NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE
SCHOOL SPORT PARTNERSHIPS

STARS SQUAD
2011 - 2012
North Stoke School Sport Partnership was first approached in 2009 to get involved in the STARS programme. Previously all applications to enter this Youth Sport Trust programme were accepted from individual schools. Programme Manager and former Olympic rower Guin Batten was keen to see how bringing together the talented athletes from a number of schools would work.

In January 2010 an official launch with significant media coverage took place. Representatives from the other 9 Staffordshire SSP’s were invited along with the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Local Authority representatives, Head teachers and the Stoke-on-Trent Co-ordinator.

International gymast and leading athlete mentor Craig Heap was drafted in to deliver 3 workshops in the programme along with local high flyer athlete Alex Nelson. School Sport Co-ordinators and Further Education co-ordinators from the SSP nominated 20 young athletes for the squad using three criteria:

1) participation in an Olympic sport
2) performance to national standard
3) training and/or competing for up to 15 hours per week.

After a second session in the spring a meeting of parents took place to investigate the possibility of forming an action committee to bid for funding to support athletes in their progress. Mark Roberts (former international long distance runner) has given valuable advice in how the STARS squad can begin to sustain itself and indeed fund the needs of its athletes. A parents action group is now formed and bidding for funding from various sources.

We are delighted to now have squads in operation from all four North Staffordshire School Sport Partnerships and this was celebrated last February with a launch evening at Newcastle College with motivational workshops from athletes Emma Jackson, Ben Williams and Emma Ward. Also in attendance was national athlete mentor and international gymnast Craig Heap, former Squash champion Angela Smith and sailor Ian Harridge.

In a quest to sponsor a talented Stoke based athlete on their route to the London 2012 Olympics podium, Stoke City Football Club have set up an Aspiring Athletes Fund of £40k over the next 2 years, which athletes of any age can seek to bid into. The principle aim of the fund is to provide support in travelling, training and competition expenses, hardship and injury rehabilitation costs. Congratulations to a number of the STARS squad members who have already received grants from this Aspiring Athletes Fund.

Good Luck to all the athletes in their quest for glory and to their respective supporters, coaches, mentors and sponsors.

Nigel Edwards (PDM, North Stoke SSP), Derek Yeomans (SSCO, South Stoke SSP), Lynne Batigan (SSCo, Staffordshire Moorlands SSP) and Deb O’Neill (SSCo, Newcastle SSP)

Contents

2 Contents & Foreword
3 STARS Squad History
4 Daniella Wyatt STARS Squad Ambassador
5 North Stoke:
6 Joe Anderson Rowing
7 Stephanie Crowley Canoe Slalom
8 Hassan El-Madhi-Connolly Track Cycling
9 Matthew Fair Rowing
10 Nafz Fox Sculling
11 Alice Hall Rowing
12 Sophie Hidtchick Kick Boxing, Trampolining & Gymnastics
13 Bethany Johnson Taekwondo
14 Aaron Lymer Trampolining
15 Joel Mann Athletics
16 Shingi Mmbene Gymnastics
17 Deo Miranda Decathlon
18 Louis Preston Track Cycling
19 Sophie Powell Rowing
20 Ashleigh Scarlett Dance
21 Matthew Stevenson Swimming
22 James Taylor Athletics (High Jump)
23 South Stoke:
24 Ryan Bithell Boxing
25 Tammy Bloor Rowing
26 Jack Buckley Badminton
27 Emily Butler Rowing
28 Rebecca Dee Rowing
29 Rebecca Martin Archery
30 Archie Scott Cycling
31 Craig Smith Badminton
32 Marcus Smith Badminton
33 Robert Bilton WTF Olympic Taekwondo
34 Rebecca Thomas Rowing
35 Christopher Yates Sking
36 William Gallimore-Tailey Running
37 Michael Harding Track/Cycling
38 Paige Ann Milward Track/Cycling
39 Jade Rogers Windsurfing
40 Jordan Adelburgh Volleyball
41 Ian Banks-Johns Athletics
42 Sajid Birchall Cycling
43 Samuel Birchall Cycling
44 George Edwards Cycling
45 Adam Ben Finney Gymnastics
46 Sophia Goodfellow Cross Country, Hurdles
47 Kaite Holt Athletics
48 Emily Horton Football
49 Aimee Howard Kickboxing
50 Richard James Volleyball
51 Adam Jones Athletics (Sprinting)
52 Kieran Lee Athletics (Long Jump)
53 Shary McClure Football
54 Oliver Simpson Water Polo/Swimming
55 Alex Webb Gymnastics
56 Acknowledgements

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that Stoke City Football Club is seeking to support potential Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire School medal winners at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

For some younger athletes this may come a little too soon with the aspirations more realistically geared to the Rio de Janiero Olympic Games in 2016.

The emergence of the North Staffordshire School Sport Partnership STARS squad in the past two years has demonstrated just how much talent in such a wide variety of sports originates from Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire.

The enclosed biographies allow readers to see for themselves the breadth and range of achievements of the athletes and their ambitions to achieve greater things.

Can I stress to any prospective private sponsor, the value and positive profile this will bring to a City constantly striving to portray a positive image to the outside world.

If you have any enquiries, please direct them to our School Sport Partnership colleagues.

Tony Stocholes
Chief Executive
Stoke City Football Club
Danielle Wyatt  
Cricket (All rounder)  

Sporting History  
Played both cricket and football from an early age.  
Age 9 played for Whitmore CC Under 11 boys team.  
Continued to play junior cricket for Whitmore CC boys teams and played in the Senior mens 2nd XI.  
Age 12 represented Staffordshire Girls CC at U13 and continued to U15 level.  
Age 14 made senior debut for Staffordshire Women and opened the batting.  
Age 15 was selected for the England Academy squad (Under 19 age group). In 2010 was awarded a Central Playing Contract by the ECB and King’s Foundation.

Competitive Record  
2005 & 2006 Winner of European Championship for 2 consecutive years with the England Academy.  
2006 Voted Most Valuable Player of the European Championship.  
July 2009 Represented England Academy vs Pakistan.  
March 2010 Selected for the Full England squad for the Tour of India.  
May 2010 Represented England at the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean. Voted Player of the Match vs South Africa in T20 World Cup match with bowling figures of 4-11.  
July 2010 Represented England in the summer series vs New Zealand.  

Ambition:  
To cement my place as a regular member of the full England team in all formats of the game.  
To be selected for my first Ashes tour 2010-11.

Sporting Motto:  
Play Hard, Play Fair.
**Stephanie Crowley**  
Canoe Slalom

**Sporting History**  
I began Canoe Slalom as a recreational sport in 2007, training just once a week on the River Trent at Stone. My coach along with a world class coach both decided that I was progressing very fast and asked me to join in with the world class potential group, where I would be training 3 times a week. That year I began competing and quickly gained promotion to Division 2. With only 2 more promotions to gain before hitting Premier Division I never backed down and 2 seasons later I was competing amongst Olympic standard ladies in the Premier Division. I won the Yorkshire Water Championship Cup and also trialled for the Great Britain Team. This year 2010, I began training in the newly developed women’s C1 class and will be trialling for the GB team in 2011.

**Competitive Record**  
Divisional champion  
Yorkshire Water Champion  
Great Britain team trials 7th 2008 & 2009

**Ambition:**  
My ambition is to make the GB team in C1W in 2011. My ambition then is to medal at the world cups and Europeans next year.

**Sporting Motto:**  
Pain is temporary, quitting is forever.

---

**Sassan Emadi-Coffin**  
Track Cycling

**Sporting History**  
Track Cycling: started racing at 5 years of age at Newcastle Track.  
Shotokan Karate: 1st Ku.  
Football: played for the school football team in primary school. Reserve City of Stoke Keeper for U12’s.

**Competitive Record**  
Silver Medallist Sprint UK School Games 2010.  
Bronze Medallist Team Sprint UK School Games 2010.  
5th in Sprint Junior National Track Championships 2010.  
6th in 500 m. Junior National Track Championships 2010.  
Unable to compete in 2009 due to injury.

**Ambition:**  
To be selected for the British Cycling Olympic Development Programme. To be chosen to compete at the Junior World Track Championships and European Track Championships. To continue progressing through the British Cycling Olympic Talent Programme and eventually to represent Great Britain at the Olympics.

