Welcome to the Spring edition of the Stoke School Sport Partnerships newsletter. This is the first joint publication aiming to celebrate the Physical Education and School Sport work taking place in the 94 Stoke schools, colleges and academies. Last year was an incredibly busy year to say the least with record numbers of students from across the City benefiting from Partnership activities. Just to give a flavour of our progress some notable highlights are:

- 50% of pupils now take part in Inter-school competition.
- 75% of students now take part in Intra school competition.
- The percentage of active leaders and volunteers has risen from 8% to 22% in four years and Stoke has taken a pioneering role in the development of Leadership Academies nationally.
- 82 out of the 92 Stoke Primary, Secondary and Special schools have been awarded Healthy School Status.
- The percentage of students in Stoke receiving 3 hours of PE and sport within and beyond the curriculum has increased from 42% in 2009 to 52% in 2010.
- The Key Stage 1 Fitzy programme (a local brand delivering physical activity and healthy eating to children under 7 - introduced in 30 City Infant and Primary schools) has had a significant impact in increasing minutes of PE taught, participation in the 3rd hour of sport, intra and inter school competition in the form of Fitzy festivals and the percentage of trained play leaders.

- Stoke has its own gifted and talented STARS Squad with 33 national standard or above athletes across the School Sport Partnerships (SSPs) receiving specialist support.
- The number of students participating in one or more community sports clubs has risen from 19% to 31% in the past five years.
- The Physical Education and School Sport (PESS) curriculum and OSHL offer in SSP schools is now more accessible, more attractive and more relevant to all young people.
- The average number of sporting activities offered in Stoke schools rose from 14.29 in 2004 to 18.14 in 2010.

High quality communication networks exist between schools with staff and students regularly sharing good practice. But let’s not forget that the Stoke School Sport Partnerships are not just about hitting national targets but about students getting involved in sport and having FUN! Just look at the faces on the young people in this newsletter and you’ll undoubtedly see what we mean! What you see in these pages is only a flavour of the activities that the Partnerships have delivered to the young people from virtually every school in the City.

After all this good news however we must sound a note of caution. The coalition government suspended all School Sport Partnership funding. The backlash of this announcement was enormous, especially in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympic games. Questions have been raised in the Houses of Parliament and nearly 750,000 signatures handed in to Downing Street by a delegation of Young Ambassadors on 7th December. Locally the Sentinel and Radio Stoke have been very supportive; you may have seen/heard some of the recent coverage. Stoke Headteachers and Principals have been writing directly to Prime Minister David Cameron and Education Secretary Michael Gove and local MPs Joan Walley and Robert Flello are being very supportive.

As a direct response to the Local and National campaigns Mr Gove announced on 20th December 2010 that some funding for School Sport Partnerships will continue. This is very good news but we await the full details in the New Year to see what new shape the Stoke Partnerships will take. For as long as we humanly can the North and South Stoke SSPs will continue to help young people enjoy a wide range of sport as part of an active healthy lifestyle - lets ‘Stoke Up Sport’!

May we just take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Best Wishes

Nick Smith (South PDM) and Nigel Edwards (North PDM)
Academic year 2010-11 was marked by Fitzy Leadership Training. Over 80 Year 2 pupils from Blurton Primary, Christchurch Primary and Newstead Primary took part in the event, followed by 32 pupils in Years 3 and 4 from Blurton Primary, Newstead Primary and Christchurch Primary in events such as "Speed Bounce", "Bean Bag Tug of War", "High Steppers" and many others. After a high-intensity competition, the eventual winners were from Blurton Primary. The event was ably supported by Young Leaders from the Oribeton Sir Stanley Matthews Academy.

The youngsters who had completed the course were fully engaged and supported. The Sports Leaders had been trained extensively throughout this process, from training a small group of children to the group and responsibilities of a Sports Coach. Feedback from the schools has been excellent, highlighting the benefit of the small-group work which allowed for a greater level of individual progression.

Volunteer Sports Leaders from Stoke-on-Trent College have planned a diverse range of sessions for the children involved, ensuring that the activities were differentiated according to ability and that all participants were fully engaged and supported. The Sports Leaders have benefited enormously throughout this experience by sharing a valuable insight into the group and responsibilities of a Sports Coach. Feedback from the schools has been excellent, highlighting the benefit of the small-group work which allowed for a greater level of individual progression.

As part of a Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) day at Berry Hill High School and Sports College, students were given the opportunity to try out various activities as part of their ‘Alternative Curriculum Health and Well Being’ programme. These ranged from Brazilian Soccer, team building activities and indoor rowing. The day ended with an inter-form rowing competition. Every student in Year 9 took part and competed within their tutor groups. All were awarded certificates for their efforts. All staff and students had a fun day and an excellent alternative sporting experience.

