NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL GAMES
UPDATE JANUARY 2015

The dates for the 2015 Northumberland School Games have been confirmed as

23RD & 24TH JUNE 2015







YOUR COUNTY NEEDS YOU

What makes the NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL GAMES special? What makes us stand out? What makes us unique, a cut above? It's YOU! The involvement of schools in all aspects of the Northumberland School Games is our claim to fame. We are now asking schools to nominate themselves to be involved in the 2015 School Games.

We would love to hear from CHOIRS, BANDS, DRUMMING GROUPS, RECORDER CLUBS, or any other type of musical act who would like to perform, as well as DANCERS, CHEERLEADERS, SKIPPERS, HULAHOOPERS and all other types of entertaining acts.

Groups will welcome the participants as they arrive at Concordia, perform at the opening ceremonies, and entertain the crowds along the parade of athletes. The pupils who performed last year were superb and received a very warm welcome.



The Northumberland School Games is about recognising all types of talent. We would like to give young PHOTOGRAPHERS, JOURNALISTS, MUSIC TECHNICIANS, DJS, and ARTISTS the opportunity to showcase their skills.

Please contact Marie-Anne.Dowson@northumberland.gov.uk if you have a group of pupils who would like to take part in the Northumberland School Games in any capacity. Transport costs will be covered. Let's make 2015 the best School Games yet!

WANT TO COMPETE AT THE NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL GAMES?

School teams qualify to represent their area at the Northumberland School Games by winning a local level 2 league, tournament or competition. Ask your School Games Organiser for your local level 2 calendar and choose which events you'd like to enter.

FOOTBALL
Y4 mixed
Y5/6 girls
Y5 boys
Y7/8 girls
Y7 boys

NETBALL
Y5/6 mixed
Y8 girls

ROUNDERS
Y9/10 girls

HANDBALL
Y8 mixed

VOLLEYBALL
Y7/8 girls
Y7/8 boys

GYMNASTICS
Y3/4 mixed

HOCKEY
Y5 mixed
Y6 mixed

RUGBY
Y3/4 mixed
Y5/6 mixed
Y8 girls

GOALBALL
mixed

PAPA GAMES
KS2 mixed
KS3/4 mixed

TENNIS
Y4 mixed

GOLF
Y3/4 mixed

ATHLETICS
Y3/4 mixed
Y5/6 mixed

YOUR FEEDBACK

At last year's School Games we asked for your feedback. 95% of people rated the COMPETITIONS as good or very good; 92% rated the CULTURAL ASPECTS as good or very good. This is a fantastic response and we are very proud of what was achieved. All parts of the day were rated overwhelmingly positively: PRE-EVENT 76%, opening CEREMONY 70% and VENUES 88%. We were also offered suggestions as to how the event could be improved, here are our responses to your feedback

THERE SHOULD BE A PENGUIN MASCOT. A MEERKAT MASCOT. MORE MASCOTS.

Our mascots were designed by pupils in each of the 6 areas of Northumberland. Each represents qualities, or features of it's area. The hard working pit pony from Blyth & Bedlington; a quick -witted shark from Cramlington & Seaton Valley; Tyney the friendly sheep representing Tynedale; from North Northumberland a fearless pheasant; Ponpeth the skilful squirrel representing Morpeth & Ponteland, and Amblington the determined dolphin from Ashington & Coquet. The mascots are hugely popular at the Games, and inject a real sense of fun and excitement. The volunteers wearing the suits, suffer the heat and weight , but it is still one of the most popular jobs. So, whilst it would be cool to have a meerkat or a penguin, we don't want to take any attention away from the 6 fantastic mascots we already have.

WE NEED BETTER TRAINED UMPIRES AND REFEREES.

It's really important to us that the standard of competition at the Northumberland School Games is high, and that requires high quality officials. The School Games must be an opportunity not just for competitors, but also for young people to take on leadership and volunteering roles. Wherever possible we want to use pupils as referees and umpires. To improve their skills and make sure they are ready for the Northumberland School Games, this year we have identified which schools will be providing officials earlier. We have asked what training they need and worked with the National Governing Bodies to provide this. We have also asked that all officials have had more practice at using their skills, at level 1 and level 2 competitions. All of our officials work hard to apply the rules of the competitions but also keep the games flowing, and we hope that competitors, managers and spectators will recognise how difficult their job can be and respect their decisions.

THE OPENING CEREMONY SHOULD BE SHORTER.