**Sporting Motto:**  
“Races aren’t given to you; you need to take them.”
Matthew Fair
Rowing

Age: 15
DOB: 08/11/94
Place of Birth: Newcastle Under Lyme
Hometown: Newcastle Under Lyme
Clubs: Trentham Rowing Club
Coach: Darren Barton
Sporting Hero: Matt Pincent
High School/College: St Peters CE High School & International Language College

Sporting History
Darren Barton (my coach) came to our school and taught us how to use an ergo in P.E. He asked me if I wanted to enter the biggest indoor rowing competition in Britain. I said yes! After joining the school ergo club, he asked me if I wanted to go down to Trentham Lake after school every Tuesday during spring. From there I joined Trentham Boat Club and moved onto bigger races. I still do indoor and outdoor championships. My most recent competition was earlier this year when myself and a fellow rower, Ruairidh McKenna entered the National Championships in Scotland in a double skull. I am now helping to coach the younger members of the club who are new to rowing and I am training for the winter Head Season.

Competitive Record
2006 British Indoor Rowing Championship – 8th
2007 English Indoor Rowing Championships – 4th
2007 British Indoor Rowing Championships – 2nd
2008 English Indoor Rowing Championships – 3rd
2008 British Indoor Rowing Championship – 1st
2009 English Indoor Rowing Championships - 1st
2009 Inter Regional Championships – 2nd
2009 National Schools Regatta – 4th
2009 National Championships – 4th
2010 National Schools head – 3rd
2010 National Schools Thames head – 3rd
2010 Inter Regional Championships – 4th
2010 National Schools Regatta – 6th
2010 National Championships Scotland – 15th

Ambition:
I would like to be an awesome guitarist in a heavy metal band.

Sporting Motto:
Pain is temporary, quitting is forever.

Najee Fox
Discus Throwing

Age: 17
DOB: 01/12/1992
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Stoke-on-Trent
Clubs: Stoke AC
Moving: Birchfield Harriers
Coach: Andy Brittan
Sporting Hero: Usain Bolt
High School/College: St Peters CE High School & International Language College & Stoke on Trent 6th Form College.

Sporting History
Started discus at the age of 8 after being introduced to the event by my Dad. I joined Stoke AC in 2005 and was winning competitions almost immediately. In my first year I was ranked Number 1 in the UK leading my peers by 3 metres. A serious road traffic accident meant I had an enforced lay-off from athletics for 12 months. I now train 6 days a week, with my Birmingham based coach, Andy Brittan.

Competitive Record
UK Number 1 at Under 13’s.
2006 Silver medal at the English Schools Championships.
2009 Silver medal at the British Championships.
Unbeaten in County and Midlands championships.

Ambition:
To receive my European juniors call up in 2011.
Get to a European Championship, World Championship or The Olympics at senior level.
To forge a career in motivational speaking and to work with younger generations who have had the same problems as I have, and to give them hope through my own successes.

Sporting Motto:
Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.
Alice Hall
Rowing

**Age:** 13  
**DOB:** 27/10/97  
**Place of Birth:** Newcastle Under Lyme  
**Hometown:** Packmoor  
**Clubs:** Stoke AC, Trentham Boat Club, Congleton Vale FC  
**Coaches:** Neil Gilson & Michael Frances  
**Sporting Hero:** Jessica Ennis  
**High School/College:** St Peters CE High School & International Language College

**Sporting History**
Started running at the age of 10 at Stoke AC in particular 100m and 200m.

**Rowing:** Started indoor rowing when I started St Peter’s High School and International Language College.

**Football:** Started football at the age of 9 for Kidsgrove Owls FC (boys team) then moved on to Congleton Vale girls team.

**Competitive Record**
- Gold medal in the under 13’s 4x100m relay team in the national championship finals at Birmingham 2010.
- Ranked 6th in the country in girls under 13’s 70 meter hurdles 2010.
- Silver medal in the relay rowing squad national championships in Birmingham.
- Ranked 11th in the country for rowing in the Birmingham championships single.
- Staff’s AAA’S champion hurdler May 2010.

**Ambition:**
To be a part of the GB squad and represent my country in the pentathlon event.

**Sporting Motto:**
Everybody falls down, it’s the way you get up that counts.

---

Sophie Hilditch
Kickboxing, Gymnastics & Trampolining

**Age:** 17  
**DOB:** 19/11/92  
**Place of Birth:** Stoke on Trent  
**Hometown:** Stoke-on-Trent  
**Clubs:** Maddogs martial arts, City of Stoke Gymnastics club, City of Stoke Trampolining clubs  
**Coaches:** Dave Maddock, John Mecita, Dianne Pearson  
**Sporting Hero:** Jessica Ennis  
**High School/College:** Holden Lane High School, Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College

**Sporting History**
I started gymnastics when I was three and competed at regional/county level giving me the basic strength and flexibility which gave me a head start.
Then at the age 13 (end of 2006-06) a friend introduced me to kickboxing and straight away I loved it. I kept going and training hard gradually building up my hours and increasing my ability. When my coach felt I was ready I started competing at amateur and national tournaments gaining confidence and experience. until eventually I qualified for my first world championships and became part of the GB squad.
After that the titles kept rolling in taking me all over GB competing and even to other countries such as Croatia for the European Championships, Spain and Germany for the World Championships.
However at the end of a brilliant year only a few months after my 3rd world championship in 2007, I dislocated my knee, snapping my Anterior Cruciate Ligament. I had reconstructive surgery and followed rehab for the whole 7-8 months and then got back fighting. The physio gave me the all clear, but it happened again and I had a second operation from which I’ve finally recovered. I am now also competing strongly in national gymnastics competitions such as the NDPS and various floor and vault competitions and also performing at event and festivals. In addition, for trampolining I am currently working my way up through regional levels hopefully qualifying for the nationals by next year.

**Competitive Record**

**INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS – KICKBOXING**
- 2 x Irish open champion, 2006 + 2007
- Bronze individual medal in Croatia 2006
- Team bronze + silver individual medal in Germany 2007
- Grand Champion 2007
- Super league team champions 2007
- Super league world cup gold 2007
- Senior masters of the mat team gold 2007
- Plus many national titles.

**GYMNASTICS:**
- 8th NDPS tumbling championship finals
- Winning all regional tumbling competitions, both for the club and representing the college
- Winning floor and vault regional titles, including team silver.

**TRAMPOLINING:**
- 2nd team place at Loughborough national college finals
- Winning the regional grades, and even reaching the top mark in order to allow me to leap frog grades.

**Ambition:**
To get back fighting, and claim the world gold numerous times. To get freestyle kickboxing into the Olympics and become a recognised sport, and to dominate the grand championship title.
To win NDPS in gymnastics and when I go to uni win BUSA’s.
Reach Fig B level in trampolining.

**Sporting Motto:**
Never give up, keep chasing that dream because if you dream hard enough it will come true.
Bethany Johnson
Taekwondo

Age: 13
DOB: 23/05/1997
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Stoke-on-Trent
Clubs: Stoke UTA Taekwondo
Coach: Peter Johnson
Sporting Hero: Sarah Stevenson
Olympic bronze medallist, Taekwondo Beijing 2008.

Sporting History
I started WTF Olympic Taekwondo in 2000, when I was 3 years old. My dad who teaches the sport introduced me to it. I also did eight years of ballet, tap and disco dancing at the Angela Beardmore Academy. I did this for eight years. I was also part of the COSSACC’s swimming club, which I did for two years. I have recently taken my hockey umpiring course as well as playing for the school team. But the main sport I focus on and enjoy is Taekwondo.

Competitive Record
2010 – Korean open, Gumi, Bronze medallist
2010 – Scottish open, Faikirk, Silver medallist
2010 – London open, Crawley, Gold medallist
2010 – Dorset open, Bournemouth, Gold medallist
2010 – Northern Ireland open, Belfast, Gold medallist
2010 – Milton Keynes open, Milton Keynes, Gold medallist
2010 – London masters open, Crawley, Gold medallist
2010 – BTCB national fighting championships, Sports city, Bronze medallist
2010 – BTCB national poomsae championships, Sheffield, Gold medallist individual and pairs.

Ambition:
My ambition is to improve my performance as I move up into the junior category, and hopefully medal in the 2011 BTCB national poomsae championships. I want to compete internationally in 2011, then to further develop to world standard in 2012 and medal in the World championships and maybe the Olympics.

Sporting Motto:
Kick higher, stronger and compete longer! Confidence and belief is the key to achieve!

