

**East Midlands Children and Young People Newsletter for the 2012 Games
February/March 2011**

Introduction from Gaynor...

The back end of February and beginning of March has been very lively with large numbers of schools in the region either joining the Get Set Network or beginning to really make the most of their Network status. We now have 9% of the region's schools in the Get Set Network and 63% registered for Get Set. That 9% figure puts us 2nd of all Nations and Regions behind only London at 13% and reflects the great interest across the region, despite us not hosting any London 2012 sporting activity. I also like to think that it is partly because we are unique in being the only region with a dedicated Legacy officer for children and young people!

I have had the pleasure of being involved in some exciting activity where Olympians, Paralympians and Youth Olympians have visited schools and once again have seen the power of the Great Britain tracksuit to excite and inspire children and young people, and that's before the medals come out...



Paralympian **Leon Taylor** visited **Landau Forte College in Derby** with me in late February. I think we were both struck on entering the College by the presence in the atrium of powerful London 2012 imagery with many of the pupils' mascot designs on display and images on the large plasma screen. After we had both spoken (and been filmed doing so) and Leon had presented the school's Young Ambassadors with their Network plaque, we listened to a great presentation from the Sports Council of the College on how they plan to

use London 2012 and, in particular, the seven values, to inspire the Landau Forte community.

You can find out more and follow a link to their great mascot designs at: <http://www.landau-forte.org.uk/curriculum/sports-council>

Youth Olympian, **Sam Oldham**, from **Nottinghamshire** visited three primary schools in the city that are involved in the Inspire Mark project '**Once in a Lifetime**' produced by the South Nottingham Education Improvement Partnership, led by Jean Guest. He spoke to assemblies at Whitegate Primary School and Dovecote Primary School and to classes at Riverside Primary School. They loved seeing his European all-round gymnastics gold but especially his gold from the high bar discipline at the first ever Youth Olympics in Singapore.



His story emphasised the value of determination as he had fallen from the high bar in the all-round competition when in silver medal position. I have been supporting the project and brokered Sam's appearance.

<http://www.whitegateprimary.co.uk/> for a view from one of the schools.

Later in the week, I was delighted to be invited along to **Campion School** in **Northamptonshire** to join them in welcoming Olympic gymnast and World silver medallist, Daniel Keatings. He met pupils throughout the morning before being special guest at a Year 8 assembly. Pupils saw film of him in action on the pommel horse, the discipline that brought him a gold medal at last year's World Championships. Daniel is part of Visa's Team 2012 which sees supported athletes visiting community settings to inspire people. The Campion pupils certainly enjoyed Daniel's visit and he was besieged by autograph-hunting fans, mostly female, after the presentation. (And they didn't get to see the Team GB tattoo!)



This week has seen a great deal of excitement around the mascots. Wenlock and Mandeville had been tweeting about big things happening on Tuesday and they didn't disappoint. The second instalment of their story, 'Adventures on a Rainbow', again by Michael Morpurgo sees them meet up with George and family once more but also animated versions of Olympic and Paralympic stars like Tom Daley and Ellie Simmonds. My favourite bit is when they all copy BMX rider Shanaze Reade and Grandma pulls off a few stunts See the new film at: <http://getset.london2012.com/en/educators/get-set-to-meet-the-mascots/adventures-on-a-rainbow>

To accompany the film, the London 2012 shop has a number of new mascot collectables. Some are relatively inexpensive and even in these straitened times might make great prizes for pupils getting physically active, engaging in learning through Get Set or displaying one of the seven values.

There are still a few days to go before the close of an opportunity for primaries, special schools PRUs and hospital schools to nominate a pupil showing determination, courage, inspiration or equality – the opportunity is not open to secondaries in the region, sadly. <http://getset.london2012.com/en/join-us/why-join-the-get-set-network/two-birds-with-one-stone-1-1>

The most recent Inspire Marked **Musubi** day saw pupils from three **Rutland** secondary schools visit **Loughborough University** for a day of Japanese activity led by the excellent pupils of **South Wolds Language School** in **Nottinghamshire**. Pupils from **Catmose**, **Casterton** and **Uppingham** came together for language, culture, sport, Taiko drumming and a tour of the University's excellent sports facilities. Unfortunately, no Japanese athletes were present but the day was a great success. Rutland will not be funding my post beyond March, a great pity, so it was something of a swansong for me.



500 Days To Go March 15th marks just 500 days until the Opening Ceremony of London 2012. Get Set Network schools in **Leicester** and **Leicestershire** will be getting together on that day for a grand networking event at Leicester City Football Club. The 1948 Torch will be carried by runners from its home at Loughborough College via five county and city schools to the football ground where it will be greeted by Taiko drummers from **Humphrey Perkins** school and taken around the pitch by runners from **Tigers Learning Centre** (and perhaps Sven Goran Eriksson). Afterwards Network schools will be able to share experience, inform staff from non-Network schools and be inspired by Paralympian Danny Greaves, stars from the **Wells Sports Foundation** and young Go Gold Ambassadors. How are you marking this exciting but scary milestone?

Gaynor