This term Year 5 and 6 students from Forest Park Primary School in Hanley took part in a Bikeability cycling training course which enables children to safely ride their bikes on the road. The children completed a two-day course and had tremendous fun, as well as gaining the essential skills that are needed to ride their bikes safely.

In December twelve Year 6 pupils from Waterside Primary took part in the City (small school) Sportsshall athletics competition held at Fenton Manor. Seven schools took part in the event and although Waterside were not victorious, finishing fifth, all the children who took part thoroughly enjoyed the different activities on offer, some of which they had not experienced before. Our thanks go to Richard Adams for organisng the event and to all the Sports Leaders who did such a great job overseeing the different events.

Intra School House Competitions

The first ever Intra School House competitions were launched at Birchfields High School after our recent move to a vertical pastoral system. Every year group took part in an array of different activities including football, dodgeball, bench ball, handball & basketball. Participation was brilliant as were the attitudes of all the students. Assistant head teacher responsible for pastoral organisation Miss K Dixon observed some of the tournaments and praised the student’s commitment to our new school structure.

“This gives our young people the opportunity to shine and chance to grow and develop in confidence, to see everyone taking part is fantastic.”

Next are two inter house activities that take place in the final week of term, I am sure these will be a great success and lots of fun for everyone.

Sports Leadership at Birchfield Head is steadily developing. 4 girls attended Leadership academy training at Fenton Manor Sports Centre to develop and hone their leadership skills on 9th November. The girls will now be taking their expertise into our partnership schools to deliver extra curricular clubs and shape the future of many young lives in physical education! Well done Ladies! (Chloe Tyler, Ellie Martin, Julia Uren & Katie Malbon)

Alexandra Gould is at Hamilton Infants School running a TOPs club on a Friday after school. Head teacher Chris Boor has highlighted to me how delighted he is with her leadership skills and the opportunity she is giving the young children at his school. Julia Uren & Katie Malbon are running a TOPs club at Carmoutend with the same success.

Well done Ladies. Miss Matthews, SSCo

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“Take 6 winners.”

Leadership is Growing

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Miss Matthews, SSCo

Stoke on Trent College

The Sir Stanley Matthews Foundation and Stoke-on-Trent College School Sports Coaching Programme

Stoke-on-Trent College has forged a successful partnership with the Sir Stanley Matthews Foundation with the aim of providing two sports coaching to Primary Schools who may not be able to access such provision through financial constraints. In the 2010-11
Pupils in year 5 & 6 at St. Mary’s CE have been undertaking Play Leaders training every Tuesday evening. This was awarded to represent that she is the Bronze Ambassador for the school and is to set an example to other leaders. Tiney Johnson at St. Marys CE was awarded with her Leadership Academy sports hoodie at the presentation held at the school.

Young Leaders put on a KS1 Festival
Pupils in year 7, 8 & 9 at the Co-op Academy have been attending weekly lunchtime training sessions to achieve a Young Leader’s Award. All the sessions are there with at least 20 pupils with teachers with the KS1 students to develop their leadership skills such as; confidence, communication, co-operation and organisation. On Wednesday 10th November the Young Leaders and Sport Leaders in Year 10 put on a KS1 Festival in the gym at Co-op Academy. Participants from John Baskeyfield, Hollywall, St Marys CE and Summerbank attended. Leaders set up 10 stations to deliver, running, jumping, skipping, throwing, target and striking activities. Sports Leaders also handed out awards to pupils who had worked particularly well.

Change 4 Life Table Tennis Club
Co-op Academy at Brownhills have been fortunate enough to gain funding from the North Stoke School Sport Partnership and Youth Sport Trust to set up a new Change 4 Life club. The club was set up to deliver, high quality after school Table Tennis experiences to students at the Academy. The ScCo has worked with Mr Ahmed, PE Teacher at the school to ensure that students are offered the opportunity to try a new sport and develop their skills and interest. Table Tennis Coach Team Cato is working with students every Wednesday lunchtime and after school too. 10-15 children are turning up regularly and are enjoying the sessions. In December the players will be involved in a mini end of term competition. The club has also just received all new equipment to ensure that students are offered the best chance of enjoying and succeeding at their new sport.

Bronze Ambassador: Leading the way at St. Mary’s CE
Tammy Johnson at St. Marys CE was awarded with her Leadership Academy sports hoodie at the presentation evening. This was awarded to represent that she is the Bronze Ambassador for the school and is to set an example in sports leadership and work on relaying the Olympic message to other children in her school.