Aaron Lymer
Trampolining

Age: 13
DOB: 20/6/1997
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Stoke on Trent
Clubs: Stoke Elite Trampoline Club
Coach: Laura Davis and Louise Finney
Sporting Hero: James Higgins

Sporting History
Competed at a national level. Qualified to the British trampoline championships, held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham where I came 1st.

This competitive season I have also qualified to a Fig B level which will allow me to trial for international events in the future.

Competed in gymnastics at a younger age (floor and vault), which introduced me to the sport of trampolining.

Competitive Record
28/3/09 Regional E: 1st place qualify to Regional D
10/1/10 Regional D: 1st place qualify to National C
06/2/10 National C: 9th place qualify to the British National Trampoline Championships
12/6/10 National C: 1st place qualify to Fig B for 2011
24/7/10 British National Championships: 1st place.

Ambition:
Get into the Great Britain squad 2011, retain at a Fig B level for all of 2011, trial for Home Nations, also trial of World age groups held in Birmingham in 2011. Represent my country in many international competitions and get into a future Olympics.

Sporting Motto:
Energy and persistence conquer all things.
Age: 12  
DOB: 31/03/1998  
Place of Birth: Newcastle Under Lyme  
Hometown: Middleport, Stoke on Trent  
Clubs: Stoke AC  
Coach: George Cooper  
Sporting Hero: Michael Rimmer and Usain Bolt  
High School/College: Haywood Engineering College  
Rankings:  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event AG</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 U13</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 U13</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 U13</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 U13</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 U13</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 U13</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sporting History**  
I have been really interested in sport from a very young age. When I was 6, I joined the Star Track group at Northwood Stadium which I really enjoyed. I stayed in this group until I was 10 then I was asked if I wanted to join Stoke AC. I was approached by George Cooper who asked me to do a time trial in the 100m to see if I was good enough to join the Young Athletes Team. I was successful and was picked for the team even though I was underage. I initially competed in the 100m and 200m and did really well. I continued to train with George twice a week and started to improve. The following year George entered me in the 800m which I really excelled in, I got a PB of 2.25 when I was 11 years old. During my last season I worked really hard and achieved a great deal, I reached National Standard in the 100m, 200m and 800m gaining Grade 1 in all events. I broke the Stoke AC record in the 800m by 3 seconds with a time of 2.13.2 which has stood since 1999. I also broke the Staffs County Championships record in 800m, Shropshire vs Staffordshire schools record, the Stoke AC Open Meet record, the Staffordshire Schools Championships record, as well as 3 other records in different open meets and all the schools records. My best achievement was to get Athlete of the Match in the National Young Athletes Auxiliary Final 2010 at Sport City in Manchester for my 800m.

**Competitive Record**  
800m, 1st Nottingham, McCain UK Young Athletes League Midland Premier N - Match A  
800m, 1st Stafford, Staffordshire Schools Year 7&8 Championships  
800m, 1st Telford, Shropshire Schools v Staffordshire Schools Year 7 & 8  
800m, 1st Sportcity, McCain UK Young Athletes League - Auxiliary Final  
800m, 1st Brierley Hill, McCain UK Young Athletes League Midland Premier N  
800m, 1st Blackpool, Blackpool Wyre & Fylde AC Medal Meeting  
200m, 2nd Derby, McCain UK Young Athletes League Midland Premier N  
200m, 1st Stoke, McCain UK Young Athletes League Midland Premier N  
200m, 1st Brierley Hill, McCain UK Young Athletes League Midland Premier N  
200m, 1st Blackpool, Blackpool Wyre & Fylde AC Medal Meeting  
100m, Q Sportcity, Dash Young Athlete Quadrathlon  
100m, Q Sportcity, Dash Young Athlete Quadrathlon

**Ambition:**  
To run for GB and compete at the Olympic Games.

**Sporting Motto:**  
No pain no gain!
Deo Milandu

Decathlon

Age: 18
DOB: 30/10/1992
Place of Birth: Democratic Republic of Congo
Hometown: Stoke on Trent
Clubs: Stoke AC
Coach: Geoff Ward
Sporting Hero: Usain Bolt
High School/College: Sandon Business & Enterprise College & Stoke on Trent 6th Form College

Sporting History
Athletics for County, region and country.
Football for the Stoke schoolboys.
Basketball for my school team.
Rugby for Stoke Rugby Club.

Competitive Record
Silver medal at the AAA championship for decathlon.
Competed for the county in hurdles at the English schools for three years.
Competed for the county in decathlon at the multi-events championship at the English schools for four years.
Two times Northwest champion for multi-events.

Ambition:
To become an Olympic, World and European champion in my chosen event.
To win the lottery.
To hold a record.

Sporting Motto:
What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.

Louis Preston

Track cycling

Age: 15
DOB: 12/07/1995
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Stoke on Trent
Clubs: Lyme Racing
Coach: Martyn Shaw
Sporting Hero: Sir Chris Hoy
High School/College: James Brindley High School & Specialist Science College

Sporting History
I started cycling after seeing the Tour of Britain in 2008. My Dad brought me a road bike for Christmas that year and I joined Lyme Racing towards the end of the track racing season 2009. I started to compete this year in the British Schools Championships, the Brooks Cycles Track league at Lyme Valley stadium and the National Youth Track Championships. Next year I will be intending to compete in more events and hope to be more competitive getting better results over the winter. Before the season starts I will be training hard to achieve this.

Competitive Record
• British schools national champion 2010 (first year racing)
• BSCA roller racing national 2nd regional 1st
• BSCA grass track national and regional 1st
• BSCA hard track 5th national
• BSCA time trail 6th national 3rd regional
• National junior track championships
• Flying 200m sprint 21st national
• 500m time trial 7th national
• Brooks cycle track league finished over all 3rd

Ambition:
To become a professional track cyclist and compete against others as part of the GB team, also compete in the Olympics and Commonwealth games for my country.
**Sophie Powell**

**Rowing**

**Sporting History**

I started Rowing when I was 11 years old, and have been competing for 4 years now. I have always loved many different sports including Karate, Swimming, Netball, and Rounders, being the main ones. When I originally started rowing, I liked it because it was something I had never experienced before and when I went to the after school club, the coach Darren thought I would be better suited to being a cox in rowing, as I am very small and light, which is ideal for a cox. So I went down to Trentham Gardens lake and gave coxing a go and loved it, because, it gives a sense of power and control, and it’s good for letting anger out.

**Competitive Record**

In total I have 69 medals. 5 are national medals, ranging in Bronze, Silver and Gold.

My first ever National championships I came 1st.

My most recent national competition I came second, when coxing a women’s eight.

**Ambition:**

To win even more medals, be a part of the Great Britain squad and race in an Olympics.

**Sporting Motto:**

Winners never quit and quitters never win.

---

**Ashlie-Jade Scarlett**

**Dance**

**Sporting History**

I began dancing at the age of 3. I started to compete in various competitions across the country at the age of 11 before giving me many opportunities to perform on the Regent Theatre stage. In 2010, I became a member of the Wilkes Academy where I dance, sing and act. Following this, I danced at Soccer Aid in 2010 in front of 79,000 spectators. I am currently part of a dance group called ‘Dolly Mix’ and we recently came 3rd in the Stoke’s Top Talent.

**Competitive Record**

13/03/2011- European Dance Masters, 1st place.
11/12/2010- UK dance masters, 1st place.
22/05/2010- Midlands Masters, 1st place.
03/10/2009- Masters In Line Northern Cup, 1st place.
2010 - Midlands UDO duo’s- 1st place.
2009 - North West Street Dance UDO, 1st place.
Soccer Aid 2010 Robinson Crusoe Pantomime 2010

**Ambition:**

My ambition is to come first at the World Masters in Line Dancing and eventually become a professional dancer.

**Sporting Motto:**

Dream your dreams with open eyes and make them come true.
Sporting History
I had never been very interested in sport, apart from football, until I went to the after school rowing club at school. I basically went to try and get fitter and I loved it as soon as I started going. There were five other girls my age that showed talent at rowing so we formed a team. In November 2007 we had our first race and won it by 18 seconds. A week later we were British Champions at the British Indoor Rowing Championships. Since then we have gone from strength to strength racing all over the country, gaining an impressive reputation and even a British record. This last summer we were given the privilege to race for our country in Ireland. We were ecstatic, however, because we had been picked due to our performance in the age eighteen category, the people we raced were up to four years older than us. We had the race of our lives and came second which is amazing. We also smashed our previous best for 2000m.

