

**East Midlands Children and Young People Newsletter for the 2012 Games
November 2010**

Introduction from Gaynor...

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member--
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,
November!*

Bit of culture for you there with the last verse of Thomas Hood's poem, *November*. Lots of No in it but last month was one in which lots of people in the region said "Yes!" to an involvement in London 2012 and the values of the Olympics and



Paralympics. We now have 79 schools approved as members of the **Get Set Network** with many more registering and beginning to use the resources and getting ready to apply. I have visited schools that are doing terrific work that relates to London 2012 but that had either not seen the value of Get Set and the Network or got round to putting in the very simple application; I am hopeful that my visit will have made a difference by encouraging them to join.

One of the key things in being part of Get Set is **blogging** which can be done by staff or pupils who have been given right of access by the lead member of staff. Blogs are seen just within the school (or by a peer should you choose that) and by staff at London 2012's Get Set team. The more blogs the better and they need not be lengthy or erudite. You can blog about a 2012 meeting, an assembly, a PE lesson, use of Get Set languages posters, a sporting victory (or defeat), a visit to or from something/someone 'cultural', some school activity reflecting one or more of the values of the Olympics and Paralympics – the possibilities are endless.

At a recent meeting of PLTs in **Derbyshire**, whilst others were registering or looking at the application process, Louise Jenkins from Network school **Charlotte Infant and Nursery** took the opportunity to add some blogs. Away from the meeting she added more and this activity (allied to the content) convinced the London 2012 people that the school should be Get Set School of the Month for November – our first in the region - so very well done to Louise and the school. They win a visit from top Olympic gymnast and motivator, Craig Heap, and will welcome a film crew from London on December 13th.



The other great piece of news in the month was the coup by **West Notts College** in getting Jessica Ennis, one of our golden hopes for 2012, to visit to celebrate the College's Get Set Network status. She spoke to around 100 students and proved really inspiring. They also got to listen to me, maybe not quite so inspiring, but it was a huge pleasure to meet her and she really does embody so many of the 7 values underpinning Get Set. Well done to the College

FESCO, Rachael Evans, pictured here with students and Jess.

Elsewhere, I delivered five workshops on 2012 leadership and volunteering opportunities at the Sports Leaders UK East Midlands Convention at Kelham Hall in Newark, **Nottinghamshire**, where I met many enthusiastic young leaders from around the East Midlands. They certainly seemed ready and willing to lead lots of Get Set activity in their areas and to organise and support sports and multi-skills festivals within their families of schools. Primary schools should benefit greatly. The worth and initiative of tremendous young leaders has been shown by Young Ambassadors, led by **Lincolnshire's** Debbie Foote, who have been petitioning MPs about the proposed demise of School Sports Partnerships. Debbie and others have been putting skills learned through sports leadership to good effect with Debbie even appearing on the Politics Show on BBC East Midlands.

Around the region:



Youth Music Voices is part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad and through **International Voices** has forged links between schools in the Barrow and Loughborough area of **Leicestershire** with Bangalore, India and Sofia, Bulgaria. I took a delegation on a tour of **Loughborough University's** fine facilities and we got to meet several of the University's Commonwealth Games medallists and Youth Games gold medallist, Sam Oldham.

The photo shows swimming double gold medallist, Liam Tancock with the party.

Green Oaks Primary is one of several **Northamptonshire** schools new to the Get Set Network. I was delighted to join a fantastic celebration assembly and present pupils with their Get Set plaque and some small prizes. They also picked up a trophy for best school for sport in their Partnership. Well done to PLT, Rich Albert. Sticking with **Northamptonshire**, the first winner of the EMpowered competition is Alice Law, a Year 7 pupil at Champion School who wins an Olympic mascot gift. Champion submitted several very strong entries and will hopefully also enter the next element to be found at:



[.http://empoweredcyp.org.uk/#/empowered-project/4540615322](http://empoweredcyp.org.uk/#/empowered-project/4540615322)

I have been working on contacts at **BBC East Midlands Today** to try to get some coverage of schools that are doing great work in connection with London 2012 and this has finally paid off. BBC East Midlands will begin featuring Get Set schools in January 2011 – watch this space to see what happens here.

One future story might be around the regional winners of the '**Get Set to Make Your Mascot**' competition which I will be helping to judge later in December and early in January. The closing date for entries is December 10th so please make sure that you enter. <http://getset.london2012.com/en/educators/get-set-to-make-your-mascot> for more details. Finally, the Get Set team in London is hoping for more entries for the GE-sponsored '**Get Set to Design My Break**' a great challenge for KS3 pupils. We hope to have a regional final with prizes and a chance to compete for a brilliant prize down in London right alongside the stadium (see the picture overleaf). The closing date is December 15th but it is well worth entering. Go to: <http://www.designmybreak.co.uk/register.html> Good luck if you enter.

Gaynor