KS1 Jackfields Multi Skills Festival
Premier League 4 Sport Judo Competition
Partnerships Athletics
Brazilian style soccer skills development
Futsal
Leadership Programme
Haywood Dance Spectacular
KS1 Cross Country Race

Sneyd Green Primary School hosted Holden Lane’s first ever Cluster Key Stage 1 Cross Country race earlier this term. Over 40 boys and girls from Sneyd Green, Hillside, Ball Green and Milton primary schools took part in the event which saw the pupils complete a course on the school’s playing fields. Holden Lane’s Year 10 sports leaders created the course, supervised the race and provided plenty of encouragement as the competitors made their way to the finish line. The winning boy and girl received a trophy while all other participants were rewarded with a certificate. Many thanks to Mrs Hurst at Sneyd Green for hosting the event.

Year 11 Sports Leaders Awarded for Commitment

Jordan Leach, Holly Tiece and Tom Gordon are 3 of Holden Lane’s most active sports leaders and have been busy logging their leadership and volunteering hours on the Youth Sport Trust Volunteer passport. Throughout the year, the Association is greatly supported by Primary Link Teachers, the SScOs, the PDM and Sports Leaders from both James Brindley Science College & The Co-op Academy at Brownhills. Leaders manage to host a great deal of activities. Events include: six cross country meetings, a girls Football Festival, boys Football Festival, girls and boys Swimming Gala, Track Athletics event, a Field Athletics event. So far this term Leaders from James Brindley Science College have acted as marshals and race officials for 3 Cross Country meetings that have been held at St Joseph’s RC, Hillside and Sneyd Green Primary schools.

Street Dance with Jenny Stephenson

Jenny Stephenson (Studio One Dance School) has been working with our primary schools this term, funded through the North Stoke School Sport Partnership. Jenny is a huge hit wherever she works, and this term pupils at Holden Lane High School, Norton, Ball Green, Hillside, Sneyd Green and Heathfield Special School have benefited from her coaching. Next term primary schools will be receiving the expert tuition of Madlaga Martial Arts Coach Dave Maddock.

Key Stage 1 Multi Skills Festivals

As part of the plan to provide more competition festivals for Key Stage 1 pupils, Holden Lane has hosted 3 multi skills festivals during the Autumn term, all for Year 2 pupils. Over 250 Year 2’s from 7 out of the 8 cluster primary schools, have visited the Sports College and taken part in the festivals, which introduce the children to basic Agility, Balance and Co-ordination activities. Sports leaders from Year 10 and 11 have been absolutely amazing during these festivals, and primary teachers attending the events have commented on the high quality of leadership on show. Plans are in place for similar events for Year 1 pupils after Christmas.

Sports leadership input around the cluster

Sports leaders from Year 9, 10 and 11 have been sharing their expertise with various primary schools around the cluster this term. The leaders have run extra curricular clubs in Netball at Milton and Norton, Top Activity at Newford, Football at Hillside, Dance at Milton and Rebound Therapy at Heathfield Special School. The commitment shown by the leaders has been fantastic and they are valued for the work they do by the schools and the pupils they work with. Well done to all the leaders involved.

Premier League 4 Sport is a real success at James Brindley!!

Stoke City FC have for the past term been organizing, marketing and promoting their Premier League 4 Sport Badminton Club at James Brindley. Premier League Coordinator Darren Bradbridge, the SScOs and club Badminton coach, Erika Whittingham advertised the club by delivering assemblies and taster courses in the school. Sessions run every Tuesday 3pm to 4.30pm and they have been very well attended, getting an average of 20 students at each session who are mainly girls. The confidence of the players has developed greatly. There have also been great opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills and this in turn has assisted players to lead into competition. Two sports leaders from James Brindley attended a Badminton Young Leaders Award over half term. Jade Topping and Adam Bailey are now qualified to assist in Badminton Leadership and will be officiating at their first satellite tournament which will be held at James Brindley before Christmas. Teams from other PL4S badminton satellite clubs will be attending the competitions and leaders and players will be officiating.

