



December 2014

How fantastic to report on some excellent news: **congratulations** are due to 2 of our schools who enjoyed the Herts Sports Partnership Sports Awards Presentation Evening in December 2014.

There is always fierce competition in the Schools of the Year categories and some of the schools around the county are huge in comparison to many of the schools in our area.

So many congratulations to Ardeley School as Primary School of the Year Runner Up and to Greneway School for taking 3rd place in the Secondary School of the Year category - a huge well done to all staff and pupils for sustained commitment and success in PE & School Sport.

And thank you to everyone for their support, work and commitment in all the schools - imagine my surprise (and of course pride and pleasure) when seated in a conference arena earlier this term our name flashed on the screen as one of the **top 10 partnerships in the country** in terms of engagement and involvement in all the aspects of PE & School Sport in which we are involved.

Congratulations also to the 20 schools who have achieved a School Games Mark this year (-formerly known as the Kitemark).

And **welcome to St Edmund's Prep School** who take our number of schools to 24 and whose pupils were fully involved with activities in the Autumn Term.

Many opportunities continue within the partnership area:

Training

KS2 Gymnastics : November 2014

KS1 PE Course : November 2014

Dance Inset : January 16th 2015

Subject Leaders Curriculum Review and Planning: Feb 26th

Activity with Schools

- coaching in tag rugby, tri golf and tennis and festivals
- support with gymnastics
- support with multiskills
- support with leadership schemes
- support with setting up/re-introducing/revitalising a Change 4 Life Club to engage young people who are not fully active in PE & School Sport.

Events, Festivals and Herts School Games

The calendar includes events for all our schools with some events on the programme such as the 3 Basketball competitions being the preliminary events leading to the Herts School Games which are the county finals (Level 3) and part of The School Games Initiative. There are several events in December which involve years 5 upwards which does mean that the middle and upper schools have more involvement at this time of the year.

However the speedstacking takes place in January so the younger age groups have their opportunity to compete for a place in the County Games 2015.

Herts School Games : Partnership Winners

| Activity | Age Group | Partnership Representative | County Result |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Basketball | Mixed U11 | Edwinstree | |
| Basketball | Girls U12 | Edwinstree | 4th |
| Basketball | Girls U14 | Greneway | 2nd |
| Boccia | U19 Pan Disability | Partnership | 3rd |
| Boccia | U19 Physical Disability | Partnership | 9th |
| Table Tennis | BU16 | Freman | 4th |
| Table Tennis | BU13 | Greneway | |
| Table Tennis | GU13 | Greneway | 2nd |
| Table Tennis | BU11 | Greneway | |
| Table Tennis | GU11 | Edwinstree | |

This year saw the introduction of a second Boccia competition and pupils from Roysia and Freman made up our teams; what an enthusiastic bunch demonstrating great concentration and teamwork and proving what an excellent game it is for all.

Festivals

Let's start with the data - there have been 1481 participants & 212 leaders involved so far!

Partnership events in the Autumn Term

- The Schoolympics on 26th September was yet again a fantastic festival of sport held at Meridian and Royston Leisure Centre with 8 sports, involving 477 Year 3, 4 & 5s and 63 young leaders from the middle and upper schools. The sun shone throughout the day and the children enjoyed the opening ceremony before they took part in coaching and competition; the dance group performed at the closing ceremony after learning the dance actually on the day and trophies were awarded to each school as a memento of the occasion.
- The year 5 & 6 tag competition involved 17 teams and 138 players from St Edmund's, St Thomas and the 4 middle schools; there was some really great play and competition in all the groups with the majority of the games only being won by a single try showing huge effort from all. Greneway won the competition with St Edmund's as the runners up; both schools will represent us in the Herts School Games finals.
- Year 7 & 8 rugby: the 4 middle schools played some excellent rugby with Edwinstree finishing as winners in both age groups; they now go forward to play against Stevenage & N Herts in February.
- Year 3 & 4 tag festival: 170 pupils from Ardeley, Hormead, Layston, Millfield and St Edmund's gathered at Edwinstree for a great morning of tag rugby. 21 leaders from Edwinstree organised the teams and 17 Freman rugby leaders managed the pitches and helped with refereeing.
- Edwinstree also hosted the middle schools cross country event.
- Hosted by Greneway with Meridian leaders as the officials, the table tennis competitions were all very close with every individual point counted and re-counted to give the final winners as Edwinstree Boys and Greneway Girls in the Year 5 & 6s and Greneway taking the honours in both of the Year 7 & 8 events.
- And Greneway also hosted a middle school speedstacking festival organised by their leaders.
- The basketball mixed under 11s, girls' under 12s and girls' under 14 competitions proved to be as exciting as ever; some really excellent play resulted in wins for Greneway in all 3! All matches were officiated by students from Meridian and Freman who did a highly professional job- excellent work much appreciated and praised by all in attendance!

Working in partnership continues with the Herts Sports Partnership, Sport North Herts, Active East Herts & Sport Royston.