

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE – WAU
Poole – Wau Partnership New Building

OUR REF. TEU/SJC/PO/W/2026/04 – A1

22/01/2025

To: Poole – Wau Partnership Organisation and People of Poole in the UK.

Dear Jeffery Neagle and Richard Tazewell

Subject: Report to PWP on PWP new Building in Wau

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The College's Leadership wishes to extend its heartfelt gratitude to PWP for the generous contributions towards the construction of the new Teaching Block at St. John's College – Wau, Republic of South Sudan. Since its completion and commissioning in February 2025, the building has already become a cornerstone of our academic and administrative life. It stands as a visible symbol of progress and renewal, reflecting the commitment of our partners in Poole to the growth of theological education in South Sudan. The structure itself is modern, spacious, and well-designed, providing a dignified environment for both staff and students. Its presence has elevated the image of the College in the eyes of the public, who now perceive it as a serious institution of higher learning. The Teaching Block is not merely a building; it is a statement of confidence in the future of our College. It has quickly become a centre of activity, buzzing with lectures, meetings, and examinations. The Trust's support has therefore translated into tangible transformation.

The building has brought immense benefits to our students, particularly those pursuing theology. Previously, lectures were often conducted in borrowed spaces from nearby Secondary and Primary Schools, which limited concentration and comfort. Now, with the new Teaching Block, students enjoy well-ventilated classrooms that allow them to focus on their studies without distraction. The additional space has made it possible to accommodate larger groups, ensuring that no student is excluded from lectures due to lack of room. This has improved the quality of teaching and learning, as lecturers can now engage with students more effectively. The environment itself inspires seriousness and discipline, encouraging students to value their education. The sense of pride among the student body is palpable, as they feel they

belong to an institution that is visibly growing. The PWP's contribution has therefore directly enhanced the academic experience of our learners.

For the administration, the Teaching Block has been equally transformative. It houses the offices of the Principal, the Academic Dean, and the Examinations' Office, all of which are central to the functioning of the College. These offices were previously scattered and inadequately equipped, making coordination difficult. Now, administrators can discharge their duties in a professional setting, with sufficient space and facilities to manage the affairs of the College effectively. The Examinations Office, in particular, benefits from the secure and organised environment, ensuring that assessments are conducted with integrity and efficiency. This improvement in administrative capacity has strengthened the College's governance and accountability. Staff morale has risen, as they now work in surroundings that reflect respect for their roles. The PWP's investment has therefore empowered the leadership of the College to serve both students and the wider community with renewed confidence. The new Poole–Wau Partnership Teaching Block now serves as a central hub for the College's most vital activities. It accommodates regular lectures for theology students, providing a conducive environment for learning and academic growth. The building also houses administrative offices, enabling staff to discharge their duties with efficiency and professionalism. In addition, it provides suitable space for College Board meetings, ensuring effective governance and decision-making. Furthermore, the Governing Council convenes within its walls, reinforcing the building's role as a cornerstone of institutional leadership and progress.

The Teaching Block also represents a significant addition to the College's assets. In a context where resources are scarce, the building stands as a valuable property that enhances the institution's long-term sustainability. It will be a major asset during inspections by the Ministry of Higher Education of South Sudan, demonstrating that the College meets the standards required of a higher learning institution. This assurance is critical for the College's accreditation and future growth. The presence of such a facility signals to stakeholders that the College is serious about its mission and capable of managing resources responsibly. It also strengthens our case for further support from partners, as donors can see the tangible results of their contributions. The PWP's grants have therefore, not only met immediate needs but also secured the College's position for future development.