Competitive Record
International race:
2nd place
National races:
6 golds  6 silvers  2 bronze
Smaller/regional regattas and heads around the country:
20 golds  2 silvers

Ambition: To enjoy and make the most of life whatever I do.

Sporting Motto: Believe!

Nicole Stephens
Rowing

Age: 15
DOB: 04/06/1995
Place of Birth: Derby
Hometown: Stoke-on-Trent
Clubs:
Trentham Boat Club
Coach: Daz Barton

Matthew Stevenson
Swimming

Age: 12
DOB: 26/12/1997
Place of Birth: Staffordshire
Hometown: Stoke on Trent
Clubs:
Biddulph Amateur Swimming Club
Coach: Peter Abbott
Sporting Hero: Michael Phelps
High School/College: Haywood Engineering College

Sporting History
I swim for Biddulph ASC. I have represented Staffordshire at County level and also at National County Championships. I have also swam for the North Midlands in the Inter Association Finals. My best achievement was to reach the National Age Group Championships in Sheffield this year. Even though it is early in the swimming season, I have just qualified to swim in next year’s National Championships 2011, 13 year old age group. I am now a member of the England Team Development Squad.

Competitive Record
British Gas National Age Group Silver Medallist
100m Butterfly
British Gas National Age Group Silver Medallist
200m Butterfly
North Midland Inter Association Final Gold Medallist
100m Butterfly
North Midland Inter Association Final Gold Medallist
200m Butterfly

Ambition: To swim for Team GB

Sporting Motto: SWIM HARD AND SWIM TO WIN

Matthew Stevenson
Swimming

Age: 12
DOB: 26/12/1997
Place of Birth: Staffordshire
Hometown: Stoke on Trent
Clubs:
Biddulph Amateur Swimming Club
Coach: Peter Abbott
Sporting Hero: Michael Phelps
High School/College: Haywood Engineering College

Sporting History
I swim for Biddulph ASC. I have represented Staffordshire at County level and also at National County Championships. I have also swam for the North Midlands in the Inter Association Finals. My best achievement was to reach the National Age Group Championships in Sheffield this year. Even though it is early in the swimming season, I have just qualified to swim in next year’s National Championships 2011, 13 year old age group. I am now a member of the England Team Development Squad.

Competitive Record
British Gas National Age Group Silver Medallist
100m Butterfly
British Gas National Age Group Silver Medallist
200m Butterfly
North Midland Inter Association Final Gold Medallist
100m Butterfly
North Midland Inter Association Final Gold Medallist
200m Butterfly

Ambition: To swim for Team GB

Sporting Motto: SWIM HARD AND SWIM TO WIN

Matthew Stevenson
Swimming

Age: 12
DOB: 26/12/1997
Place of Birth: Staffordshire
Hometown: Stoke on Trent
Clubs:
Biddulph Amateur Swimming Club
Coach: Peter Abbott
Sporting Hero: Michael Phelps
High School/College: Haywood Engineering College

Sporting History
I swim for Biddulph ASC. I have represented Staffordshire at County level and also at National County Championships. I have also swam for the North Midlands in the Inter Association Finals. My best achievement was to reach the National Age Group Championships in Sheffield this year. Even though it is early in the swimming season, I have just qualified to swim in next year’s National Championships 2011, 13 year old age group. I am now a member of the England Team Development Squad.

Competitive Record
British Gas National Age Group Silver Medallist
100m Butterfly
British Gas National Age Group Silver Medallist
200m Butterfly
North Midland Inter Association Final Gold Medallist
100m Butterfly
North Midland Inter Association Final Gold Medallist
200m Butterfly

Ambition: To swim for Team GB

Sporting Motto: SWIM HARD AND SWIM TO WIN
James Taylor  
Athletics (Sprint Hurdles)

Age: 15  
DOB: 09/02/95  
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent  
Hometown: Stoke on Trent  
Clubs: City of Stoke AC  
Coach: Don Mossn  
Sporting Hero: Colin Jackson  
High School/College: St Peters CE High School & International Language College

Sporting History  
I joined Stoke Athletics Club in 2004 as a Sprinter and started competing for them when I was 11 (at Under 13’s), that was in 2006. Half way through the season I started hurdling, finishing 10th in the UK rankings. The next season I had a successful season this time finishing 1 in the UK. In 2009 I won all the major Indoor and Outdoor Championships and finished Number 1 in the UK yet again.

Competitive Record  
2007: Staffordshire Schools and Staffordshire County Champion and record holder.  
2009: Staffordshire County and Midland Regional Champion (Indoor & Outdoor), & County Record Holder.  
Staffordshire Schools Champion & Record Holder.  
English Schools Champion, UK Champion and Number 1 Ranking in the UK.

Ambition:  
To represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games and World Championships.

Sporting Motto:  
To be the best that I can.

South Stoke School Sport Partnership

Ryan Bithell  
Boxing

Age: 15  
DOB: 07/02/1995  
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent  
Hometown: Stoke on Trent  
Clubs: Queensberry Amateur boxing club  
Coach: Mark Griffiths, Lee McLaren & Scott Donnelly  
Sporting Heroes: Mohammed Ali, Joe Calzaghe, Manny Pacquiao, David Haye, Ricky Hatton & Mike Tyson  
High School/College: Berryhill High School

Sporting History  
I’ve been boxing for 6 years and have had approximately 20 boxing matches, I am currently midlands champion for two years running and have boxed for the Nationals and for England. Boxing has changed my life and have expectations to go far in this sport. I have represented Staffordshire on numerous occasions and took part in many championships.

Competitive Record  
Midlands champion x2  
Royal Navy ABA national school boys runner-up  
England four nations Silver medallist  
Represented Staffordshire in Sweden, at the Angered Centrum Box Cup in a suburb of Gothenburg.

Ambition:  
I hope one day, to become a world champion in boxing. I believe I have the heart and dedication to go far.  
Sporting Quotes that have become my mottos:  
“Impossible is nothing”. (Muhammed Ali)  
“I hate every minute of training but don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion”. (Muhammed Ali)
**Tammy Bloor**  
**Rowing**

**Sporting History**  
I have been rowing for 6 years so far as I started in the scheme ‘project oarsome’ in my last year of primary school. I have competed in many local and national and also international events and love my sport. I hope to continue rowing throughout my life as it keeps me fit and healthy.

**Competitive Record**  
I have won a total of 94 medals and tankards so far.  
National medals:  
Gold: 7  
Silver: 6  
Bronze: 4

I have also represented England in the Home International Regatta 2010 in Cork, Ireland. I competed in an eight and came 2nd.

I have also represented Trentham Boat Club at Women’s Henley where I was part of a coxed four and came 3rd but we delightfully still hold the course record.

**Ambition:**  
To study biomedical science at university and become a microbiologist.

**Sporting Motto:**  
The more you out into something the more you get out of it.

---

**Jack Buckley**  
**Badminton**

**Sporting History**  
I started playing badminton and football when I was 4 years old. Junior Badminton classes started with Ken Steele in Junior at 6, I then joined the North Staffs Centre of Excellence and then Staffordshire County when I was 8 years old.

I currently train at with the Staffordshire County squad and also at the Potteries Performance Centre for around 6 hrs per week, also playing competitively for at least 4 hrs per week.

Football matches and training with Bradwell Bombers also helps with my fitness and agility.

I currently play for Trentham badminton club, the County U13’s team as well as entering National Tournaments and being ranked No2 at U12 singles in England.

**Competitive Record**  
Last year I was ranked No1 at doubles and became the National doubles champion, I was also ranked No2 in England at singles and came runner-up at the U11 Nationals.

I reached the ¼ finals of the Singles and doubles at the OLVE International tournament in Belgium last April.

I have 61 medals and trophies in total, 17 being won at a National level.

This year I am the No1 County player at U13 and No3 at U15 level and have won 10 medals so far in local and National tournaments.

**Ambition:**  
To play Badminton for England and become a professional badminton player.

**Sporting Motto:**  
Champions are not made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream, a vision. They have to have the skill, and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill.
Emily Butler
Rowing

Age: 15
DOB: 21/8/95
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Newcastle Under Lyme
Clubs: Trentham Boat club
Coach: Darren Barton
Sporting Hero: Steve Redgrave
High School/College: St Joseph’s College

Sporting History
I started out as a competitive club swimmer until Year 8. I began rowing in Year 6 as part of Project Oarsome and was Year 6 champion. At High School, Darren came to school and I continued to row both at school and at the club. From there, I took more and more interest and at the start of Year 8 started rowing competitively, having to stop swimming as I wanted to commit to rowing. After this, the competition got more serious and so training got more intense. I now train 5 times a week, and compete at local, regional and national level regularly. The fitness I gain from rowing training enables me to represent my School and City at swimming, cross country and athletics.