Mitchell Cluster

Mitchell High School Sports Awards Evening

Mitchell High School annual Sports Awards evening was held in July 2010. The night was an opportunity to celebrate the sporting success of our pupils. The night consisted of Dance performances from different dance groups we have in the school. There are team awards to the vast amount of school sports teams we run throughout the year and there are individual awards from outstanding contribution to sport and parent support of the year to sports personality of the year. The evening gives us chance to say thank you to all the pupils who have given up their own time to represent the school and a chance to thank the parents for supporting their child and the school. This year we had over 250 parents and pupils attend our prestigious evening.
Sandon Cluster

Y6 Take the Lead

In November 2010, 12 Year 6 pupils at Crescent Primary School took part in a ‘Leadership Training’ afternoon lead by our SSCo John Maxwel. The pupils developed their understanding of communication, fair play, organisation, planning and leading their own warm ups, along with leading a skills session for KS1 pupils.

During the afternoon they were given the opportunity to work with Year 2 pupils assisting and encouraging them to participate in a variety of skill based activities.

Now that they have received their training the pupils will be assisting to deliver Fitzy Festivals in the New Year for all of KS1 and KS2.

St Margaret Ward Cluster

Anyone for Tennis, Table Tennis, Trampolining or Badminton?

During the autumn term children from Sandon Primary School and St Matthew’s Primary School have had the opportunity to access a range of coaching opportunities hosted by Sandon High School and Business and Enterprise College. Trampolining taster sessions have been run by Dane Pearson to help promote the City of Stoke on Trent satellite community club which has just started at the school on Monday evenings. Chris Hint, from Florence Tennis club, has run an indoor tennis programme all term at the primary after school club. Children who have attended have shown vast improvements in skill level and have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, so will hopefully feel confident enough to join the Tennis Club in the summer. In addition Table Tennis and Badminton sessions have been run to help promote the Premier League 4 Sport sessions and as a talent ID opportunity for the Badminton Performance Centre.

St Margaret Ward had a very special visitor in school in December: the BBC Match of the Day team! They were in to film our highly successful Stoke City FC Table Tennis club, which was formed as part of the Premier League 4 Sport programme.

Linking with Stoke City has significantly raised the profile of Table Tennis both at the school and in the local community. The Premier League is such a powerful brand that students, who may not otherwise tried Table Tennis, have given it a go purely because of the link with Stoke City.

After the shoot year 7 girls Lucie Hancock and Ella Grantham were taken to Stoke City’s Clayton Wood training ground to play against 1st team players Glenn Whelan and Marc Wilson. Needless to say the girls’ hard work in training paid off and the Stoke players were supposedly beaten! The feature will be shown in January on the MOTD programme in the Sunday morning edition. Well done to everybody for making this such a memorable experience.

MP Pearson, St Margaret Ward SSCo

BBC Match of the Day at St Margaret Ward

Olympic Gold Medalist Duncan Goodhew visits St Joseph’s RC

St Joseph’s RC Primary school students were given the treat of a visit to their school by Olympic Gold medal swimmer Duncan Goodhew recently. Duncan was able to share his experiences of getting to the top of his sport and the sacrifices you have to make to achieve your goals. The school was also able to raise funds as students took part in a Golden Mile race around their grounds.

Sandon High School and Business and Enterprise College Year 7 Cricket Curriculum Week

The Year 7’s at Sandon took part in a cricket curriculum week during October. The aim of the week was to help fully integrate all year 7 pupils into the Sandon High School Community. It also provided team building and problem solving activities to promote group cohesion within the tutor groups and year group as a whole. It provided an early opportunity to reward positive attitudes towards learning and attainment.

Students took part in cricket related activities in all of their subject areas. In addition there was a family cricket quiz, a year 7 inter form cricket competition and a gifted and talented cricket master class run by a level 3 coach. Students who worked consistently well were nominated by subject staff and they were rewarded with a trip to the National Cricket Centre at Loughborough where they met with 3 of the Sandon High School students who have been working with staff from the England U21 Cricket team and Ian Bell. They also had a guided tour of the University Sports facilities.

St Margaret Ward Leadership Camp

For the past eighteen months George Glenn (Rugby Development Officer) has been working with students from Sandon High School and Business and Enterprise College. The high quality coaching received by the students in curriculum time and after school has resulted in a big increase in participation. Significantly this year was the first time the school entered both KS3 and KS4 teams in to the emerging schools competition.

The boys are keen to have more fixtures and the school is currently looking to finance the purchase of rugby posts so that a proper pitch can be marked out on the school grounds. A long term aim is to establish a satellite community club at the school.

Sandon High Intra Zone Basketball Competition

Sandon High PE Department has tried to develop ‘Competition’ within KS3. In order for this to happen an Intra Zone Basketball Tournament has been set up and fixtures have been completed. Pupils have enjoyed the competitive nature of the event and it has been played with good sport and sportsmanship. Pupils were given the responsibility of choosing their teams and the role of the coach when it came to match day. As well as the competition side of the event, leadership was also high on our list of priorities and the pupils excelled in this role. A big thank you goes to the pupils involved as they were a credit to themselves and the School.

