



# School Games September Newsletter

## Football National Conference



**Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships (BGFSP) supports the ambition to provide girls with equal access to play football in school. St Jphn Wall have become the host site for Mrs Ratcliffe – strategic lead for North West Birmingham. My aim will be to develop girls football in both secondary and primary schools within the area to ensure girls are being given equal access.**

In March 2019, Barclays announced the biggest ever investment in UK women's sport by a brand. As part of this commitment, we've been supporting the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships (BGFSP), established to solely focus on ensuring girls in England have equal access to football in schools by 2024. In 2021 we also became lead partner of Barclays Game On, a programme developed by the Youth Sport Trust that is delivered in secondary schools across England, using football as the tool to develop and teach key life skills to young girls.

As our national game, Barclays believes in the power of football and its ability to speak to the nation and create confidence and opportunities for young people. For example, 80% of girls show more confident behaviour having played football. Yet we know historically the opportunities to access the game haven't been equal; 76% of men said they played football in PE lessons at school, yet only 19% of women said they had the chance to play. That is something we wanted to change.

The BGFSP kicked-off with a committed network of 100 specialist hubs and has now grown to over 300 - each delivering girls' football programmes in PE or Games lessons, supporting teachers in primary schools with training and resources. After seeing great success, with the number of participating schools rising from 3,000 in 2019 to 20,000 in 2024, our partnership with The FA has been extended until 2028 and will deepen its focus on secondary schools, where it's known 64% of girls will drop sports by the time they finish puberty. A new programme will identify pupils who show potential from within schools, connect the pathway between education and football, and provide critical support to talented players and their families.

A standout Barclays Girls Football School Partnerships event is the Biggest Ever Football Session, a collaboration between Barclays and the FA as part of The FA's Let Girls Play campaign. The annual event launched with 90,000 girls all playing football on the same day in 2022. In 2024, 465,000 girls all played football at schools on the same day, garnering national media coverage, and demonstrating success of the BGFSP to date.



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The Barclays Game On programme provides training and support for secondary school teachers to engage girls in physical education through football, and in addition aims to support and develop young female leaders through its leadership training module. From coaches to marketeers – they run, organise, and deliver sessions for their classmates, not only introducing more girls to football, but also developing themselves for the future.

### KS2 Girls Football Yr3+Yr4 at SJW



We hosted a Yr3+4 girls only football festival!

It was a massive success with 7 primary schools attending! All children completed a warm up, a short skills session and some friendly matches to showcase their skills! Staff supported from the side line and all children cheered each other on.

The event was an ‘engage’ event, with an aim to create a warm and welcoming environment with a focus on giving children a positive experience in accessible, non-competitive sport and physical activity.

Thank you to the following primaries for attending:

1. Barford Primary
2. Nelson Junior
3. Oasis Boulton
4. St James CofE Primary
5. St Marks Catholic School
6. St Patricks/St Edmunds
7. St Teresa’s Catholic School

### Active in Mind



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Active in Mind is designed to improve and prevent mental health issues in adolescence. It uses the evidence of what works to address stress and anxiety in young people, helps them build personal strategies for resilience and uses the power of peer mentoring through a trauma-informed approach.

Both St John Wall partnership and King Edwards Partnership work together with the secondary school to provide opportunities like above to support the young minds of the future.

Active in mind has now joined forces with Sport Birmingham to ensure all secondary schools are provided with the opportunity to access the program.

Thank you to the following schools for their involvement so far:

1. Aston Manor
2. Windsor Olympus
3. Holte

### Ackers Taster Day



Ackers Taster day is an inspire event for secondary schools within the SJW and King Edwards partnerships. Inspire events aim to raise the aspirations of young people. They have a focus on engagement, competition or a blend of both. We want young people to feel inspired and enthused and ready to make the most of the opportunities around them.

Students who took full advantage of the day:

- Chinomso
- Tobias
- Dieudonne
- David
- Dean
- Yahnni
- Jayden
- Ksawery
- Joseu

Thank you to the following schools for taking part, we hope the students enjoyed it as much as we did watching 😊



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George Dixon Academy – Canoeing & climbing

St John Wall – Canoeing and skiing

St Pauls Girls – Tubing and skiing

Holyhead – Climbing

Holte – Climbing

Aston Manor – Canoeing

### SEND Move Now Festival

Through the MoveNow Program we have, together with the International Olympic Committee, commissioned an independent research study to identify young people’s engagement with sports and physical activity.

We surveyed five thousand youths between 12 and 24 years and two thousand parents across 10 countries. What we found out: while the majority of parents and young people recognize the benefits of playing sport, the level of engagement remains insufficient.

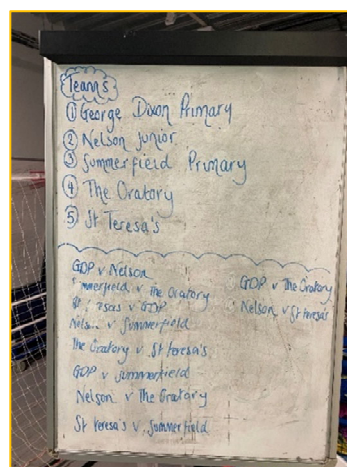
SJW students took part in a number of different activities including blind football, archery, boccia and adapted basketball.

“Really enjoyed that miss, when can we do it again” positive feedback received by students 😊

Thank you to those that came along with me and made the most of the experience:

- Isharma
- Amelia Louise
- Mohammed
- Ansh
- Nathan
- Christopher
- Daniels
- Ian

### Yr5+Yr6 Girls Football at George Dixon Academy



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I also had the opportunity to work with Yr7 and Yr8 GDA girls football team, working on their leadership skills to help support the Yr5+Yr6 girls football event. The leaders were fantastic, very supportive to the primary children and knowledgeable on their football skills.

Thank you to the following schools for attending:

1. George Dixon Primary
2. Nelson Junior
3. Summerfield Primary
4. The Oratory
5. St Teresa's Catholic School

### Up and coming events

#### Primary

Thursday 24th October – KS2 (Yr5) Mixed Netball Festival @St Pauls 9am-12:30pm) 5 school limit.

Monday 18th November 2024 - Yr4+Yr5 (mixed gender) Inspire Event - Indoor Cricket at Hamstead Hall 9:30am-12:30pm

MAX 6 schools (8 students per school) Please can we have a real focus on PP students being selected for this event.

Thursday 21st November 2024 - Yr3+4 SEND Multi Skills Engage Event - at St John Wall 12:30pm-2:30pm

MAX 5 schools (5 students per school)

Tuesday 26th November 2024 - Yr5+6 Inspire Event - Basketball Festival at Windsor Olympus - 9:30am-12:30pm

MAX 8 schools (8 students per school) Please can we have a real focus on PP students being selected for this event.

**Still TBC** - Spikeball and Cross Country (December date)

#### Secondary

Future Prospects Training – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Girls Basketball League (on going)

Boys Football League (on going)

Girls Football Tournament –

Yr9 at Holyhead Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 4pm start

Yr8 at Holyhead Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 4pm start

Yr7 at Holyhead Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 4pm start

Sport Birmingham Leadership Day at Alexander Stadium – 13<sup>th</sup> November 9:30am-2pm

Steps to Success at Neachells Well-Being Centre – 14<sup>th</sup> November 9:30am-2pm

Saint John Wall Catholic School  
A Catholic School For All



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