



**Chantelle Randle**

Biological & Forensic  
Science

Going to Africa to volunteer has always been something I wanted to pursue; visiting Malawi has exceeded my expectations and allowed me to get exactly what I wanted out of the experience and more!

Seeing life from a perspective where survival is a person's daily priority and where a struggle for everyday tasks occurs, made me appreciate life a lot more and figure the unimportance of materialistic things. It has given me the experience of meeting new people who are different to myself and has shown that I can build rapport within a team to undertake unfamiliar tasks. I feel after this trip, not only have I left with a positive new outlook on life, but I have left with 11 new friends for life.

Climbing Mount Mulanje made me realise that I am able to push myself further than I think and shown me that if I remain focused and work hard physically or mentally, eventually I will reach my goal. It also allowed me to encourage and support others at times when we were all struggling.



**In the Book Bus at Fisherman's Rest**

Left to right: Chantelle, Beth, Sunny, Kieron, Tom & Rob

The experience really puts into reality the real distance between the UK and Africa in terms of healthcare, education and culture, but at the same time, I have seen how a difference can actually be made to their lives. Witnessing the smiles and appreciation on people's faces, despite their poverty, is something you will never understand until you experience it.

My planning and organisational skills have been developed throughout the projects I participated in, this is a skill that can be adapted to various situations. The teaching experience I gained, which is invaluable in developing countries like Malawi, was significant for me and has reinforced my ideas of progressing into teaching.

It was amazing to immerse myself in a new culture; see tribal dances, visit villages- I felt really accepted and I was getting used to the African way of life, but then unfortunately I had to leave. Being the most rewarding thing I've ever done, I feel I now need to pursue more travelling and volunteering/charity work. I believe I have grown as a person and can now worry less whilst focusing on making the most out of life. I have learnt many things about myself and am really proud of what I have achieved and the difference I have made. It has definitely made me question my goals in life and certainly shaped my future. It has been an emotional journey, I've made some unforgettable memories, helped those in need and they have touched my heart in return. It has truly been a once in a lifetime experience, that will stay with me forever.



**The female members of team DASH:**

***Back row left to right: Lauren, Beth, Tracey and Asha***

***Front row: Chantelle, Liz and Bryony***