St Margaret Ward Cluster goes “virtually” crazy

Over the last term students in St Margaret Ward cluster have been competing in a Virtual competition of “Dishes & Domes”. Each key stage 1 team was given the name of a fruit and each key stage 2 team was given the name of an Olympic Athlete. Students were not only able to compete against their peers but also against the 5 other SMW cluster schools.

The award involved students learning about safety and rewarded positive attitudes towards learning and attainment.

Year 7 Sandon students meet England international cricketer Ian Bell at the ECB Headquarters at Loughborough as he proposes to beat the Australians in the Ashes Series ‘Down Under’.

Stanley Head Leadership Camp

Five children from St Mary’s Catholic Primary School were lucky enough to attend a leadership camp during the summer holidays. They spent lots of fantastic things during the week including, new games, new skills. They also made lots of friends from across the different schools. The children are now very pleased back at school for their new role as PE leaders.

Stoke City players Glenn Whelan and Marc Wilson with our table tennis stars of the future.

The boys are keen to have more fixtures and the school is currently looking to finance the purchase of rugby posts so that a proper pitch can be marked out on the school grounds. A long term aim is to establish a satellite community club at the school.

Sandcastles and Shrewsbury Castle

This quarter St Margaret Ward students have been visiting Sandcastles and Shrewsbury Castle. This trip forms part of the school’s Year 7 history curriculum and has been very successful.

The students successfully engaged in lots of activities during their visit. These included:

- A guided tour of the Round Tower
- A tour around the Sandstone Platform
- A visit to the Commander’s Room
- A chance to explore the Castle grounds
- A chance to climb the tower

The students were able to learn about the history of the castle and the important role it played in the local area. They were also able to see the beautiful architecture and design of the castle.

Well done to all the students for their excellent behaviour and participation during their visit to Sandcastles and Shrewsbury Castle.

Mr Pearson, St Margaret Ward SSCo

Sports Leader Training at St Peter’s Catholic Primary School

St Peter’s Catholic Primary School held a training session for their Sports Leaders. The students were given the opportunity to learn about the importance of sports and the role they can play in promoting healthy lifestyles. The session included discussions on the benefits of sport, the importance of teamwork, and the role of the Sports Leader in encouraging participation.

The students were very engaged and motivated to learn more about the topic. They were able to share their experiences and ideas on how to promote sports in their school community.

Well done to all the students for their hard work and dedication towards learning about sports and fitness.
St Peter’s Cluster

Skipping at the Willows Primary School

This year at The Willows Primary School, children in KS2 embarked on a new venture. They have taken up the challenge of becoming expert skippers. Twice a week children join teachers in practicing and demonstrating new skipping moves. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning this new skill. Hopefully they will be confident enough to show off in front of a crowd of parents when we invite them into school to watch. We are involving KS1 children after Christmas so hopefully by the Summer we will all be professionals (ok semi)!

Steph Smalley, PLT

St John’s at the Cluster Sportshall Athletics Competition

On Wednesday 20th October a team of Year 5 and 6 boys and girls took part in the St Peter’s Cluster Sports Hall Athletics competition. Our school competed against four other schools competing in seven Sports Hall Athletics events which included: Shuttle Run, Hurdles, Stork Stand, Vertical Jump, Indoor Javelin, Speed Bounce, Standing Long Jump. Competitors were given a practice round and then the best score of 3 attempts was used. St John’s did extremely well finishing in 3rd place. The children who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we look forward to the next cluster competition in January.

Pauline Bloor – St John’s CE Primary School

Athletics Success

Sue Hunt – Hanley St Luke’s CE Primary School, PLT

Hanley St Lukes have enjoyed more success in their Athletics. This time they took part in a City finals competition at Fenton Manor Leisure Centre in November against three other schools from around Stoke on Trent. The competition included events such as standing long jump, basketball throw and relay sprints. Everyone worked very well as a team and the competition was fierce. The results were extremely close and we had to win our final events in order to go through to the County finals. It was very nerve wracking and the children really wanted to win. They put extra effort in to both the javelin and relay events. The results were a surprise because we actually came joint first with Gladstone Primary School. We were very proud of the team and look forward to competing again against schools from all over Staffordshire in January.

Natalie Owen – Stoke Minster Primary School, PLT

St Mark’s Football and Passball Frenzy

In November parents were invited to St Mark’s School to take part in an exciting parent/child/teacher event to bring the community and school closer together.

