

HOLDEN LANE CLUSTER, STOKE-ON-TRENT



Event description

The Holden Lane cluster held a Community School Games event to celebrate the end of the academic year.

The programme, delivered by Holden Lane Sports Leaders, local sixth-form students and community volunteers, comprised a variety of Olympic and 'have-a-go' activities, including mini athletics, tri-golf, kwik cricket, table tennis, rounders, martial arts and cheerleading. There were also sessions in disability awareness-raising sports like wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, goalball and new age kurling.

Kicking off the event was an Olympic-style opening ceremony, where 240 9-11-year-old students from eight primary schools enjoyed a team march waving the flags of their adopted countries. This was followed by a Year 8 cheerleading display and the declaration of an oath by event participants and organisers to honour the Spirit of the Games Values.

Each group of young people then sampled two different sports before attending a closing ceremony and the awarding of certificates to six students (one for each Spirit of the Games Value) from each of the participating schools.

Impact

Ways in which the event:

Linked into and built upon the school curriculum

The Olympic Values had been adopted by all five Heads of Year at Holden Lane High School as the key topics for assemblies throughout the 2011/2012 academic year. The concept of 'competition across the curriculum' was then embraced during the summer term, through an EBAC Games with competitions in English, maths, science and humanities as well as sport.

In addition, every form in the school adopted an Olympic country and decorated their rooms with flags, banners and bunting. They also enjoyed fixtures in Olympic-related quizzes and practical activities for English, maths, science and humanities.

Acted as a celebration and culmination of year-round intra-school competition

Prior to the event, each of the cluster schools delivered an individual School Games Day, supported by a number of sports leaders and their School Sport Organising Crew. They were also visited by a real Olympic Torch and Torch Bearer – with over 3,000 students seeing the Torch in three hours.

Enabled young people to play a leading, planning or organising role

The cluster's sports leaders ran Mr Motivator and flash-dance sessions during the event, while a former Holden Lane student and now local DJ provided the sound support and music. Moreover, two young people were nominated and prepared by their English department to operate as reporters for the day, producing copy for use in newsletters, press releases and websites, while other students were involved in event planning and delivery and looking after attending VIPs. One gifted international-standard student led martial-arts sessions along with her father and younger brother.

Tips for schools planning similar events

- Compile and publish a simple programme
- Be organised and clear about the roles that everyone will play
- Ensure that sports leaders plan and practice session delivery
- Run briefing sessions
- Invite key local officials/sporting role models
- Allocate a suitable number of sports leaders to coach each activity and attend to the VIPs
- Involve sports leaders with the School Games NGB formats.

