

Lead professional: **Ali Furlong - School Games Organiser**

What was the challenge?

Sainsbury's School Games for everyone – developing wider participation

What were your proposed solutions and why?

The aim of the project was to look at transition activity from primary to high school using sport as a tool to support this.

Desired outcomes of the project were as follows:

- To raise awareness of London 2012 by hosting sportshall athletics events working with two local high schools to support Year 6 pupils moving from primary to secondary school.
- To inspire young people into becoming engaged with London 2012 as well as participating in an athletics event and meeting new teachers and students at their new high school prior to starting in September 2012.

What were your findings?

The event needed to take into consideration challenges around urban versus rural schools and how a transition event could enhance the process of supporting the secondary schools with new intakes and also benefitting the primary schools feeding into that school.

With this in mind we ran two transition events – one at Westbourne Sports College to support the existing transition day but also to ensure sport and the PE department were involved this year. We then chose to work with Holbrook High School, a very rural school with five rural feeder schools.

Both events were very different in nature but equally interactive with their feeder school, young leaders and the results from both events were very positive in embracing the move from primary to secondary school and developing those links with the schools.

Holbrook High School summary:

This event also took place in the summer term and saw 90 pupils from four feeder schools welcomed to the 'Holbrook Olympic Stadium' by marching around the sports hall with their flags to their national anthem. The cultural aspect was key at this event and the Head of Music played an important role as he wrote a trumpet fanfare for the event and played this on the day with music students, following by a welcome dance from Year 8 students and then 4 pupils from each primary school were asked to read the 'Athletes Promise' along with four judges who read the 'Judges' Oath'; both linked to the Olympic Games and Values. All participants were asked to abide by these.

Westbourne Sports College summary

Westbourne already hold a transition day and offer this to the three direct feeder schools but also actively approach other schools in the area to attract them to Westbourne (partly as the other schools do not offer similar events). There were several reasons for including the sportshall Olympic event as part of the transition event as follows:

1. Promoting the PE department and facilities at the high school as not previously included in transition activities.
2. Promoting the Sainsbury's School Games element of future opportunities at the secondary school.
3. Having young Games Makers at the high school who are involved in the Paralympics supporting this event as well – demonstrating that leadership is important within the PE and sport team.

To enhance the event, the four schools who took part were given two countries each and asked to make flags and posters in schools to support the event.

Young Leaders were identified and were trained at school by having a go at sportshall athletics and also learning how to timekeep, score, measure and judge the event (promoting cross-

curricular working).

The event took place in the summer term with approx 200 pupils representing eight countries including Peru, Algeria, Spain, Thailand, Kenya, France, Germany and The Ivory Coast. The Year 6 pupils attended an assembly at the school and then were introduced to their new form teachers and classrooms. Young leaders went to the classrooms and helped students choose the activities they were going to take part in at the event and then the pupils were welcomed to the 'Westbourne Sports College Olympic Stadium' where they took part in a competitive and active sports hall event. The national anthem of their representative country was played while teams entered the hall and they paraded their country's flag and posters.





What was the impact and who benefitted from your solutions?

Benefits and importance of transition days for high schools

- Pupils meet pupils from the other schools and therefore feel more confident about making new friends and knowing other students on their first day at high school in September 2012.
- Pupils become familiar with what is often an unfamiliar environment, particularly if not involved in School Sport and other competitions.
- Sports leaders and prefects can start to build and establish good relationships with younger pupils.
- Staff meet the new year group and therefore can begin to build relationships more quickly.
- The PE team have a chance to observe the students and begin to spot the talented athletes and assess abilities – this can be important when secondary school staff are having to decide what events to enter in the autumn term. This can give them some insights to this rather than relying on the information provided by the Teacher release or SSCo member of staff.
- Using sport as a tool – the schools were able to interact with art and geography departments in school and also using cross-curricular work in the primary schools.
- Using the Olympic theme allows schools to adopt values including determination and fair play.
- Competition with other high schools – being able to offer a different approach can attract new students to the schools.
- Young leaders – the initiative helped identify skills for young leaders to support GCSE PE and also other sports by giving them the confidence to look at other leadership options, including the leadership academy offered within the Sainsbury's School Games.

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

- Look at how competition can be linked into other areas of the school agenda or needs. We identified a gap in transition around PE and sport and aligned this accordingly.
- Test the concept first: as a result of the successful pilot in two secondary schools, we are now considering expanding on this next academic year.
- Work with your local primary sports associations - a great way of finding some extra funding to support your competitions!
- Work with members of staff at each school to encourage sustainability of this type of event.