Dads were up against the boys in a football match and girls were having a pass ball competition against the mums and teachers. Both parents and teachers were very competitive!

It was really fun and exciting and lovely to see lots of parents and teachers enjoying sport together. I cannot wait for the next parent/teacher/sporting event at St Mark’s. Parents are looking forward to the next event too!

Reported by a Year 4 pupil at St Mark’s.

KS1 Orienteering Day at St Thomas More College

In November the St Peter’s cluster held their KS1 Orienteering Day at St Thomas More College. St Thomas More College, did a tremendous job in engaging the Years 1 and 2 from four cluster schools attended and all delighted in meeting Fitzy the Fox who helped us to motivate them to try their best in the eight multi-skills activities. Well done to the following leaders: Charlotte Bagnall, Dan Shaw, Anthony Booth, Simon Leong, Megan Oakley and Paisley Waltham.

Karen Worthington, SSCo and organiser

KS1 Fitzy the Fox Cluster Festival

In November the St Peter’s cluster held their KS1 Fitzy the Fox festival. Fitzy is a Fox who likes to keep fit and eat healthy. Along with his healthy food friends he teaches KS1 children how to live an active and healthy life. Pupils from Year 1 and 2 from four cluster schools attended and all delighted in meeting Fitzy the Fox who helped us to motivate them to try their best in the eight multi-skills activities. Well done to the following leaders: Charlotte Bagnall, Dan Shaw, Anthony Booth, Simon Leong, Megan Oakley and Paisley Waltham.

St John’s at the speed bounce

Clare Moxey, SSCo

Badminton Coaching with Andy Aspinal

Andy Aspinal from Badminton England is a regular at St Thomas More Catholic College. He has been delivering badminton coaching sessions to students on a Monday night after College. The year 10 students have benefited considerably from his expertise and their performances have improved tremendously.

One of the club members, Junaid Ishfaq, said “I am delighted in meeting Andy Aspinal who is a Fox who likes to keep fit and eat healthy. Along with his healthy food friends he teaches KS1 children how to live an active and healthy life. Pupils from Year 1 and 2 from four cluster schools attended and all delighted in meeting Fitzy the Fox who helped us to motivate them to try their best in the eight multi-skills activities. Well done to the following leaders: Charlotte Bagnall, Dan Shaw, Anthony Booth, Simon Leong, Megan Oakley and Paisley Waltham.

KS1 Orienteering Day at St Thomas More College

Last July, 25 KS1 children from St Maria Goretti’s school took part in the Orienteering Day at St Thomas More College. It was quite a cold and blustery day but nevertheless the weather didn’t dampen the spirits of the young children. They were quite happy to scramble around the fields, looking for clues, trying to out run even the Year 8 helpers from St Thomas More College. They had their work cut out! I don’t know who worked harder; the youngsters or the older students!

St Thomas More Cluster

Cricket Coaching in the Community

Coaching cricket in the local schools through the Partnership has been a huge experience for me. It has allowed me to improve my own coaching techniques, so that I can move onto the next level in my coaching career. The coaching has proved successful for the children at St Augustine’s Primary School, with increasing numbers over the period of sessions, giving them an insight into cricket as a sport and how much fun can be gained from it. It also benefits the local community sports clubs as children will want to further their interest in sport, participate in exercise and improve their health in general. Without this, physical recreation will suffer greatly in the local community.

Nick Wills (5th Form student at St Thomas More Catholic College).

Playground to Podium

The Playground to Podium is a new scheme produced by the Youth Sport Trust. It is a framework that was initially put into place nearly 2 years ago in the South Staffordshire School Sport Partnership. It provides a pathway which will take young disabled people through to clubs, to high level performance and competitive opportunities.

St Thomas More College supports this scheme and in the past has had some real success stories. Last year 3 of our students, Azzi Khan, Tom Lowe and Qasam Aziz were selected to go through to the County Athlete Assessment Day in Shobnall. This was a great opportunity for them, allowing them to progress even further in their chosen field.

Bikeability Training

The year 5 pupils at St. Gregory’s have taken part in the Bikeability training. They all relished the responsibility they are given to ride bikes on the roads and to come back into school with excellent road safety knowledge as well as being able to ride their bikes with greater confidence.
The children certainly enjoyed themselves and there was some outstanding play from the youngsters. The overall Primary, took part in this festival at Longton Rugby club. The festival was the culmination of four weeks coaching.

