today's world that help is readily available no matter the problem, however the people of Lusaka rely on organisations like us to help them along the way.

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8) Name: Emma McGurren

~From: Trillick

~A Level subjects: Art Maths Geography

~Plans for the future: I'm hoping to study architecture next year in QUB

~Favourite TV programme: Cake Boss/Friends

~Favourite food: Loreto canteen's scones

~Why I applied: After hearing Mrs McHugh tell us about it at assembly, I knew I needed to take this opportunity, because I mightn't have got it again. I've always wanted to see the world and experience different ways of life. I'm so lucky and feel like this journey is the perfect way of helping myself appreciate all the things I have at home

~What I'm most excited for: Meeting the children. I'm still a big child myself, so I'm actually excited, not only to see what we can teach them, but also what they can teach us! I can't wait to play games and sing with them. I've heard other stories of how the children react to seeing you & I think it, there might even be a few tears. (happy ones of course xx)

~What I'm nervous about: Missing my dogs... and family and friends! 😊 I don't think it will actually hit me until we're leaving Omagh on the 20th, that we're actually going. But I know I'm going to have an amazing time, with the best group of people, so I'm not letting myself feel too nervous

Best part so far: The time some of us girls brought spare cakes from one of the coffee mornings down to the Fold nursing home in omagh! The people were so kind and excited to hear about our journey and even gave us donations! They asked us to keep them informed about how we got on! The fact that people show so much interest and love for us makes all the hard work worth it!

~ Favourite quote: "Exist to be happy, not to impress" This quote is one that I'm going to carry with me throughout my time in Zambia. I'm not doing this to impress people at home, I'm doing it because I want too and I it makes me happy knowing that I can help make someone's life a little brighter.



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9) Name: Fanchia McGovern

From: Beragh

A level Subjects: Maths, Biology, Geography

Future Plans: Biomedical Science

Favorite Tv Show: Friends

Favorite Song: 'All I am' Jess Glynne

Favorite Food: Chicken Curry



Why I applied: In the past few years, volunteering within my community has been a big part of my life. Also, I have always loved to travel to see new places and new cultures. When this opportunity arose, I knew right away that it was something I would love to get involved in. We will be getting the chance to meet with people who live in poverty and the thought that we can brighten their day is incredible.

Best Part so far: The fashion show was a really fantastic experience; both the event itself but also, the weeks leading up to it as we worked really hard as a team to pull everything together💖 It was amazing to see so many people who came to support us and our journeyz

Excited for: I am really looking forward to meeting the local people. I have heard from others who have volunteered in Africa that the locals are so kind and giving. It will definitely be an eye-opening and humbling experience to meet communities who live in the poorest conditions but have the happiest spirits.

Scared for: Snakes, Spiders, Scorpions... the insects in general

Quote: "many hands make light work" I love this quote as it emphasises the importance of community and teamwork. Over the last year, I feel the Loreto to Lusaka Team have grown closer due to both of these things. I am delighted that I can do my part and contribute to the improvement in living quality to the people of Zambia

Thank you to all those who have supported me and the Loreto to Lusaka Team over the past year through all our fundraisers and events!

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10) Name: Hannah Garrity
From: Killyclogher

Subjects I'm Studying: Religion, Nutrition&Food
Science and Health&Social Care

Career: Hope to do Teaching at St. Mary's
Belfast
or else Nursing/Midwifery at Queens

Favourite song: Love\$ick Mura Masa
OR
Walking on a Dream- Empire of the Sun

Favourite TV Show: Friends



Why I applied: I involve myself in volunteering weekly so being given the opportunity to go to Africa to volunteer at such a young age excited me, knowing that I could make a difference to so many people's lives in Africa and change my perspective on how I live my daily life after the journey gave me the encouragement to apply, for me, it's a big step out of my comfort zone but I'm excited.