Competitive Record
I compete regularly but the highlights of my competitive record have been winning Gold at the National Championships of Great Britain in a quad in 2009 and winning gold at the National Championships of Great Britain in an eight in 2010. I was also part of a gold medal quad at the British Indoor Championships in 2008 (setting a championship record) and 2010. The pinnacle of my rowing success to date has been representing England in an Eight in July 2010 at the Home International Regatta, in Cork.

Ambition:
To continue to train hard, and hopefully represent my country again. To work towards GB trials.

Sporting Motto:
You only get out as much as you put in.

Rebecca Dell
Rowing

Age: 15
DOB: 08/02/1995
Place of Birth: Hemel Hempstead
Hometown: Newcastle Under Lyme
Clubs: Trentham Boat Club
Coach: Darren Barton
Sporting Hero: Steve Redgrave
High School/College: St Joseph’s College

Sporting History
I have been rowing for 4 and 1/2 years at Trentham Boat Club based at Trentham Gardens. Before rowing I had never really excelled in any other sports, and was beginning to accept that I wasn’t cut out to be the next sporting star. But in the summer of 2007 I participated in a small indoor rowing event down at the lake where I placed high in the rankings. My dad spoke to my coach Darren and I became involved in the rowing club at Trentham Gardens. As soon as I attended my first session I knew that rowing was the sport for me and was very quickly spending the majority of my free time training towards local and/or national events.

Competitive Record
36 gold medals locally
2 silver medals locally
13 national medals
7 gold national medals
2 silver national medals
4 bronze national medals
In 2010 I rowed in an 8 and a 4 at the British rowing Championships, gaining gold in both. This then lead to me and my team mates being selected to row for England at the home countries regatta.

Ambition:
I have many ambitions for the future, my main one being to attend the Olympics and bring back a gold medal. For the short term I wish to enter the junior GB squad and represent GB at the Junior Rowing World Championships.

Sporting Motto:
“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will” – Vincent Lombardi
### Rebecca Martin
**Archery**

**Age:** 15  
**DOB:** 08/01/96  
**Place of Birth:** Stoke on Trent  
**Hometown:** Meir  
**Clubs:** Trent Valley  
**Coach:** Lloyd Brown  
**Sporting Hero:** Alison Williamson  
**High School/College:** Sandon Business & Enterprise College

**Sporting History**
I began doing archery just over four years ago when my primary school did a have a go session. I did my first competition, which was the Staffs outdoor Champs, six months later, and became under 13 Staffs outdoor Champ. I won the same award the following year and won the under 16 age group last year. I am the under 16 National indoor and outdoor champ, and for the last two years have been named Archer of the Year. I shoot regularly with the Staffs junior squad and am also a member of the senior squad. I have represented England as a junior 4 times and have competed for England twice as a senior. I gained a place on the Great British Archery Team in September 2010 and competed for them twice in the same year: first in Italy for the Junior Europa Cup in May 2010 where I finished 17th overall and again in Germany for the Junior European Championships in July 2010 where I finished 17th overall.

**Competitive Record**
- Junior National Outdoor Championships for the last 3 years.  
- Junior National Indoor Championships for the last 3 years.  
- European Junior Outdoor Championships 2010.  
- Junior Europa Cup 2010.  
- Senior Indoor Championships for the last 3 years.  
- British Target Championships for the last 2 years.

**Ambition:**  
- Short term; to continue to improve and to continue to shoot for Great Britain.  
- Midterm; to go to the Junior World Championships and come home with a medal.  
- Long term; to shoot at the Olympics and to win a gold medal.

---

### Archie Scott
**Cycling**

**Age:** 12  
**DOB:** 02/02/99  
**Place of Birth:** Stoke on Trent  
**Hometown:** Newcastle Under Lyme  
**Clubs:** Lyme Racing Club  
**Coach:** Paul Swinnerton  
**Sporting Hero:** Sir Chris Hoy  
**High School/College:** St Joseph’s College

**Sporting History**

**Competitive Record**
- Club Hill Climb winner U12 2009  
- British Schools Cycling Association (BSCA) Under 10 National Best All Rounder 2009 (including three gold and one silver)  
- BSCA National Silvers in Rollers & Grass Track (U12) 2010  
- BSCA National Bronze roller race (U12) March 2011

**Ambition:**
- To win the BSCA National Bar 2010/11 Under 12s.  
- To become a Professional Cyclist.

**Sporting Motto:**
Give it all you’ve got.
Sporting History
I started playing badminton at the age of 5 years old every Saturday morning as a hobby. I then began to play more often as I was enjoying the sport very much and I slowly progressed to the level at which I play at today which is internationally.

Competitive Record
In the U13 nationals at Milton Keynes I came 2nd in the singles event and in the doubles event. I have represented England many times in places like Denmark, Sweden, Wales and Belgium. Here I have won some very important matches helping the team to do so well in the team events. As well as some strong performances in the team events some of my individuals have been good too; my most successful international result is getting to the semi finals in U13s at Greve, Denmark in the Doubles event.

Ambition:
My ambition is for my living to be playing badminton for England and I would also love to represent Britain in the Olympic Games.

Sporting Motto:
Never Give up.
Robert Stinton
WTF Olympic Taekwondo

Age: 14
DOB: 30/07/96
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Stoke on Trent
Clubs: Stoke UTA
Coach: Master Peter Johnson
Sporting Hero: Aaron Cook, Bruce Lee
High School/College: Berryhill High School & Sports College

Sporting History
Tae-Kwon-Do started for me at a young age, I've now being training for about 4 years and I have achieved national medal's, and international medal's, training is a big part of my life, and I train around 4-5 times a week usually go to the gym every other day. I train for speed and train for fitness and speed at the gym, I like most sport's and after I have mastered Tae-Kwon-Do I wish to either join the national team or join a different martial art and follow Bruce Lee.

Competitive Record
National Champion 2010-12-15
London International Champion 2010
British masters open champion 2010-12-15
3rd place in national championships 2007
London open 2009 1st
Barnsley Open 1st

Ambition:
Olympics 2012, 2016
World Championships
National Champion 2011, 2012
British national team.

Eleanor Thomas
Rowing

Age: 15
DOB: 07/02/95
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Stoke on Trent
Clubs: Trentham Boat Club
Coach: Darren Barton
Sporting Hero: Katherine Grainger
High School/College: St Joseph's College

Sporting History
I have been rowing since I was 11, after Darren Barton, the coach at Trentham Boat Club, came into our Year 7 PE lessons. We learnt the basics of rowing on the machines, and then I was asked to go along to the club, at Trentham Gardens, where I learnt to row on the water. Rowing for Trentham Boat Club was something different for me, because up until that point I swam for COSACSS, and I really enjoyed the change. Rowing has become my life, and I couldn't imagine not spending my time training and competing for my team.

Competitive Record
In total I have around 40 medals from regattas and heads on the water as well as indoor medals. I have competed in the National Championships of Great Britain, which I have won in a quad and an eight. I have competed in the British Indoor Rowing Championships 3 times, in which I have won gold in the team events all times. I also competed in the English Championships twice; I won gold in the relay both times and 3rd in the individual. After winning gold at the National Championships in Scotland, the 8 that I was a part of got selected to represent England in the Home International Regatta. We came second in our race against the Irish crew, the points that we gained in our race meant that overall the English Junior Women’s Team won, after being in 3rd before the race.

Ambition:
I would like to go for GB Trials next year and become part of the Great British Team, and eventually I would like to take part in the Olympics. I would like to represent my country again in the Home Internationals 2011 and win as many National races as possible this year.

Sporting Motto:
Quitters never win, and winners never quit.
Christopher Yates
Skiing

Age: 15
DOB: 08/01/96
Place of Birth: Newcastle under Lyme
Hometown: Newcastle under Lyme
Clubs: Telford Ski club
Coach: Richard Breeze and Chris Blagdon (ex-Olympian)
Sporting Hero: Bode Miller
High School/College: St Joseph’s College

Sporting History
I’ve been skiing since I was 5. I started to race slalom skiing when I was 7 on the ski slope in Stoke on Trent. Since then I have competed every year progressing from “fun” races to National races and Grand Prix races. I have raced in the Alps in Bormio in Italy and I have trained regularly in Alpbach in Austria with Telford ski club where I am a member.