Year 10 Sports Leaders Level 1

The year 10 Level 1 Sports Leaders class have delivered 3 leadership sessions at Etruscan Primary School during the autumn term. During their PE lessons, leaders prepared sessions for year 5 and 6 pupils which included two sports hall activities, throwing and catching, and sprinting. Then they attended Etruscan and delivered to year 5 & 6 students. All leaders have demonstrated good progress and can now competently stand up in front of a group of students and deliver key skills using good communication and organisation skills. Everybody involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Well done to the following sports leaders:

- Logan Johnson, Zac Barrow, Jamie Godwin, Anthony Wright, Liam Gibson and Bence Keat.

Multi-skills Festival with Thistley Hough Leaders

Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a multi-skills session with year 11 Btec students from Thistley Hough High School. Sports leaders came into school on Wednesday 25th November to run a festival comprising of six stations which included stork stand, tennis keep-ups, agility ladders, slalom, target bean bag and skipping. Pupils loved using the different equipment and thrived on trying to beat their own and others scores in teams of four. All pupils received a participation certificate which was designed by sports leader Sam Stephenson. Thank you to the following sports leaders: Chloe Lane, Samantha Stephenson, Rhys Kay, Simon Parry, Edward Haidl, Niall Phillips, Jonathan Shaldon and Lewis Williams.

Sports Leaders in the local Primary schools

The sports leaders from Year 10 and Year 11 from St Thomas More College have been going out into the local primary schools to deliver coaching sessions to KS1 and lower KS2 pupils. The pupils have benefitted considerably under the guidance of these sports leaders and their skill level has increased. A lot of fun has been had by the youngsters. One of the sports leaders, Courtney, said that “my leadership skills have developed over the weeks and all my preparation and practice has paid off and the children have lots of fun.”

Virtual Multi Skills Festival material provided by the School Sport Partnership, created major impact at St Augustine’s for our pupils. All children from Foundation One to year 6 took part in an inter-house competition on Monday 29th November 2010. Playground leaders from year 5 and 6 organised and demonstrated activities, as well as keeping scores and assisting staff throughout the afternoon. The children travelled around the school visiting a range of multi-skill stations trying new activities which developed a range of skills, including mathematical reasoning and spatial awareness. All involved agreed it was a fantastic, enjoyable experience!

Thistley Hough sports leaders running multi-skills at Oakhill.

Note: The image contains a photograph of a group of children participating in an activity.

TOP Activity Club

Pupils from year 4-6 have been enjoying a TOP Activity extra-curricular club on Thursday’s with sports leaders from Thistley Hough High School. The club is an opportunity for pupils who do not normally represent the schools to enjoy alternative sporting activities which are organised and delivered by the sports leaders. Examples of the activities include martial fitness, space hopper relays and obstacle courses. Thank you to the following sports leaders: Zac Barrow, Logan Johnson, Anthony Godwin and Liam Gibson.

Year 3/4 Agility Challenge

In November, nearly 60 year 3 and 4 pupils from the St Thomas More and Edensor clusters took part in the Sports hall Agility Challenge held at St Thomas More College.

The pupils took part in a series of runs, jumps and throw which really pushed the young children to their limits. The highlight of the afternoon was the really exciting relays when everyone had a chance to cheer on their teams.

The event was supported by the Sports Leaders from Edensor High School and St Thomas More College who were fantastic! It was their first officiating role and the feedback from primary school staff was very positive indeed. Well done!

The event was won by St. Paul’s Primary school followed closely by St Gregory’s and St Mary’s with joint 2nd place.

The children had lots of fun but also worked very hard. According to one member of staff ……… “The children went home buzzing with excitement!”

Thistley Hough Cluster

A visit from Fitzy Fox himself has now been promised!

All year 1 and 2 pupils have taken part in ‘Fitzy’ multi-skills festivals. The activities on offer were inclusive and based around catching, throwing, jumping, running and striking. All pupils worked extremely hard on all the activities and were rewarded with Fitzy stickers and certificates. As they had done so well they were also promised a visit from Fitzy Fox himself in the near future!
Stoke Schools Row to Success

Students from both St Joseph’s College and Trentham High schools took part in the British Indoor Rowing Championships which took place in Birmingham in November. Both schools receive coaching from the community coach through the coaching plan. Leaders helped to prepare the younger pupils for the competition. On the day there were a number of successes with gold medals in the J16 and J18 team events and J18 Girls Individual Lightweight and bronze medals in the J12 Individual Girls, J12 Girls Team and J18 Boys Team. A fantastic achievement putting the Stoke schools firmly on the rowing map.

Well done to all!

