



High quality competition environments

Creating High Quality Competition Environments for All

Mollie Croxon and Denise Lees

WHICH AREA OF THE SGO TASK LIST DOES THIS IMPACT?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Increasing engagement in School Games |
| 2 | Developing competitive opportunities |
| 3 | Increasing and sustaining participation |
| 4 | Workforce – Broadening the range of participation opportunities |



WHY

- Little engagement from secondary schools in School Games.
- New SGO in post.
- The SGO area did not have secondary school representatives from the area to progress to the county finals.
- All competitions on offer were for sporty children and there was no offer of inclusive events.



ACTION

- The SGOs attended a Head of PE meeting to discuss the aims and vision of the School Games. They outlined the benefits to their children and discussed that they wanted to work with the schools to offer the best opportunities for their children.
- One of the SGOs also targeted schools that she knew from previous experience and decided to meet them individually to find out what they wanted on offer and asked how she could help.
- One of the SGOs used her host Head Teacher to get her an invitation to attend the secondary Head Teachers meeting to explain the benefits of the School Games.
- The SGOs finally carried out some consultation with the schools via questionnaires to see what they wanted on offer for their children.
- Through all of these meetings the SGOs started to create a buzz about the School Games. Head Teachers were encouraging their PE staff to get involved. PE staff finally started to return the questionnaires and dates started to be set in the calendar.
- Schools told the SGOs that they could not get permission for the

ABOUT MOLLIE & DENISE

Shropshire SGOs Mollie Croxon and Denise Lees worked collaboratively on this project. Both just cover the SGO role three days per week each. Mollie works across 65 schools in the rural area of North Shropshire and Denise works across 30 schools in the urban area of Shrewsbury.

Mollie Croxon, North Shropshire SGO
mcroxon@lakelandsacademy.org.uk

Denise Lees, Shrewsbury SGO
dleesgo@yahoo.co.uk

- children to be out of schools for the traditional whole day event in winter and the whole day event in summer.
- So the SGOs decided to revamp the School Games secondary competition calendar. They now host one event per half term starting at 2pm and finishing at 5pm, linked to the sports the schools and children suggested.
- The secondary schools started to build a relationship with the SGOs.
- One secondary school still continued to be disengaged until the SGO decided to ask this school to host the events at their school.
- Mutual trust started to develop between the SGOs and the secondary schools. The participation figures slowly rose from 0% attending to 100% attendance at the spring 2018 event.
- In addition to the mainstream events and due to this mutual trust and relationships now created, the schools started to enter into the Sportsability/Inclusion events, inviting their pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Again, in spring 2018 the attendance was at 100%.

SCHOOL GAMES



IMPACT

- 100% of secondary schools now attending School Games events.
- More children are engaged with new opportunities.
- Two secondary schools applied for School Games Mark last year for the very first time. This will increase to four applications this year. This may seem like low numbers, but this is a significant improvement from previous years.
- The SGOs now have a good working relationship with all of their secondary schools.



NEXT

- Maintain the fantastic engagement at events.
- Focus on Sportsability and inclusion events. Ensure that all staff understand who these events are aimed at and that they understand the benefits of them.
- Start to build a formal Leadership Academy now the schools understand the benefits of the School Games.



TIPS

- Give the secondary school staff and pupils a voice. Consultation is key. This will encourage the schools to take more ownership over the events.
- Patience! Building relationships and changing hearts and minds is a slow process.
- Set yourself short term, realistic goals, e.g. by the end of this academic year I will have one secondary school applying for School Games Mark.
- Build relationships with your schools. Don't hide behind emails.
- Integrate your School Games calendar with the other events and competitions on offer to your schools. Don't let them think it is something separate.