Competitive Record
I have won many races in my age group over the years, too many to list them all. I won my first trophy when I was 7 winning the Rossendale Summer League series.

In 2010 I won the Children 2 (U15) Grand Prix series on the dry slopes coming top after 5 races up and down the UK. I went to Dublin in October 2010 and won the Irish U15 championship and the European dry slope championship for my age group.

I also represented England during 2010 in dry slope racing.

Ambition:
I would love to become a fully fledged member of the British ski team and compete at a high level with the Olympics being the highest possible ambition.

Sporting Motto:
Train hard, ski hard, keep smiling!

Lee Brown
Dance

Age: 16
DOB: 02/05/94
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Biddulph
Clubs: - Sunshine Studios
      - Centre for advanced training in dance
High School/College: Biddulph High School

Sporting History
Dance: Began Hip Hop Dance 3 years ago, Ballet and contemporary dance almost 2 years ago.
Successfully auditioned the Centre For Advanced Training in Dance (CAT Scheme) in Manchester UK which gives talented young dancers a chance to get world class training with a more affordable budget as part of the governments music and dance scheme.
Appeared in a dance film made by professional film maker, Wayne Stables.
Performed in numerous well known theatres and events.
Appears on the poster and flyer for the CAT scheme (picture to the left).
Teaches a weekly class to teenagers every Tuesday in Stoke.

Competitive Record
Competed in numerous Competitions across the UK:
• 1st place in Northwest Championships Jan 2010
• 4th Place in British Championships Feb 2010
• 2nd Place in Cheshire Championships
• Been selected to perform in London for world championships at the O2 Arena
• 2nd place in Midland Championships September 2009
• Got to the finals of the world championships 2010

Ambition:
My ambition is to become a professional dancer or choreographer and for my face to be recognised worldwide by people in order to inspire them to get more out of their lives.
I want to be able to prove to people that boys can dance and make it big in the industry and I want to show that nothing I impossible.

Sporting Motto:
Always push forward as there is no going back.
William Gallimore-Tallen  
**Fencing**

**Sporting History**
I was nearly 9 years old when I first started fencing at Longsdon near Leek.
I started competitive fencing in the Leon Paul Junior Series under 11 foil, which is a national ranking. I have now just started to fence in the under 15 foil age group.
Recently I have competed in open competition’s (fencing adults) and mainly getting through the first round of the direct eliminations.

**Competitive Record**
Leon Paul Junior Series:
2008 Under 11: one silver medal and one bronze medal.
2010 Under 13: two silver medals and two bronze medals.
I am now 299th on the senior rankings in the country.
At the age of 12 I qualified to fence for the West Midlands U14 British Youth Championships, I finished 20th.
On the 22nd January 2011 I will be attending the British Youth Championship Qualifiers to represent the West Midlands again in the U14 category in May.

**Ambition:**
To gain the Master of Arms in all three weapons.
To become a fencing master.
To fence for GBR in the 2020 Olympics.
To fence for GBR in the Junior World Championships when I am 16.

**Sporting Motto:**
“No retreat, no surrender.”

---

Michael Harding  
**Running**

**Sporting History**
Running – Started at the age of 10, been running for a club since the age of 12.
Football - Trials for Stoke City Football Club U12’s and played two games.
Decided not to carry on playing football to concentrate on athletics and cross country.

**Competitive Record**
U13 Staffordshire AAA cross country champion.
13th in English schools national championships.
Staffordshire Schools 1500m champion.
Competed little in the next years due to injury.
2009 English schools cross country championships, came 1st out of the Staffordshire team.
2010 Staffordshire schools cross country 3rd place competing against older athletes.
2011 Staffordshire AAA cross country, 5th position in the U20 age category, qualifying for the inter counties cross country championships.

**Ambition:**
Short term – Become the best U12 cross country/road runner in Staffordshire.
Medium term – Become one of the best U12 regional cross country/road runners.
Long term - To get selected to run for England, allowing me to go to bigger events like the Commonwealth Games and European championships.
My ultimate dream would be the 2012 Olympics but I believe I will be too young still so I’m aiming towards the 2016 Olympics.

**Sporting Motto:**
‘No pain, no gain’
Paige Ann Milward  
Track/Road Cycling

Sporting History
From the age of 3yrs – 10yrs old, I did various dance classes and as a class we competed in competitions, against the best dance schools in the UK and we came 4th.

Track Cycling, I started at 11 years old July 2008 at Newcastle track I did freewheelers, on my BMX. In 2009 I did the track national championships and I came 4th. I started road cycling in 2010, and succeeded through out the year in the national circuit racing.

Skiing: I started when I was 4 years old, and our skiing holidays I went into ski school and we competed against each other, and I won most of my races.

Competitive Record
2010 results first year U14
Track:
National scratch U16 championships 4th. Inter regional championships, bronze in the Kieran’s. I was selected to ride for the pro Motor Point team in the revolution at Manchester, in the Madison 2nd.

Road:
Isle of Man youth Tour, over 3 days, 7th. Holland Mierlo, over 5 days, 1st girl and 2nd overall. National championships Hog hill, 10th. UK School of Games, silver in Team Road Race and silver in Team Time Trial.

Ambition:
To continually improve in all my area’s in cycling and to be selected by British cycling to go on there Talent Program, and eventually to compete for Great Britain in the Olympics and come home with a gold medal!

Sporting Motto:
“When things get hard, dig deep”

Jade Rogers  
Windsurfing

Sporting History
I started windsurfing at Carsington reservoir at 9yrs old, where I attended Team 15 a club that aimed to improve young windsurfers. From this I then went on to be selected for the North West Zone Squad for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008. During these 2 years I also attended my first Junior world championships in Sopot Poland where I got my first taste of racing in a huge fleet of talented girls. Following this I was selected for the National Junior Squad 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

Competitive Record
22nd Sopot Poland Junior Worlds 2008
10th Lacanaea France Junior Europeans 2009
12th Weymouth England Junior Worlds 2009
National Inland Junior champion 2009/ 1st girl
Weymouth UK Youth Olympic Qualifiers 1st girl 2010
11th Italy European Youth Olympic Qualifiers 2010
15th Martiques Frances Junior Worlds 2010
11th Youth Olympic Games Singapore 2010

Ambition:
To compete in the Olympic Games.

Sporting Motto:
Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.
Jordan Adelburgh
Volleyball

Age: 15
DOB: 24/06/1995
Place of Birth: Newcastle Under Lyme
Hometown: Loggerheads
Clubs: Newcastle
Coach: Will Roberts
High School/College: Madeley High School

Sporting History
I first started playing in year 7 for Madeley high but then I got noticed as I was making fast progress and I played with the year group above me. Then in year 8 and 9 I and my team reached the national finals. In year 10 I played for the west-midlands team which I was captain for a game and we came 5th overall, this is where I got scouted for the England team and in July they asked me to go to a week’s long camp. England coach has since then invited me back to all of the camps. In September I went to Italy with the U18s Newcastle staffs team to represent England as we won the national title, then we came 8th in the euro volley cup. During the Easter weekend I have the chance to go to Italy with the England team and I will be looking forward to that.

Competitive Record
2008 - National Finals 2009- National Semi-Finals 2010- Interregionals
2010 - Scouted by England cadets 2010- Euro volley cup in Italy

Ambition:
I have been invited to Loughborough to be apart of the volleyball academy, and through this I would like to progress more and get a professional contract abroad. After I have done that I would want to try and play in the Olympics.

Evian Banks-Johns
Athletics

Age: 12
DOB: 06/10/1998
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Stoke on Trent
Clubs: City of Stoke
Coach: Helen Keith
Sporting Hero: Pele, Michael Johnson, Williams sisters, Usain Bolt
High School/College: St John Fisher Catholic College

Sporting History
I have represented the school and City of Stoke Athletics squads and have always enjoyed competing.

Competitive Record
Under 11 100m and 200m school record holder.
Power of 10 under 11’s ranked 1st in the UK (100m)
100m - 12.45 secs
200m – 26.71 secs
Long Jump – 5 m 10
Standing High Jump – 65 cm

Ambition:
To be the fastest person in the world.
To represent Great Britain or Jamaica in Athletics and go to the Olympic Games.

