



Great news for Hertfordshire schools!

79% (417) of eligible Hertfordshire schools have been rewarded, for their commitment to promoting the Olympic and Paralympic Values in the curriculum, with an allocation of free tickets to the Games through the Get Set 'Ticketshare' initiative. Schools are currently finding out the minimum number of tickets they will be receiving, with full details of their allocation being sent to them in March.

After the success of the 2011 Lee Valley Schools Festival, where Hertfordshire schoolchildren braved the rapids at the Lee Valley White Water Centre for free, we are delighted to announce that Lee Valley Regional Park Authority have organised for another Schools Festival to take place in 2012 on Tuesday 27 March.

The 2012 Schools Festival will see one lucky school per district receive an opportunity to ride the Olympic course as a reward for their commitment to promoting the Olympic and Paralympic Values by being a member of the London 2012 'Get Set network' education programme.

Find out which lucky school had a visit from the Olympic Mascot Wenlock this month and also read about our new initiative with Hertfordshire Catering.

The Herts 2012 Team

Jon, Sophie, John, Sally and Gareth visit us online at: www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk or follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/readyforwinners

Athlete shares secrets of Olympic success with local businesses

Business people from Hertfordshire found out about business opportunities, preparedness and also how to reach objectives at a breakfast event inspired by The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games at Holiday Inn, Elstree.

Keynote speaker Olympian Mark Richardson, who won a bronze medal in Barcelona (1992) and silver in Atlanta (1996) both in the 4x400m relay, advised delegates that now 2012 is here, *"Hertfordshire businesses should start with the end in mind, focussing on objectives and where they can add value to their business. Ask themselves what they want to get out of the Games and also consider marketing and what makes their business unique."*

The 'Win Business Gold' event was the latest in an award winning series of events arranged by Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners, enabling delegates to enjoy a cooked breakfast, hear about London 2012 contract opportunities, meet an Olympic medallist, find out about Hertfordshire's Olympic venue - the Lee Valley White Water Centre as well as local talented young athletes, and network with other local business people.

Chairman of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Board, Derrick Ashley, said,

"Hertfordshire is still in pole position in the region for businesses signed up to CompeteFor. Now that 2012 is here it really is the time for Hertfordshire businesses to grab the opportunities that the Olympics is bringing to the county."



(L-R) Donald Graham, Hertsmere Borough Council, Steve McMullen, Deloitte, Mark Richardson, Olympian, Gareth Morgan, Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners.



Are you up for the Good School Food Gold Medal Challenge?

Paralympian gold-medallist Giles Long MBE has launched a new international themed school dinner menu to help inspire the next generation of Hertfordshire Olympians.

At the launch of the project on 18 January 2012 at the Lee Valley White Water Centre Giles said:

"Being the best is about paying attention to detail and food is one of those details. Sport is about getting the maximum you can out of your body and the right food as fuel is vital in that process. That is why I'm delighted to support this initiative."

The launch also included the formal presentation of the London 2012 Inspire Mark for the project. The London 2012 Inspire programme recognises innovative and exceptional projects that are directly inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Hertfordshire County Council's school meal service - Hertfordshire Catering - is the only local authority catering organisation to be awarded the coveted Inspire Mark.

Designed by Hertfordshire Catering and Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners the new menu will be in schools over two weeks. During this two week food fest, pupils will sample foods from a number of different Olympic countries and learn about different cultures and customs.

The menu is part of a wider project called 'The Good School Food Gold Medal Challenge',

which encourages pupils to pay tribute to past gold medal winners. As part of the challenge, every child who eats a school lunch during the two week period is entered into a draw to win one of over 400 great, official London 2012 prizes.

The challenge will finish on Team GB day and all children who took part in the event will receive a certificate of achievement signed by Giles Long MBE - World, European and Paralympic Gold Medallist.

Chairman of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Board, Derrick Ashley, said:

"The aim of the project is to use the celebration of London 2012 to promote health and wellbeing through the provision of 2012 inspired healthy eating options in schools."

"It will also raise the awareness among young people of the disciplined dietary regimes of top athletes, help them to develop a deeper understanding of the cultures of various countries and regions around the world and hopefully introduce them to new tastes and educate their palates."

Wormley School pupils and The Sele School pupils with Lin O'Brien (Head of Hertfordshire Catering), Jane Pitman (Chairman of HCC), Katie Huane (Regional Project Manager for London 2012), Giles Long MBE (Paralympian), Tracie Bere (Herts Catering) and Gareth Morgan (Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners).





Hertfordshire school recognised as 'school of the month'

Fleetville Junior School, in St Albans, has been named Get Set network school of the month for December and received a surprise visit from London 2012 Olympic mascot Wenlock.

Get Set is London 2012's official education programme and Fleetville Junior School successfully joined the Get Set network in September 2011. The Get Set network is the London 2012 reward and recognition scheme for schools that are demonstrating a commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic Values.

Fleetville Junior School has been selected as a Get Set network school of the month because they have demonstrated outstanding commitment to living the Olympic and Paralympic Values. Fleetville have established a Get Set Olympic and Paralympic Committee to increase awareness and excitement for the London 2012 Games.

The committee set pupils the challenge of designing a new mascot called FRED ICE to represent all of the Olympic and Paralympic Values -Friendship, Respect, Excellence, Determination, Inspiration, Courage and Equality.



Fleetville's Get Set Olympic and Paralympic Committee with surprise visitor Wenlock. (courtesy of Adam Rowley Images)

Seb Coe said:

"When London won the right to host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, we made a clear promise to use the power of the 2012 Games to inspire young people. I am proud to see that Fleetville Junior has been recognised as Get Set 'school of the month' and is actively engaged in exciting work around the Olympic and Paralympic Values."

