

COLLABORATION BENEFITS UGANDAN CHILDREN

Bupa Dental Care's recent 'Super Saturday' initiative raised £7,500 for Dentaïd, enabling the dental charity to establish a pilot oral health education scheme in Toowa Primary School, Lugazi, Uganda.

Super Saturday took place earlier this year and saw practices across the UK and Republic of Ireland open their doors for a special day of community engagement, fun and quality dental care.

Thanks to the donation, the pilot scheme is the next step in developing the school's oral health education programme, which ultimately will form a major part of Dentaïd's Ugandan dental health care activity.

The scheme has already seen Ugandan public dental health officers visiting the school to screen all the children for any dental issues and establish an oral health programme, supported by Dentaïd volunteers.



Children at the school now clean their teeth at the start and end of each school day with toothbrushes and toothpaste provided by Dentaïd, with training on proper brushing provided to children and teachers by volunteers. Children identified as having dental issues have received the necessary treatment, ranging from a simple scale to fillings and extractions.

To support the initiative, Dentaïd will replenish supplies of toothbrushes and toothpaste every three months. Public dental health officers and Dentaïd volunteers will return to the school in September and December to rescreen the children for any further treatments needed, as well as to quantify the improvement in dental health.

Dentaïd's Fundraising Manager, Peter Burch said: "Thanks to Bupa Dental Care's Super Saturday initiative, we will be able to fund an array of overseas projects that really will change lives. This includes the oral health programme at Toowa Primary School, where children will learn about the importance of routinely brushing their teeth twice a day. Access to dental services in their community is very difficult so it is important we get this right from the outset to help mitigate problems in the future. Helping us to provide dental equipment and support for our Ugandan associates will enable them to reach more people who struggle to access safe, sustainable dental care."



FOR ECO-FRIENDLY ORAL CARE

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ORAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Oral hygiene brand TePe has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the link between good oral health and overall wellbeing, and educate consumers about the importance of maintaining a healthy smile. The 'Behind Your Smile' campaign comes after a new survey revealed that less than half (48%) of UK adults are aware that poor oral hygiene is linked to long-term health conditions.

As part of the campaign, TePe has teamed up with a panel of health experts, including GP Dr Sarah Jarvis, gut health expert Dr Megan Rossi and Amanda Sheehan, Dental Therapist & Clinical Support Specialist at TePe, to highlight how a healthy smile can contribute to the health of the rest of the body.

The experts have worked with TePe to create a downloadable toolkit packed with information and advice about good oral health and its link to conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, poor gut health, arthritis, and mouth cancer.

To inform the campaign, TePe surveyed a nationally representative sample of UK adults to uncover the nation's smile habits. As well as highlighting a lack of understanding about the relationship between a healthy smile and healthy body, the survey revealed that over half (59%) of UK adults feel self-conscious about their smile, with three-quarters (74%) blaming it on the appearance of their teeth.

For more information, visit: <https://www1.tepe.com/uk/behind-your-smile/>.

MAKING A CHANGE FOR DENTAL THERAPISTS

To make a difference, everyone within a profession needs the opportunity to have their voice heard.

That's why the British Association of Dental Therapists (BADT) exists, to champion the opinions and values of its members and to give them the opportunity to make their mark.

Open to dental therapists, dental hygienists and students of the profession, the BADT has been at the forefront of major changes to the profession throughout the years and have helped bring about significant changes such as Direct Access.

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To find out more about joining the BADT, contact the association today.

For more details, visit www.badt.org.uk.