

East Midlands Children and Young People Newsletter for the 2012 Games



August 2010

Introduction from Gaynor...

August has been a miserable month weather-wise here in the region but on the other side of the world the Singapore Youth Olympic Games has provided much to lift the spirits and warm the hearts of all Olympics and Paralympics fans around the world.



One of our own young stars, **Nottinghamshire's** Sam Oldham, has experienced the highs and lows of Olympic competition. Going for gold in the final discipline of the all-round gymnastics competition, the horizontal bar, Sam fell off and went from a solid silver medal to 5th place. The old adage says when you fall you should get straight back on the horse and Sam did that almost literally, winning a silver medal on the pommel horse. Eventually Sam struck gold and in so doing proved his resilience as a competitor. The excellent site *Inside the Games* tells Sam's gold medal story at <http://insidethegames.biz/youth-olympics/singapore-2010/10360-oldham-strikes-gold-at-youth-olympics>

Derbyshire pole vaulter Katie Byres enjoyed a special experience in meeting world champion Yelena Isinbayeva. 16 year old Katie's interview with the brilliant Russian can be seen at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/athletics/8917059.stm> She went on to win the 'B' final with a clearance of 4 metres, 5 cm down on her personal best. (Had she made the 'A' final she would have been 5th in the world).

Our third regional representative in Singapore was Themba Luhana from **Northamptonshire**, a 110 metre hurdler. Themba competed in the B Final, finishing 2nd in 13.79, a time that would have seen him placed 7th in the A final.

It certainly looks as though the Youth Olympic Games will become a fixture on the world sporting calendar; how might we use it to inspire the region's young people to take part in sport or cultural activity?

Hard on the heels of the Youth Olympic Games come the **Sainsbury's UK School Games** in the North East of England from 2nd – 5th September. There are many young stars from right across the region representing East Midlands, Midlands or full England sides. I am sure that we all wish them the best of luck and hope that they enjoy this amazing experience.

Don't forget, if you have a good story to tell about your work with children and young people please contact me at G.Nash@lboro.ac.uk

Best wishes all, especially those about to embark on a new school term.

Gaynor

The new term brings an interesting array of new programmes as part of **Get Set +**. **Big Voice, Communication Triathlon and Coaching for Life** are just three of the new programmes and all can be found at <http://getset.london2012.com/en/get-set-plus>

The Get Set team has, to some extent, begun to remedy the disparity between programmes available for primary and secondary pupils with two of those three programmes being exclusively for primary school children. **Design My Break** is another exciting new programme for Key Stage 3 pupils with the chance to win tickets to Olympic events as the prize. There is a new **BBC 2012 site** at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/2012> which also takes you to a site that I think many young people will find fascinating:- http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/olympic_games/world_olympic_dreams/ which looks at 26 athletes from all around the world as they build towards 2012.

From an international perspective another great resource from the BBC is http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass/2012_project.shtml which provides practical support to enable schools to connect with a school overseas as well as signposting teachers to some very useful resources. There is, of course, much to be gained in a community cohesion sense from schools in this country 'twinning' with schools in other parts of the country to explore 2012 themes and sports. I am currently looking into linking some of our schools to partner schools within the London boroughs hosting the 2012 Games. **If this would be of interest to you please email me.**

May I take this opportunity to remind you of **EMpowered**, the regional Inspired by 2012 project which links the 7 Olympic and Paralympic values to the 7 heptathlon events. Summer term's link was courage and the hurdles and the competition will run until the end of September when it will be archived and replaced by stories of inspiration and the hurdles.



Go to <http://empoweredcyp.org.uk/#/empowered-project/4540615322> for more details.



I don't know if you saw Channel 4's Inside Incredible Athletes last week but it was great viewing and can still be seen online at <http://paralympics.channel4.com/>. Channel 4 is the Paralympic channel and with last Sunday (31st August) marking 2 years, yes just **2 years, to the start of the Paralympics**, they have been showing some fine programmes.

Sainsburys is an official partner of the London 2012 Paralympic Games – you can find out why and how at: <http://www.jsainsburys.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=517> One bonus is that, like me, you can buy your Mandeville collectible soft toy there for £5.01 less than at the London 2012 shop. Bargain. I'm debating whether mine should stay in his box for a future Antiques Roadshow or come out and join me in my work. Probably the latter!

Next time I hope to bring you news of East Midlands success at the UK School Games, of more Get Set Network schools and about three exciting new challenges for the region's children and young people – one linked to **BT**, another to **Team GB's** presence at Loughborough University and a third to a **Dance challenge**.