Headteacher, Jeremy Loukes said.

"We are delighted to have been recognised as Get Set school of the month. It reflects the high profile that sport has in our school and the enthusiasm and commitment of staff and pupils. We are grateful to our sports co-ordinator, Natasha Chapman, for her determination and passion to ensure that all our pupils have access to sporting opportunities."

Frances Button, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, said:

"Fleetville Junior School has a strong focus on physical education, it is great to see a local school totally engaged with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The school is currently planning an Olympic and Paralympic Week for July 2012, during which students will learn more about the Games and have the opportunity to take part in a variety of Olympic and Paralympic sports and I wish them the very best of luck."



Green Team - Growing Communities in Hertfordshire



Hertfordshire is Ready For Winners is funding a “one-off” Groundwork Hertfordshire training scheme named ‘Green Team - Growing Communities’. The scheme is focussed on providing support to Town and Parish councils, local organisations and community groups who aspire to create or improve a community area to celebrate and commemorate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and/or the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Projects range from the creation of commemorative gardens and new community green spaces to community orchards and everything in between!

Groundwork has been operating a Green Team programme in Hertfordshire for four years. The Green Team is an award-winning, 16 week voluntary training course for unemployed young people aged 16 to 25.

The course enables volunteers to work on a wide programme of environmental improvement projects while developing both hard and soft landscaping skills. Participants are supported to complete a City & Guilds qualification in Land Based Studies in addition to building communication, team working and job seeking skills. This balance of ‘green’ skills, experience and the qualification, together with an emphasis on job searching, enhanced CVs and interview technique ensures that volunteers are well placed to secure employment at the conclusion of their training. The programme has an outstanding track record of success in this respect.

Green Team – Growing Communities has been granted the prestigious London 2012 Inspire mark by the London 2012 Inspire programme. The London 2012 Inspire programme recognises exceptional and innovative projects inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Seb Coe, Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games said: *“The Inspire programme is ensuring the legacy of the 2012 Games starts now as projects like Green Team – Growing Communities are enabling Hertfordshire people to make positive life changes.”*

Steve Harvey, Executive Director at Groundwork Hertfordshire said: *“Green Team – Growing Communities” will provide a unique development opportunity for local young people and will enable a range of Hertfordshire communities to commemorate the London 2012 Games or the Jubilee in a way which will provide a tangible, positive legacy for future generations”.*

Chairman of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Partnership Derrick Ashley, said: *“This is a fabulous initiative that not only engages local communities in delivering benefits to their neighbourhoods by using local volunteers but also commits to reducing youth unemployment.”*

The Inspire programme is run by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. It is an opportunity for everyone to be a part of the London 2012 Games – a broad participation programme spanning sport participation, education, sustainability, volunteering, business opportunities and culture. New opportunities are being created to inspire young people and encourage the whole of the UK to join in.



Paralympic Hopeful - Grace Harvey

Disability Swimmer Grace Harvey is set to make waves in the swimming world following her recent selection for the British Disability Swimming World Class Programme 2012.

The Presdales School student has been swimming all her life and joined Hoddesdon Swimming Club in 2007 where she was classified as a disabled swimmer. This enabled her to start competing in disability events in 2009. Since then she has achieved qualifying times to compete at regional, national and international events.

One of Grace's most significant achievements so far was becoming the regional record holder for disability events 100m backstroke, 200m individual medley and 200m freestyle.

2011 proved a successful year for Grace as she not only qualified for the Junior National Championships, but came away with five gold and two silver medals. She also qualified for the Amateur Swimming Association Youth Nationals and the British Disability International Championships.

Grace achieved the qualifying time for the British Disability Swimming World Class Programme whilst competing at the Nationwide Short Course Swimming Championships in November where she attained seven silver medals.

It was the talent, determination and vibrant character of 13 year old Grace that enabled her to be selected for the Hertfordshire Talented Athlete Programme in August last year.

She now benefits from the Strength and Conditioning support provided by coaches at Performance Hertfordshire and Physiotherapy at Bodybalance Sports Injury Clinic.

Supported by the University of Hertfordshire, Herts County Council, Lee Valley Regional Park and Herts Is Ready For Winners, this programme supports 24 other talented young athletes from around the county.





White water provides inspiration

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority has been awarded the prestigious London 2012 Inspire mark for its white water themed education programmes.



White Water Investigation brings geography to life and provides students with an introduction to Lee Valley White Water Centre and the London 2012 Games.

They take a tour of the River Lee Country Park to view internationally important bird life and gain an understanding of the challenges and potential impacts in building the venue.

Lee Valley Challenge provides an orienteering option which incorporates a quiz to discover fascinating facts about the London 2012 Games and Lee Valley White Water Centre. Working in groups, students learn the principles of using a compass and map reading.

**Youth and Schools Manager,
Karen Wheeler said:**

"The programmes help young people gain a broad understanding of the Games. Originally, we aimed the Lee Valley Challenge at secondary and post 16 but it has proved so popular that we have now made it available to primary schools too."

The Inspire programme enables organisations to link their events and projects to the Games and is an important part of its legacy.

**For more information, go to:
www.visitleevalley.org.uk
or telephone: 08456 770 607.**



Are you brave enough to tackle the blast of the ice cold winter rapids?

You have until 9 April to experience winter white water rafting before the world's best athletes paddle for Gold during the London 2012 Games Canoe Slalom events.

**To book, visit: www.gowhitewater.co.uk
or telephone: 08456 770 606.**

Watch canoe slalom athletes battle for place in Team GB

Tickets are now on sale for the London 2012 GB Canoe Slalom selection trials at Lee Valley White Water Centre from Friday 13 to Sunday 15 April.