We understand that when you arrive at the School Games you are eager to get playing, and we don't want to keep you waiting too long. However it is also really important that this is a special event, different to your normal school fixtures. The opening ceremony is a celebration of your success! Last year, competitors did arrive very early and there was a bit of waiting around before the ceremony began. To make things better, we will be delaying the arrival times and also putting on some interactive entertainment in the registration period. We will also spice up the ceremony, so that it is even more exciting and engaging. Craig Heap from BBCs "Tumble" will be on hand to liven things up! We would love to hear from any pupils or schools groups who would like to contribute to the opening ceremony and we welcome ideas about the content.

WE WOULD LIKE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE MEDAL CEREMONIES

This is a brilliant idea! Hopefully we will have lots of groups who come forward to perform at the School Games and we will ask some of these to perform at the medal ceremonies. We are also planning on using our young volunteers and sporting champions to get you involved and keep you entertained once the competitions have finished.

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT QUALIFYING EVENTS THERE WERE OR HOW TO ENTER

All 6 SGOS have a calendar of level 2 competitions. If you don't already have this contact your SGO, or you can look on the School Games website www.yourschoolgames.com

OUR TEAM DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO

We are going to improve the process of getting teams from the end of the parade of athletes to their competition sites. There will be designated zones for each sport and leaders with signs to show teams where to stand. We also provide all team managers with information booklets before the event and a pack on the day which include a site plan and detailed information about timings and locations. We will make sure to draw team managers' attention to the most important points during registration.

LEVEL 2 COMPETITIONS

Here is a round up of some of the local level 2 competitions that took place across the County in the Autumn Term



ASHINGTON & COQUET

Ashington and Coquet's Level 2 events started back in October with the years 5, 6, 7 and 8 football competitions. Winners were Year 5/6 Girls – Northumberland Church of England Academy, Year 5 Boys – James Calvert Spence College, Year 7/8 Girls - James Calvert Spence College and Year 7 Boys – Bothal Middle. Northumberland Church of England Academy also won both the girls' and boys' Year 7/8 Volleyball competitions. Also working hard for the Northumberland School Games in June are a group of netball leaders from Ashington High School. They will be trained by Josie Pointon of England Netball before assisting with Level 2 events and then the Level 3 in June. Congratulations to all competitors and volunteers who have attended level 2 events!

BLYTH & BEDLINGTON



Meadowdale Academy have won the Blyth and Bedlington School Sport Programme Year 8 netball tournament. The girls, who are in their last year at the Academy, will now represent the area at the Level 3 County Finals at Sporting Club Cramlington on 23rd June 2015. Well done also to St. Benet Biscop who were this years runners up. A big thank you also goes to the girls from Bedlington High school who acted as umpires for the afternoon.

MORPETH & PONTELAND



10 teams took part in this inaugural competition at Northern Gymnastics. Each team completed two key steps routines and then rotated around 8 other stations in a fun packed morning. We were all impressed with the high standard of competition, smiling faces were the order of the day with Morpeth First School coming out on top, it was a very close result between the top three. One boy from Belsay said it was "Great to come to Northern Gymnastic Club to compete." A huge thank you to Gemma Wilkinson and all her coaches for making the day such a success.

TYNEDALE

With four cluster rounds and then the TSSP finals, the Tynedale representatives at the School Games for the year 3&4 mixed football will again be Prudhoe West First School. They narrowly defeated Allendale Primary in an exciting final. Thanks go to our brilliant officials and leaders from Haydon Bridge High and Hexham Middle who did an excellent job.



CRAMLINGTON & SEATON VALLEY

Teams from Holywell and Seaton Sluice First schools competed against Cragside, Beaconhill, Eastlea and Burnside at the Y4 Football competition held at Astley High School in October. It was an exceptionally close competition, with Cragside the eventual winners. Cragside will go on to represent Cramlington & Seaton Valley at the Northumberland School Games in June and we wish them the best of luck. Sport leaders from Astley High school ran this tournament and did a fantastic job of refereeing, time keeping, taking scores and providing hot drinks to the spectators!

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND



Following two very successful years of Key steps Gymnastics competition a number of schools have had so many young people come to their school gymnastics clubs they made a request for schools to enter "B" teams. So this year the Key Steps Gymnastic Competition was held at the Swan Centre Berwick upon Tweed hosting a "B" team competition as well as the "A" Team qualifying event.

Judges were provided by Berwick Academy and Duchess High School students who are also members of the Berwick Gymnastics Club and have attended British Gymnastic Judging Courses over the past two years to take them to level 2 standard officials.

