

CONTEXT

The Gloucestershire Local Organising Committee wanted to include an event for severely disabled primary aged young people and felt that by including a Primary Panathlon in the Level 3 Sainsbury's School Games Festival this would meet the needs of these young people, based on positive feedback from other county areas across the country.

NGB SHARING PRACTICE – GLOUCESTERSHIRE SAINSBURY'S SCHOOL GAMES GETS READY FOR PANATHLON!



The overall aim of the Primary Panathlon developed by the Charity is to:

- Provide training for teachers of primary-age disabled children.
- Provide a competitive sporting opportunity for disabled primary-age children in both a team and individual setting, with a fun element.
- Provide young leaders with the opportunity to help run sporting opportunities to gain experience with working with disabled children.
- Provide the primary-age disabled children with early exposure of the Panathlon concept, using a skill based approach from within the secondary aged Panathlon challenge sports.
- Create a transition from the primary Panathlon to secondary-age full Panathlon challenge, thus creating a pathway for severely disabled young people.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT?

- Confidence has grown in teachers, (from special and mainstream primary and secondary schools), who received ideas for how to introduce Panathlon activities – including New Age Kurling, Polybat, Boccia Blast and Messi Football – into PE lessons to develop their students' skills before they get involved in Panathlon competition next year.
- Sixty-two young people have been able to represent their school for the first time at inter-school competition, with the opportunity to progress into further competitions.
- The 2015 Finals will be preceded by Level 2 area Sainsbury's School Games Primary Panathlons in the County, with over 100 young disabled people expected to be involved.
- The training provided has also enabled university students to grow in confidence in their leadership abilities for young disabled people.

WHAT WE DID

- Fifty-one Hartpury College students trained to become Panathlon Officials ahead of the 2015 summer Gloucestershire Sainsbury's School Games (the 2015 Gloucestershire Sainsbury's School Games Festival will also be held at Hartpury College).
- Forty-two teachers and sports education undergraduates received training in getting young disabled children involved in sport through a range of Panathlon activities.
- We held a Primary Panathlon in Cirencester for 62 students from eight schools in the surrounding area. Nine teams competing had the chance to take part in nine different Primary Panathlon activities.
 - From this Level 2 activity a pilot County-wide event was held at Level 3 at the Sainsbury's School Games Summer festival, where Panathlon visited Hartpury College to host four invited schools for the Gloucester Primary Final.
 - We linked with a Paralympic swimmer and Panathlon Ambassador Liz Johnson who joined the Charity to help crown the first Gloucestershire Primary Panathlon winner.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

"I loved playing Volleybat and Table Cricket; it's much better playing other schools, rather than just competing within school."
Pupil, Blockley School

"I really enjoyed it. I scored lots of goals in the Messi football skill game."

"Today was really useful for our course. We have learnt a little about disability sports before but not in as much detail. Understanding the rules of Boccia, Volleybat etc. was really useful and interesting so now I'm looking forward to the event where we can put what we've learnt to the test."
Patrick Morgan, student at Hartpury

"We will certainly look at buying some of this equipment and setting up lunch time clubs for our students. We have many who are unable to take part in mainstream sports. It will be great to give them an opportunity to compete on a level playing field."
Dan Tyreman, Berkeley School

TOP TIPS

- Think developmentally about your competitions: this worked because we included training to expand teacher and leader knowledge, to then drive inter-school competitions leading to an expanded Gloucestershire-wide Primary Final.
- Work with Panathlon to scope out additional progressive competition pathways: for example we are looking to develop a future Primary Regional Final incorporating other South West counties.



To view video [CLICK HERE](#)

**"A lot of my children mentioned they had never before taken part in inter-school sport. Today has given them that chance, and it's been amazing to see students working together, trying new sports. Specifically, I had one student who struggled with confidence, but today he has interacted with his peers and hasn't stopped smiling. Thank you for a great day.
Mrs Bond, Stratton School"**