Dodgeball Delights

All year 7 pupils from both Ash Green and Priory Primary schools have taken part in intra school dodgeball competitions. This was a new activity which was well received by the pupils who thoroughly enjoyed it. As the activity progressed they became more and more excited and the volume increased, but great fun was had by all. As a result, an inter school dodgeball competition will now be held at Trentham High School in the new year.

Young Ambassadors Leadership Training Camp

In November the KOS Sports Leaders training camp took place at Fenton Manor. There was a very well organised, structured day put in place for the leaders. After a short introduction leaders were placed into groups to undertake a competition workshop led by the Competition Manager Rich Adams. The workshop focused on teaching leaders to set up and deliver their own mini competitions and modifying tasks and activities for all abilities whilst the workshop was taking place the Sports Leaders, Silver Ambassadors, Gold Ambassadors and Adislers were all interviewed by Mrs Garrity & Mrs Montifroy. Leaders and the Academy managers put together their Adistar, Silver and Gold action plans based on the leaders volunteering experiences at their respective schools. In the afternoon, Paula Manaton a Fitzy tutor was invited to deliver a Fitzy the Fox KS1 leadership training session. Leaders were taught how to create activities and games for the Key Stage 1 children in their primary schools and they were taught how to deliver the Fitzy programme. In total 31 leaders were present from across all eight high schools in the North Stoke SSP. The Academy managers will be running the next training camp in January for the KS3 Academy leaders.

Cluster orienteering on a cold winters day!

All year 3 and 4 pupils from both St Teresa’s and St Thomas Aquinas schools have taken part in an intra school orienteering competition. All managed to master orientating the map and basic map reading skills. Both schools then bought some of their pupils back to take part in an Orienteering Festival along with pupils from Ash Green and Priory Primaries. It was a very cold day but all the teams got on with the task in hand and managed to find lots of clues, there were also lots of rosy cheeks!

Stoke School Sport Partnerships’ Conference: developing a competitive and sustainable sporting legacy in the build up to 2012

In September Fenton Manor Sports Complex played host to the 7th Annual Stoke School Sport Partnerships’ Conference. This year’s theme was the importance of sustainability of Physical Education and sport in the ever changing political and financial landscape in the build up to and the legacy of the 2012 London Olympic/Paralympic Games. One hundred and twenty key teaching and support staff from across the City, who deliver to various age ranges and abilities from Primary schools to the two Further Education colleges, attended with 35 senior sports leaders and 100 Primary students during the programme of fun practical workshops. Twenty private sports service providers were also in attendance with a significant legacy of improved service being left in a number of schools.

The keynote address was delivered by Annette Montague, Schools Director of the Youth Sport Trust. Annette articulated the national Physical Education and sporting agenda in more detail. Deputy Director of Children’s and Young People’s Services Mick Seller also outlined his vision for the future of PE and sport in the City schools and sports clubs.

Sportshall Athletics Success

St Thomas Aquinas entered the City Sportshall Athletics for small schools. The pupils had all been practicing hard at lunchtime and after school. On the day they all performed extremely well and came away as the winning team, they now go on to represent Stoke at the County Sportshall Athletics competition.

Well done!
STOP PRESS
Parent Power Supports Physical Activity

Sainsbury’s Active Kids programme have created a new initiative where support and training can be offered to parents to increase the level of physical activity children get involved in at home and at school. A trainer and Sports Leaders can come to your Primary School to deliver a simple ninety minute workshop to any parents you invite. Newford Primary School are first up for the training in February. Any Primary School keen to get involved please contact your PDM on nedwards@sgfl.org.uk or nsmith@sgfl.org.uk.

Olympic Legacy

“School sport should be part of a truly rounded education offered by every school”: DCMS legacy document, December 2010. Let’s all keep working to position and maintain Physical Education and school sport at the heart of all schools in Stoke.

Don’t forget to register on the Get Set 2012 website, just google ‘getset 2012’ and for the National School Sport Week website, just google ‘national school sport week’.

Dates for Diary

Primary PE Updates
Tuesday 15th February 2011
Tuesday 21st June 2011

Secondary PE Updates
Wednesday 16th February 2011
Wednesday 22nd June 2011

National School Sport Week
Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July 2011

2012 Olympics Games
Friday 27th July to Sunday 12th August 2012

2012 Paralympics Games
Wednesday 29th August to Sunday 9th September 2012

In the Next Issue...

More details about the National School Games, Bikeability, the 14-25 year old Sportivate programme, the National Young Ambassador programme roll out, Change 4 Life Club development plus the latest news and information about the future of School Sport Partnerships in Stoke-on-Trent.