An exciting morning of Gymnastics was enjoyed by 10 teams from Scremerston First School; Prior Park First School; Longridge Towers School; Holy Trinity First School and Tweedmouth West First School with Holy Trinity winning the A competition and Tweedmouth West winning the B competition.



SCHOOL GAMES MARK – ARE YOU ON TRACK?

To achieve the School Games Mark for 2014-15, in addition to the criteria detailed in the table below, schools must have: a system in place to track young people's participation in the Sainsbury's School Games; provide opportunities that attract less active young people to participate in physical activity; hold a Sainsbury's School Games Day; have a calendar of competition that demonstrates opportunities for young people with SEND to take part in competitions; display a notice board promoting Sainsbury's School Games activity. Remember that all of the criteria apply only to pupils in Y3+. A small primary school has a KS2 of up to 120 pupils, a large primary has a KS2of 121 or more pupils. A small secondary school has up to 500 pupils, and a large secondary school 501 pupils or more. **Your School Games Organiser is here to help you!**

	SMALL PRIMARY			LARGE PRIMARY			SMALL SECONDARY			LARGE SECONDARY		
	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Time all pupils are engaged in PE and school sport each week	Plans for 2 hours incl. extra-curricular	2 hours incl. extra-curricular	2 hours curriculum time only	Plans for 2 hours incl. extra-curricular	2 hours incl. extra-curricular	2 hours curriculum time only	Plans for 2 hours incl. extra-curricular	2 hours incl. extra-curricular	2 hours curriculum time only	Plans for 2 hours incl. extra-curricular	2 hours incl. extra-curricular	2 hours curriculum time only
Participation in extracurricular sporting activity.	20%	35%	50%	20%	35%	50%	20%	35%	50%	20%	35%	50%
Number of intra school competitions offered to boys and girls	3	4	6	5	6	9	6	7	9	8	9	11
Number of inter school competitions entered (boys and girls)	2	3	5	4	6	9	4	6	8	6	7	9
Number of inter school competition where B teams were entered (boys and girls)		1	1		2	4		2	2		2	4
Number of inter school competition where C teams were entered (boys and girls)						1			1			2
Pupils involved in leading, managing or officiating School Games activity	5%	10%	20%	5%	10%	20%	5%	10%	20%	5%	10%	20%
Promote the School Games to parents and the local community		½ termly	fortnightly		½ termly	fortnightly		½ termly	fortnightly		½ termly	fortnightly
Utilise sports coaches to support school sport		yes	yes		yes	yes		yes	yes		yes	yes
Feature match reports and competition results on the school website and in the local press		yes	yes		yes	yes		yes	yes		yes	yes
Have links with local community sports clubs		3	6		3	6		3	6		3	6
Offer talented young sports people specific support to help them to develop their sporting potential			yes			yes			yes			yes
Have a School Sport Organising Committee or Crew in place			yes			yes			yes			yes

INTRODUCING GOALBALL



Over 60 young people came to Concordia in November to spend a day honing their inclusive leadership skills. Working with Paralympian Craig McCann, they looked at what skills a leader needs, what they are good at and then playing and coaching the inclusive game of Goalball. Goallball will be a brand new competition at the Northumberland 2015 School Games in June. The competition will be for mixed Year 6 teams from both mainstream and special schools. It's a fast moving game in which all players are blindfolded and so have to listen for the sound of the moving ball (which has a bell in it). The leaders who were part of our conference will be contacting schools who have Year 6 pupils to offer free taster sessions and your School Games Organiser will be organising a Level 2 qualifying competition prior to the Games.

SCHOOL GAMES ORGANISER CONTACT DETAILS

ASHINGTON & COQUET
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LEVEL ONE
Sporting competition for all students in school through intra-school competition

LEVEL TWO
Individuals and teams are selected to represent their schools in local inter-school competitions

LEVEL THREE
The county will stage multi-sport School Games festivals as a culmination of year round Level 2 school sport competitions

LEVEL FOUR
The Sainsbury's School Games finals: a national multi-sport event where the most talented young people in the UK will be selected to compete

FACEBOOK PAGE

For more information, photos and regular updates please visit

www.facebook.com/ northumberlandschoolgames

This year we are featuring, results, reports and photographs from Level 2 events, as well as the Northumberland School Games finals and stand alone events.

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Education Recruitment Specialists

The Northumberland School Games receive generous support from our sponsor The Education network.