Beyond the internal benefits, the new Teaching Block has improved the public image of the College. Members of the community now view the institution with greater respect, recognising it as a place of serious scholarship and leadership formation. The building is often remarked upon as a sign of progress in Wau, and it has become a source of pride for the local community. Parents and guardians are more confident in sending their children to study here, knowing that

they will be taught in a conducive environment. The College's reputation has grown, attracting interest from prospective students and partners like Relay Trust and Anglican Aid on the 6th November 2025 were questioning the college administration that *'how did the college made it to build the new Block?'* This positive perception is invaluable, as it strengthens the College's role in shaping future leaders for both church and society. The PWP's support has therefore had a ripple effect, extending beyond the College to the wider public.

Finally, the Poole–Wau partnership embodied in this Teaching Block is a living testimony to international solidarity and shared vision. It demonstrates how collaboration across borders can yield lasting impact in communities that need it the most. The PWP's generosity has not only built a structure but also strengthened relationships between Poole and Wau, reminding us that education is a global responsibility. The building will continue to serve generations of students, administrators, and communities, carrying forward the legacy of this partnership. As we look to the future, we remain deeply grateful for the PWP's support and are committed to stewarding this gift with integrity and purpose. The Teaching Block is more than bricks and mortar; it is a beacon of hope, progress, and faith in the transformative power of education. Below are the photos which show the activities the college administration conduct within the building.

Photos

Figure (1): Bishop Peter Garang of Nyamlel Diocese is teaching 3rd Year students of Theology on the 5th April 2025. He was teaching *'New Testament Themes II'* – photo from the back side – with only 4 benches.



Figure (2): Bishop Peter Garang (of the Episcopal Diocese of Nyamlel) is teaching 3rd Year students of Theology on the 5th April 2025. He was teaching *'New Testament Themes II'* – photo from the front side.



Figure (3): Below are the 2nd Year students of Theology attending their lectures on the 5th April 2025.



Figure (4): Below is the College Board Meeting with the Archbishop in Principal's Office within the new building on the 4th September 2025. On the right hand side sitting at the table is the new Archbishop of NBGIP **the Most Rev. Abraham Yel Nhial**, on his right hand Principal Philip Abiel followed by Academic Dean Angelo Lual Mou and others Head of Departments including HoD OF Theology who is in white shirt next to the yellow T-shirt.



Figure (5): Below is the College Governing Council after annual meeting, chaired by the Archbishop in Principal's Office within the new building on the 4th – 5th December 2025. Sitting in the middle the Archbishop Abraham Yel Nhial with Bishop Peter Garang Akuei and Assistant Bishop Peter Jonathan to his left while on his right Bishop Abraham Ngor of the Episcopal Diocese of Gogrial. Standing behind them - from left to right - Andrea Diing (Youth Representative - NBGIP), then Dr. Philip Abiel Nyok (Principal), John Kau Moses (Chairman of House Laity - NBGIP), and Mrs. Mary Achol Awutoc (Mother Union Chair lady - NBGIP).





ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE – WAU

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Our Ref.: TEU/SJC/PO/W/2026/05 – A1

Your Ref.:

January 22, 2026

To our friends and partners in Poole,

Dear Friends and Partners;

Subject: Appreciation Letter

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

We are delighted to share the wonderful impact of the new Teaching Block built through the Poole–Wau Partnership, made possible by the generous support of the Slavanka Trust. Since opening in February 2025, the building has become the heart of our College, providing modern classrooms for theology students, offices for our Principal and Academic Dean, and a secure space for examinations.

This facility has transformed daily life at the College. Students now learn in comfortable, spacious classrooms, while administrators can carry out their duties more effectively. It has also given us a dignified venue for College Board and Governing Council meetings, strengthening our leadership and governance. The Teaching Block has greatly improved the public image of the College, showing the community that we are a serious institution of higher learning. It stands as a valuable asset for the future, especially as we prepare for inspections by the Ministry of Higher Education of South Sudan.

We are deeply grateful to the Slavanka Trust and to our friends in Poole for their vision and generosity. This partnership has not only built a structure but has also built hope, pride, and confidence in the future of education in Wau.

With warm regards,

Dr. Philip Abiel Nyok - Principal – SJC, WAU