Best part so far: Fashion Show although it took many meetings, planning, emails and trying on outfits, we managed to pull off an unforgettable night! The generosity that was shown through prizes being donated and a sell-out show is hard to believe! A modelling career is definitely on the cards for a few of us (not me though!)

Excited for: the overall experience and spiritual journey! I'm excited to get to know the group more as we embark on this life changing journey filled with faith, excited to see the culture and day to day life in Zambia and overall, excited to make a difference to the School and places we visit, I just can't wait to get stuck in!

Scared for: I'm a bit nervous about the bugs but I think I have bought every form of repellent in existence by now so should be grand...I hope!

Quote: "do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return,

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but because of who you are” Mother Theresa
this truly portrays why we as a group are heading out to Zambia, we are doing it
because we want to innovate the lives of others, lives of people who we don't know
and what we will receive in return is the priceless lasting legacy of making a
difference and the memories that will stay with us forever.

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11) Name- Meabh O'Neill

From- Omagh or Errigal, it depends what side of the bed I wake up on

A level subjects- biology, history and health and social care

Future plans- Law

Favourite movie- The Green Mile, I've seen it a million times and it still makes me cry

Favourite song- Guiding light-Foy Vance

Why you applied- I've wanted to volunteer in Africa ever since I first went to the Dromantine summer camp and I saw how much volunteering had changed the lives of so many young people, both here and in developing countries throughout Africa. I knew it was always something I had planned to do and when the opportunity came up through school it felt too good to be true! IEZM

Best part so far- I think the best part so far for me was our retreat to Lough Derg, it was so nice bonding with the team in such a serene place and it was just a funny day

Excited for- I'm excited to see a completely different culture from the one I'm used to and to see the school that we are going to leaving our mark on and will be used for providing children with an education that we sometimes take for granted

Scared for- getting sick before formal. I'm really hoping the injections work ok because I want to be dancing by the 9th of November

Fave quote/ quote to describe experience so far? - " the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others." I am drawn to this quote as its summaries up my thoughts on how I should start to approach life, it reminds me that we find the best of ourselves in others, and how I wish to approach our time in Zambia



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12) Name: Molly Mc Girr

From: Drumquin

A Level Subjects: English Literature, Geography and Spanish

Future Plans: To study English Literature with Spanish

Favourite food: cheese or hummus

Favourite TV Show: Friends

Favourite song: ABBA in general (I love them all!)



Why I applied: I have participated in voluntary activities weekly for 3 years and have enjoyed every second of it! It has always been my dream to utilise the skills I have developed over the years and become involved in a project helping those less fortunate than I in Africa. Missionary work has always been of huge importance within my family and I feel so honoured to have been blessed with such an opportunity, especially so early on in my life.

Best part so far: Honestly, I have enjoyed every part of this journey. It has been incredible to witness the sheer generosity of others, with both their time and donations. Thank you to everyone who has supported our project over this past year!

Personally, for me, the most special moment was introducing my auntie Sister Kathleen Mc Garvey (Kit 🌸) to my Lusaka team. I felt so proud of her as she shared her missionary experience with us and prepared us for our imminent journey- she was amazing!! 💕

Excited for: I am really looking forward to beginning the final and most important stage of our journey- the project itself. I can't wait to get my work clothes on and get stuck in! I'm also very excited to see the difference that our work will make to the local children and community as a whole 🙌

Nervous for: the unknown... but very excited for new challenges! 🌟
(Ps so so sad that when we return we will no longer be able to pop in for a chat with our fave Mrs Mc Hugh 💔)

Quote: 'Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working

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together is success'~ Henry Ford- I believe that this quote truly illustrates what an important factor teamwork has been within the success of our project- working as a team has been so wonderful!

13) Name - Niamh McDonagh

From - Clanabogan

Subjects I'm studying - Maths, Chemistry & Geography

Favourite song - Eliza Doolittle - Pack Up

Favourite movie - Finding Nemo

Favourite food - Chocolate

Why I applied - After hearing from other family members who've been involved in similar projects, and hearing stories on tv and in the news, I've always wanted to do something like this. When I heard that I could possibly have to the chance to do so I just had to apply.

