



What was the challenge?

Inclusive Sainsbury's School Games for mainstream schools

What were your proposed solutions and why?

We wanted to increase the numbers of KS3 & 4 students in mainstream schools with SEN taking part in inter-school competition in all districts in Nottinghamshire. We also wanted to provide a clear pathway to Sainsbury's School Games competition in the county winter and summer events.

What were your findings?

- All eight districts were fully committed to a winter and summer event (Panathlon and Sportshall Athletics) aimed at pupils who are School Action Plus.
- Our inter-school district competitions saw 25% of secondary schools entering teams. This is a number we wish to increase as we feel more young people from more schools are eligible to participate in this competition.
- The county event was a great success with seven of the eight districts in Nottingham represented. There were over 20 teams that took part in the inter-school competition leading to the county finals.

What would be your top tips for other SGOs wishing to address a similar challenge?

The key aspect is to get commitment from PE departments to provide the opportunity for their School Action Plus students by entering teams. Next year the events will appear on the yearly calendar at the start of the year alongside every other competition and league; this will help with getting schools involved as this year it was an add-on halfway through the year when schools already had a very full timetable and this was seen as an extra that they did not have the time to commit to.

Advocacy with heads of departments is also key to develop their awareness and appreciation of what we are trying to achieve and how important it is for this cohort of students to have the same opportunities as other students to experience inter-school and county level competition with the Sainsbury's School Games.

What was the impact and who benefitted from your solutions?

In those schools who have taken part in inter-school competition, the pupils have a very positive experience and the schools have commented how good it has been to have inter and county level competition offered specifically for this target group.

This has ensured more young people have the opportunity to represent their school in competition and are able to experience both competition between schools but also progress to a county Level 3 event.

The event will take place as part of the 2013 Summer Games and will be complemented with a Panathlon inter-school and county programme as part of the Winter Games.

Through having both a winter and summer progression, we are able to keep the young people involved and engaged throughout the whole of the academic year.

