

## School Games December Newsletter 2025

### YST Improving PE for Muslim Girls Trip

On Thursday 4th December, I had the privilege of accompanying seven Year 8 girls to the Birmingham City Football Ground to take part in the Youth Sport Trust (YST) research project, Improving PE for Muslim Girls. The day was incredibly insightful and aligned closely with the project aims outlined by YST, which seek to improve PE, sport and physical activity opportunities for Muslim girls in schools. Throughout the visit, we explored the religious theory behind the importance of physical activity, while also reflecting on the current barriers that prevent many Muslim girls from being active. The girls took part in surveys designed to capture their experiences, motivations and challenges around PE, helping contribute to national research aimed at shaping more inclusive practice in schools. Key discussions centred on student voice, PE kit considerations, and practical changes we can make to create a more positive and empowering PE experience for all girls. Overall, the trip raised our awareness of the disproportionate levels of inactivity among Muslim girls and gave us valuable strategies and perspectives to bring back into our own PE curriculum.



### KS3 Girls Handball Tournament

The Year 8 girls took part in the Aston Schools Handball Tournament yesterday after school (11.12.2025), competing against a number of schools from both the St John Partnership and King Edwards Partnership.

The girls played brilliantly and demonstrated our core school games values of **teamwork, respect, determination, resilience, and honesty** throughout the competition. St John Wall finished in 4th place, just missing out on medals, but their effort and spirit were outstanding.

A big thank you from Mrs Ratcliffe to all the girls for taking part and showing such excellent sportsmanship.

## **Barford Primary PE Support**

This term, I have had the absolute pleasure of working at Barford Primary School, supporting teachers with the delivery of the PE scheme of work. My role has focused on team teaching within lessons, modelling effective practice and demonstrating how activities can be adapted or amended to maximise engagement, challenge, and progress for all pupils. A key aim of this support is to upskill school staff, ensuring long-term confidence and consistency in PE delivery — a particularly valuable approach given the ongoing uncertainty surrounding Sport Premium funding. It has been a genuine pleasure to work alongside the Barford team, and I look forward to continuing my support next term with gymnastics. If this is something you would be interested in using your Sport Premium funding for, please don't hesitate to ask — I would be more than happy to provide further information and work flexibly around your school's needs.

## **Up and coming events**

### **Primary**

Friday 16th January 2026 - KS2 Indoor Athletics - Competitive Event Y5+6 at HolyHead School 9:30am-12:30pm. Sports Hall Athletics - Format 25.26.docx - 12 students per team (6 girls and 6 boys) MAX 6 schools.

Tuesday 27th January 2026 - KS2 Badminton Festival - Engage and Inspire Event Y3+4 at King Edwards Handsworth Wood Girls School 1pm-3pm. 4 students per school (mixed gender event) MAX 5 schools.

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 - KS2 Badminton Festival at King Edwards Handsworth Wood Girls School 1pm-3pm. 4 students per school (mixed gender event) MAX 5 schools.

Tuesday 10th March 2026 - KS2 Y3+4 Gymnastics Festival; Engage and Inspire Event - St John Wall Catholic School 1pm-2:45pm. 6 students per school (mixed gender event) MAX 4 schools.

**Change of date – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March instead of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026** - Astons Got Talent Showcase - 10am-2pm at St John Wall Catholic School. As many acts/performances - no limit of schools and participants.

### **Secondary**

Yr7 & Yr8 Girls and Boys Sports Hall Athletics – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

KS3/4 SEND Boccia – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

KS3 Boys Badminton – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

KS4 Boys Badminton – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Astons Got Talent – **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March (NEW DATE)**

Biggest Ever Girls Football Session – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

Yr7/8 Girls Netball Final – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Yr9/10 Girls Netball Finals – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026