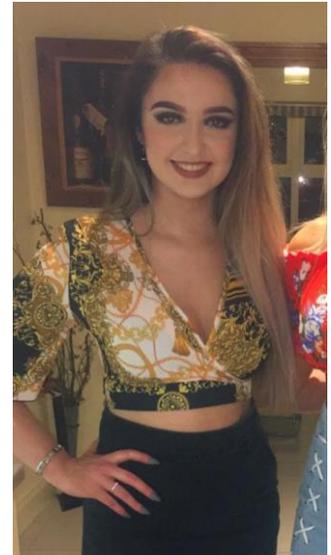
Best part so far - The fundraisers! Although so much planning and lots of meetings were required to organise different events, it all paid off! With the kindness and generosity of people we are able to make a huge impact on the community of Lusaka

Excited for - Making memories with an amazing group of girls and the difference this journey will make to my life and especially to other lives in Lusaka

Scared for - 100% the spiders definitely

Quote- 'As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others' - Audrey Hepburn

I think I'm drawn to this quote because we've all grown through our years at Loreto, and now we have all chosen to be a part of this project to change other people's lives



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14) Name- Niamh McCrory

From- Killyclogher

A level subjects- Biology, Geography and Maths

Career- I hope to apply to Accountancy at Queens!

Favourite food- chicken goujons

Favourite movie- The Lion King



Why I applied-I have attended many Dromantine camps over the past few years, watching videos and listening to the volunteers who have shared their experiences of travelling to some African countries including Zambia with the Friends of Africa. This has inspired me to take part in a project to help make a difference. ♡ When Mrs McHugh announced a group of girls would be going to Zambia, I just knew this was the perfect opportunity to help give back to a less fortunate community in Lusaka!

Favourite moment- it's so hard to narrow it down to one exact moment because I have honestly loved every second of it, but I feel our retreat to Lough Derg was such a memorable day as we all got to know each other so well and was definitely a major stepping stone in becoming the strong team we are today! Also seeing the generosity and kindness of so many people in our local communities is something that has been truly life changing

Excited for- to experience first-hand the work of what amazing organisations such as The Spirit of Paul McGirr Foundation can do for people who are less fortunate than us. Being able to follow the pound and see where every penny is going is something truly special and something I am so so grateful to be able to experience!

Scared for- the slim chance of Coalisland beating Killyclogher in the county final next Sunday and having to listen to Mrs McHugh and Conan go on about it for the next 10 days

Quote- "We can't help everyone but everyone can help someone, " Dr Loretta Scott. This quote really shows the intentions of us as a team heading out to Lusaka, that we know it would be impossible for us to help everyone but if we make a small

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difference to even one person by going out and resourcing the primary school, all of the hours put into fundraising will 100% be worth it!

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15) Introducing the team-

Name- Riona Rafferty

From- Dromore

A level subjects- english literature, sport
and health and social care

Future plans- Law

Favourite food- any rice dish

Favourite movie- the longest ride



Why you applied- due to my club hosting many Paul Mc girr events and fundraisers and due to Paul Mc girr being from dromore I've always felt a want to try and help this charity and have always wanted to go out to their project in Africa. I am a people orientated person and have a desire to help people throughout my life so when I this opportunity was first announced I really wanted to grab it with both hands

Best part so far- Seeing the kindness of so many others as throughout our journey the many acts of kindness from all of our communities has been highlighted, the people surrounding us have helped make this journey possible

Excited for- I'm excited to meet the people in the community and see how positive they are with how little they own and receive and hopefully their positivity can influence my everyday life and change my view on simple things which I take for granted.

Scared for- the unknown and not knowing what to expect.

Quote to describe experience so far?- "Kindness spreads like confetti." Over the past 11 months people have been so kind in donating to our fundraising in so many ways- no action has gone unnoticed by any of us and it's so humbling to see people so willing to help.