Sporting Motto:
Work hard and reap the rewards.
Sallie Birchall
Cycling

Age: 13
DOB: 05/06/97
Place of Birth: Newcastle Under Lyme
Hometown: Newcastle Under Lyme
Clubs: Lyme Racing Club
Coach: Paul Swinnerton
Sporting Hero: Victoria Pendleton
High School/College: St John Fisher Catholic College

Sporting History
I have only been competing at National Level for one season.
I compete in road, track and cyclocross.
I was chosen to ride in a series of track sessions with British cycling and DHL sponsored them, on the last one we raced all day and the top 7 girls qualified for the final at the revolution.

Competitive Record
• British School Association 2010 – 3RD overall
• Best U16 girl at Newcastle Track League 2010
• Manchester Track League
• National Omnium Series

Ambition:
Win a National Jersey.

Sporting Motto:
Be strong you can do it.

Samuel Birchall
Cycling

Age: 15
DOB: 27/03/1995
Place of Birth: Newcastle Under Lyme
Hometown: Newcastle Under Lyme
Clubs: Velocity 3 in 1 CNP
Coach: Chris Pyatt
Sporting Hero: Bradley Wiggins
High School/College: St John Fisher Catholic College

Sporting History
Started racing about 3 years ago for Lyme Racing Club.
Competing Nationally for 2 years.
Signed for a professional team in 2011.

Competitive Record
Newcastle Youth Champion 2008 and 2009.
2009 Qualified for Omnium final in Manchester.
2010 West Midland round of National Omnium.
National Track Championships
National Circuit Series
British Schools Cycling Association ranked 2nd
2011 British Cycling Sprint School Championship.

Ambition:
Become a professional cyclist.

Sporting Motto:
You reap what you sow.
George Edwards
Cycling

**Sporting History**

I started cycling when I was offered the chance to go on a coast to coast cycle ride (Workington to Sunderland), in 2009 age 13, I completed the ride with my dad and his friends. After that my cycling career set off, I joined Lyme Racing Club, who then invited me to ride Grass track sessions, leading to cycling at Newcastle Velodrome in April 2009. This initially led to racing at Newcastle followed by racing at Manchester, Newport, Halesowen, Wolverhampton velodromes and Shrewsbury, Solihull and Warwick circuit races. The list goes on including the Isle of Man National Youth Tour this year. I have also been chosen to attend Olympic talent sessions (Regional school of Racing). I’m loving every minute of it.

**Competitive Record**

2010 National BSCA (British school cycling association)
Under 14’s :-
Grass track championship – Silver
Hill climb championship – Bronze
Rollers championship - 9th
Hard Track Championship – 4th
Cyclo Cross championship – 10th
National BSCA BAR (Best all rounder) 2nd place
Competition in National Omniums at Newport velodrome, Halesowen velodrome, Newcastle velodrome and Wolverhampton.
Two up team time trial – 2nd
Junior Hill Climb Champion 2010
Warwick Closed circuit U14 2009 - 1st

**Ambition:**

To represent my country in either track or road races.

**Sporting Motto:**

Always lead never follow!

---

Adam Ben Finney
Gymnastics

**Sporting History**

I train between 10 and 15 hours per week at City of Stoke Gym Club, Burslem and Lilleshall National Sports Centre.
Training includes conditioning, 6 piece apparatus (pommel, parallel bars, rings, high bar, floor and vault) as well as tumbling.

**Competitive Record**

2007 to present:
10 gold and silver - West Midland floor and vault. 1 gold medal, all round 6 piece.
Individual gold-parallel bars and overall Bronze 6 piece. 8 tumbling gold, silver and bronze which include 2 national competitions.
2008 British national final 4th place.
2010 over 13’s British tumbling champion

**Ambition:**

Continue improving, to get to a higher national level.

**Sporting Motto:**

If gymnastics was easy, they would call it football.
Sophie Goodfellow
Cross country, Hurdles & 1500m

Age: 12
DOB: 02/11/98
Place of Birth: Staffordshire
Hometown: Kidsgrove, Staffordshire
Clubs: Newcastle Staff’s athletic club
Coach: Julia Bailey
Sporting Hero: Kelly Holmes
High School/College: Clough Hall Technology School

Sporting History
I started running when I was 8 years old for Reginald Mitchell primary school. I have always taken part in a lot of other sports but really enjoy running and hurdles. I started going to Newcastle Staff’s AC when I was 10 years old.

Competitive Record
I came first in a variety of events at an inter-school athletics championship competition when I was 11 years old.

I have raced in the Staffordshire inter schools cross country where I came 5th and went on to represent Staffordshire at Bridgnorth.

I have represented Newcastle Athletic club in the north staffs cross country league, the midlands cross country championship and the national cross country championship.

Ambition:
I would like to run for Great Britain at the Olympics in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the 2020 Olympics

Sporting Motto: Always do my best and try to win!

Katie Holt
Athletics / X country

Age: 18
DOB: 07/09/1992
Place of Birth: North Staffs
Hometown: Stoke On Trent
Clubs: City of Stoke AC
Coach: Alan Morris
Sporting Hero: Kelly Holmes
High School/College: Clough Hall Technology School

Sporting History
Midlands champion - Track + X country 2004-2010.
Staffs Champion - Track and X country 2004-2011.
Inter counties Cross country champion 2005+ 2010
English schools 1500m champion twice - Intermediate age group.
English schools X country champion twice and 3rd 2010.
AAA’S champion- 2007 + 2nd 2009 (National track and field championships.)
Represented England in both Track - 1500m and X country.

Competitive Record
• 800m - 2mins.11 secs
• 1500m - 4mins.26 secs
• 3000m - 9mins.55 secs
• Ranked number 1 in the UK for 800m and 1500m in 2007/08.
• Ranked in top 10 for 1500m- 2004-2011.

Ambition:
Commonwealth games 1500m and Olympics 2016 competing for Great Britain.
Ranking number 1 in the UK for 1500m

Sporting Motto: No Pain No Gain!
Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.
Emily Horton
Football

Age: 15
DOB: 01/04/95
Place of Birth: Stoke on Trent
Hometown: Newcastle Under Lyme
Clubs: Stoke city girls centre of excellence
Coach: Dean Latham
Sporting Hero: Gordon Banks
High School/College: St John Fisher Catholic College

Sporting History
I have played for Stoke City girls Centre of Excellence for 5 seasons. I have had an England call up for the U17’s team and the U15’s team. I attend fitness testing and training days.

Ambition:
To play for England’s women’s team and Blackburn women’s team.

Sporting Motto:
Solutions not excuses.

Amiee Howard
Kickboxing

Age: 12
DOB: 21/08/98
Place of Birth: Newcastle Under Lyme
Hometown: Newcastle Under Lyme
Clubs: Black Cobra Kickboxing
Coach: Doug Clarke
Sporting Hero: Lee Charles
High School/College: Newcastle Community High School

Sporting History
Started kickboxing about 5 years ago for Black Cobra Kickboxing Club in Hanley.
Competing Nationally for 5 years & Internationally for 3 years.
Represented Great Britain for 3 years.

Competitive Record
2 x World Titles – Fought in Italy 2008/9.
Class UK Champion – 2009.
17 x 1st Place Winner Medals/Trophies.
5 x 2nd Place & 3 x 3rd Place Medals/Trophies.

Ambition:
To represent Great Britain in future competitions and to take part in the 2016 Olympics.

Sporting Motto:
It’s all in the mind.
Richard James
Volleyball

Sporting History
I started in year 7 and I was noticed as more committed and talented than most in my age group, so I was invited to move onto a higher session and as I progressed through the months I was noticed to be moved to higher sessions on different days. By year 8, I had one my first competition of U14 Champions and reached the U15s national semi-finals. I also played in my first U16s qualifying rounds as the ‘B’ team (Round 1 we came 2nd qualifying to round 2, by Round 2 we came 3rd, so not qualifying to the last 8s.) As a result I was moved up to the ‘A’ team, which was amazing experience. By year 9, I have won my last U14 champions and qualified into the top 8s for the U16s and been accepted into the men’s 2nd team national league. I have qualified to the Top 8s for the U15s national championships and U18s top 8s. My best experience would have to be playing for west midlands in the Inter-Regional’s finishing in 5th out of 8th and this year have been invited to train with the team again and play in the inter-Regional’s and the coach believes I have the potential to be the captain.

