

## East Midlands Children and Young People Newsletter for the 2012 Games

January/February 2011

### Introduction from Gaynor...

It still seems strange to be typing 2011 but here we are well into February and the opening ceremony of London 2012 is an exciting 528 days away. With the calendar flicking over to 2011 a lot more people have suddenly realised that this once in a



lifetime event is looming large on the horizon and that now is a very good time to get active to ensure a lasting legacy for children and young people.

As a consequence, I have been busy taking assemblies, staff meetings, teacher workshops, Heads' briefings, helping at plaque presentations and even leading a 2012 launch event at **Leicester's** Highcross shopping centre with local boxing star, **Rendall Munroe**.

2011 has already proved tremendously inspiring for many of the region's children and young people: meeting new friends from across the world, presenting to 'dragons' at **Canary Wharf** and welcoming sports stars presenting a Get Set Network plaque.

Two of the region's schools applied through the BBC's **World Class** programme to be linked to schools associated with **World Olympic Dreams** athletes. Highfields School in **Matlock, Derbyshire**, has been connected to Australian swimmer, Emily Seebohm's school, St. John Fisher College, Adelaide and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary in **Loughborough, Leicestershire**, with Chinese diver He Zi's school, Shanghai Guangqi Primary. School teachers and pupils from the UK and around the world gathered at the **British Museum** and met up with their counterparts. The teacher at Sacred Heart, Mrs Reilly, told me that the event had been inspiring and the school had then hosted a Chinese teacher for a few days. To further the link I have been able to link the school with Chinese students at Loughborough University who will teach pupils a little more about China. Highfields SSCO, Jayne Allen, told me that her school has not yet met its Australian counterparts but that a video link will take place soon and there is a chance of a visit across to Australia.



Pupils from Walton Holymoorside in **Chesterfield** (pictured left) and Brixworth CEVC in **Northamptonshire** came through a tough regional round to win through to the national finals of Get Set to Make Your Mascot. They visited the Olympic Park and then presented to a panel which included Olympic diver Leon Taylor and three times wheelchair basketball Paralympian, Clare Strange. Eventually, Walton Holymoorside (pictured left) won through and will receive a visit from mascot Mandeville to their sports day on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Pupils from the school said: 'It was a fantastic, once in a lifetime experience for all of us that we will never forget and we loved meeting the mascots and athletes.' Delighted Head, Delyth Girdler told me: 'We are thrilled by the children's achievements, especially Jenny Morgan, the designer. Her support team also did a great job and the whole school is proud of them.'

There were good efforts too by pupils from Havelock Junior School, Kensington Junior School, St Michael and All Angels Primary, Blue Bell Hill Primary, St. Patricks RC Primary and Kingsway Primary. The judges and I would like to thank Young Ambassador, Jade Feavyer, for her role in the judging. Jade was asked to judge as she had been instrumental in winning the last mascot visit to the region to her school The Robert Smyth in **Market Harborough, Leicestershire**.

The region has the highest percentage of **Get Set Network** schools in the country outside London, a great achievement as we are not actually staging any Olympic events here. For some of the schools I have been able to coordinate the presence of a sports star to present the Get Set plaque. Paralympic footballer Leon Taylor (yes the same name as the diver) was a hit at Littleover Community School in **Derby**. He spoke of his Beijing experience and 2012 ambition before posing for a picture with the plaque. Leon is also visiting another **Derby** school, Landau Forte to present their plaque and to join me in speaking to the pupils in assembly, more on that in the next update.



Wells Sports Foundation ambassador Adam Bowden, a triathlete bidding for a place at London 2012, presented the plaque at St Michaels and All Angels in Rearsby, **Leicestershire**. Leicestershire is benefiting from a unique link with the Wells Sports Foundation athletes who train at Loughborough. Adam also joined School Councillors at both Rearsby and then at Christ Church and St Peter's, Mountsorrel for question and answer sessions.



Just a reminder that at the moment there is a chance for Primary schools to nominate a young person who is showing the Paralympic value of determination. Go to <http://getset.london2012.com/en/join-us/why-join-the-get-set-network/two-birds-with-one-stone-1-1> to find out more. This can be done for new or existing Network applications. Pupils at Special Schools, PRUs and Hospital Schools can also nominate pupils.

As ever, it is well worth checking out the Get Set for new challenges, the latest being **Get Set to Exercise your Taste Buds** which you can find at

<http://getset.london2012.com/en/educators/get-set-to-exercise-your-taste-buds>

There are resources for all sectors and phases of education.

*Gaynor*

**Stop Press:** Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has set out his vision for the new School Games tournament and announced funding for 450 three day posts to support intra and inter-school sports competition as part of the School Games initiative. **Lincolnshire** will soon be letting us know what they plan to do as one of nine pilot areas around the country.

<http://media.ticketmaster.com/en-gb/img/sys/tournament/london2012/oly-complete.pdf> for Olympic Games scheduling and ticket prices.