Competitive Record
West Midlands
U14 Championships (x2)
U15 National Championships (Last 8s)
U16 National Championships (Last 8s)
U18 National Championships (Last 8s)
Might be going to England camp this year.

Ambition:
My ambition is to go really far in this country with my volleyball and go pro with a contract abroad and hopefully one day play in the Olympics.

Sporting Motto:
Keep Swinging.

Adam Jones
Athletics (Sprinting)

Sporting History
I have represented NCHS, Newcastle under Lyme, Newcastle Staffs A.C and Staffordshire for various events over a 3 year period.
I am currently competing as the fastest Year 9 Boy in Staffordshire and Shropshire over 100m.
I have also played as left wing rugby at a high standard for NCHS and Newcastle Rugby Union Club, scoring around 50 tries in one season.

Competitive Record
Newcastle under Lyme Year 8 Boys 200m All Time Record Holder
Staffordshire and Shropshire Inter County 100m Champion
Undefeated In Heart of England League 3 over 100m
2009 – 3rd in Staffordshire over 200m and 800m
2010- Ranked 1st in Staffordshire for 100m and 2nd over 200m
2011 – I have been unable to compete recently due to injuries and an appendectomy.

Ambition:
My ambition is to represent Team GB in the 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games, and to Represent Team GB in the Future Commonwealth Games and European Championships.

Sporting Motto:
Only I can make myself run faster... it’s all in the mind...
**Kieran Lee**  
**Athletics (Long Jump)**

**Sporting History**
I started athletics 4 years ago, starting with only the school athletics team. After competing in the area schools I got picked up by a city of Stoke coach (George Cooper), this started off my athletics career, I first started as an endurance runner. 800m mainly. 1½ years later I established myself as a long jumper and was chosen to represent Staffordshire in the English schools in the long jump. Earlier that year I won medals in the young athletes league and a Midlands bronze. I was also chosen to compete in the English schools pentathlon. Sadly I was injured during the competition duration. This year I was chosen to compete in the English schools doing the long jump again. I have also been chosen for elite training for 2 days with the Staffordshire team and asked to compete in the indoor inter-counties champs.

**Competitive Record**
I won the long jump in the young athletes auxiliary in 2009 and 2010. Midlands bronze 2009 and 2011. My long jump PB in 2009 ranked me 15th in the UK it was 6m. This year my PB ranked me 42nd it is 6m 35cm.

**Ambition:**
2016 Olympics Competitor.  
2020 Olympic Medallist.

**Sporting Motto:**
Pain is temporary, but winning lasts forever.

---

**Sherry McCue**  
**Football**

**Sporting History**
I started playing football when I was 6 years old for a lads team called Loggerheads Lions, this is when I new I wanted to become a footballer. I then joined a girls team, Bradwell Belles and was playing for both at the age of 7. I then trialled and got selected to play for Stoke City Centre of Excellence. After a season with Stoke, I left because they didn’t allow me to play for 2 teams at one time and it was my last season with the lads. I then had to leave Loggerheads due to my age, as girls couldn’t play with lads after the age of 11. At the age of 11 I trialled for Crewe Centre of Excellence and got selected, for this season I was playing for Bradwell Belles and Crewe. At the end of this season a new rule was bought in, that players weren’t allowed to play for another team while playing for any Centre of Excellence, due to this I left Bradwell. Since then I never looked back, and I’m now playing my last season for Crewe. In June 2009 I as selected for an England under 15’s fixture in Germany against the Germans. This under 15’s Journey didn’t last long as I was then selected for the under 17’s squad at the age of 15. I’ve played 14 games altogether with this I have travelled many places around the world and have not missed a training camp since I’ve been picked. I am now training twice a week 5 days each week, with a game for Crewe on Saturdays and have Sunday as a rest and recovery day. I have recently been selected for a training camp and fixture against Norway. I hope my journey can continue.

**Competitive Record**
14 caps.  
Got through to the second phase of the European Championships twice. First time in 2010 we failed to qualify for the finals, which crushed our chances of playing in the world cup. This year, 2011, the second phase is to be taken place in Poland in April.

**Ambition:**
Play for women’s senior team and win world cup.

**Sporting Motto:**
Pain is temporary…quitting is forever!
Oliver Simpson  
*Water Polo/Swimming*

**Age:** 14  
**DOB:** 02/11/96  
**Place of Birth:** Stoke on Trent  
**Hometown:** Packmoor, Stoke on Trent  
**Clubs:** Water Polo – Parogon  
Swimming – Stockport Metro  
**Coach:** Water Polo – Howard Cartwright  
Swimming – Richard Blackshaw  
**Sporting Hero:** Szecsi Zoltan (Hungarian Water polo goal keeper) (Long Jump WR Holder)  
**High School/College:** Maryhill High School Media Arts College

**Sporting History**  
**Water Polo:**  
- 2009 joined City of Manchester and England Talent Squad.  
- 2011 joined Parogon Polo Club, called up for Great Britain debut in Hungary.  
**Swimming:**  
- Began swimming for Biddulph ASC aged 8 swimming at County and Regional level.  
- Joined Stockport Metro National Squad in 2008 swimming at National level.

**Competitive Record**  
**Water Polo:**  
- 2009 National Championship - Silver Medal with City of Manchester.  
- 2010 Bronze Medal for England Talent Squad in Eger Tournament in Hungary.  
- 2011 Great Britain Team for International Tournament Hungary.  
**Swimming:**  
- British Age Group Championships: Bronze 100 freestyle, Bronze 200 freestyle.  
- 7 North West Regional Championship Gold Medals.  
- 1 Midlands Regional Championship Gold Medal.  
- English Schools Championships Bronze 100 freestyle.  
- Staffordshire County Championships records in 100 and 800 freestyle.

**Ambition:**  
To compete in the Olympics.

**Sporting Motto:**  
Success isn’t something that just happens, success is learned, success is practised and then it is shared.

---

Alex Webb  
*Cycling*

**Age:** 15  
**DOB:** 07/12/95  
**Place of Birth:** Newcastle Under Lyme  
**Hometown:** Newcastle Under Lyme  
**Clubs:** Lyme Racing Club  
**Coach:** Martin Shaw  
**Sporting Hero:** Chris Hoy  
**High School/College:** Sir Thomas Boughey Co-operative Business College

**Sporting History**  
I entered cycling when I was 11. At first I only cycled on the track and enjoyed it a lot. Then I started to compete at the Newcastle - under - Lyme track league, in which I found a passion for racing. I have continued on this track ever since. I was introduced to mountain biking in my second year of track cycling. I did not like the first race and gave it up for a while. I have now returned to mountain biking and enjoy the sport. I was also introduced to roller racing, which I compete in, as well as the mountain biking.

**Competitive Record**  
3rd best all rounder in BSCA (British Schools Cycling Association) for 2009/2010  
3rd national roller champion and 2nd regional roller champion for BSCA in 2010/2011 rounds  
31st national Mountain Biker in the British Mountain Bike Series  
5th in the ACT Track League at Manchester National Indoor Velodrome overall in 2009 and 2010.  
5th at Newcastle - Under - Lyme Track League.

**Ambition:**  
My ambition is to compete and win the World Cup in Mountain Biking. I would also like to win a gold medal at the track cycling in the Olympics.

**Sporting Motto:**  
Try my best in everything, if I do poor at least I have tried my best.
Acknowledgements

Guin Batten, TOP Foundation and Youth Sport Trust
Athlete Mentors Craig Heap and Alex Nelson
Stoke City Football Club
Beswicks Solicitors
Mark Roberts
Richard Harvey
Danielle Wyatt

If you are interested in sponsoring one or more of the athletes included in this booklet and for further information please contact the lead person listed from each of the 4 School Sport Partnerships.

North Stoke SSP
Nigel Edwards (Partnership Development Manager)
nedwards@sgfl.org.uk or call 01782 234449 (Ext 239)

South Stoke SSP
Derek Yeomans (School Sport Co-ordinator)
dyeomans@sgfl.org.uk

Staffordshire Moorlands SSP
Lynne Batigan (School Sport Co-ordinator)
batigan@hotmail.co.uk

Newcastle under Lyme SSP
Deb O’Neill (School Sport Co-ordinator)
d.oneill@sirthomasboughey.staffs.sch.uk

For further information on the STARS programme and the Stoke School Sport Partnership visit www.stokessps.org