



### Up coming events

#### Combined PLT Meeting

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009, 9-3pm  
Long Sutton or  
Wincanton Race Course

#### Somerset Dance Mat Competition

Key stage 3  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 3-5pm  
Venue TBC

#### High Quality Assessment

(Re-arranged)  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
Keinton Mandeville School

#### FUNs for Everyone

Tier 1 Course KS2/3  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
Canalside Bridgwater

For more information or to book a place please visit our website: [www.sesomersetssco.co.uk](http://www.sesomersetssco.co.uk)

### PESSYP Survey

The last term has been as busy as ever, with new courses such as Start to Play training, Talent Academies and Leadership events all taking place (when the weather has allowed!). It also saw the launch of the Partnership online pupil activity survey. This has seen a great response with over 2000 completed in the first four weeks and should provide great help to schools in completing the summer National PESSYP data survey. Please see the front page of the web site for more details of how to access the questionnaire.

The time of year is approaching when PLT funding can be accessed. Please ensure you return a tracker form verified and signed by your SSCo together with your invoice for the remaining £560. **The deadline for these is 5<sup>th</sup> June after which no funding will be released.**

There is plenty coming up in the summer term including fresh opportunities in Tae Kwon Do, Dance Mat Competitions for KS3, Leadership Camp in July and Scheme of Work training for Swimming. For further details please contact your SSCo.

Have a great Easter Holiday and we look forward to seeing you soon in the summer.

**Rob Treacher (Partnership Development Manager)**

### Competition

The Mini Red Tennis programme has made a great start. The project funded by the Lawn Tennis Association aims to increase the number of young children playing competitive tennis and improve the standard of competitive play. The approve is based on research which demonstrates that 6-8 years old is the ideal time to develop key skills in potential tennis champions. To date, a number of introductory festivals have been run throughout the Partnership. Local coaches who have strong links with local clubs have delivered these. These festivals provide young players with the



opportunity to learn the basics of the game at mini red level and also to demonstrate their skills. Those showing a good level of aptitude and a degree of enthusiasm will be invited to receive free coaching sessions. The sessions will lead to a team based cluster final at the local tennis clubs, prior to a Partnership final which will be held at Martock Tennis Club during National Sports week on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. By then we hope the tennis bug will have captured a number of pupils who will then take up the opportunity of playing at a local club on a regular basis. We all look forward to seeing what difference this integrated approach to sport development will make and hope that some bright new tennis stars will emerge.

For more information visit [www.lta.org.uk](http://www.lta.org.uk)



### Curriculum Support

Following the swimming audit schools completed earlier this year, a programme of curriculum support started this term. Swimming coaches have joined school staff on poolside to help develop skills and confidence and identify potential training needs. Teachers have welcomed the support as it has helped them gain new ideas. The coaches have also been working to support the swimmer pathway, identifying opportunities for pupils to continue to swim. This has led to pupils being offered a link to free lessons at Goldenstones and one pupil from St. Gildas being offered a free trial at Yeovil District swimming clubs skill academy. The programme will continue in the summer term at pools across the partnership. Details available from Karen Arnold.

### Year 6 Gifted and Talented Academy



Kings School in Bruton was the scene on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March for a new event for the Partnership where around 100 pupils came together to try new activities and learn more about what it takes to become an elite sports person. All the pupils had previously been identified in their schools by teachers and School Sport Coordinators based on the talented performances they have shown. The day's activities took this to the next level. Pupils spent the day rotating around the different venues where they were coached and assessed on the 5 ability areas. Cognitive skills were assessed through the game of Rock-it-Ball which made pupils think carefully about the new skills they needed as well as the

best strategies to use in order to beat opponents. Social skills were used in the team building challenges, which asked pupils to interact effectively with others in their group, listen, communicate and lead. Strong creative Skills are required to be expressive and original in performance but also provide flair to outwit opponents in games situations. The aesthetic creativity was observed and practiced through Street Dance. Personal skills are vital to work independently; for example when training, or focusing oneself on challenges ahead. An individual orienteering course stretched performers throughout the day, really demonstrating those with the drive and determination to work on their own no matter what the challenge. Some of the 100 pupils will now be selected to attend the County Talent Academy which takes place at Millfield on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July; these will be notified around Easter time.



## Karate proving popular at Maiden Beech

Karate sessions for children are proving to be really popular with the 26 children who attend the weekly sessions. The sessions are run by Steve Hooper and Sarah McDermott both Black belts and qualified coaches in the sport. Steve and Sarah also organise and instruct children at the Pegasus Club which offers children the



opportunity to develop their interest in karate at Crewkerne Sports Centre on Friday evenings. With the sessions at Maiden Beech it is hoped children will want to join the Pegasus club and create a pathway from school to club. Especially encouraging is that many children attending find

this form of activity more enjoyable than some of the better known team games. One child commented, "It is a good way of keeping fit and it keeps your mind active so it is quite mentally demanding" Steve and Sarah are particularly pleased with the discipline being shown by all which they

feel will help them in other sporting areas. There are six sessions arranged for this term at Maiden Beech and then more planned with different children in the summer term.



## Cross Country Events

This term saw two annual cross country events remain popular all inclusive events for Partnership primary schools. The Yeovil area hosted their races at Long Sutton while Holyrood was the venue for its cluster primary schools. 300 pupils attended the two events. The team results for the Yeovil Competition show a very good run from the Charlton Mackrell team who took both the girl and boy Year 3/4 races, year 5 & 6 girls was won by Kingsbury Episcopi and the boys race by Huish Episcopi. Sally Pitkin would like to thank Long Sutton primary school for hosting the event. The last cross country before the Inter area will be at Curry Mallet on Thursday 19th March. The Holyrood competition saw U9 pupils running over 950 metres and U11 pupils running 1500m. School Sports Coordinator, Jason Hedaux, would like to congratulate all athletes and thank all teachers, parents and other supporters for making such a great atmosphere. A particular mention goes to Chard Running Club for their kind support again of this event by providing medals for the first three finishers in each race.



## Sports Hall Athletics



On Tuesday 10th March, Preston Secondary School hosted a Year 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics event. Over 85 boys and girls from schools in the local area participated in activities which included vertical jump, standing long jump, chest push, speed bounce, 1 lap hurdles and 1 lap sprint. Each pupil was trying to get his or her best score by being the fastest or jumping/throwing the best distance. The event culminated in a 1-lap sprint relay. The noise from the supporting parents and pupils alike gave a real buzz around the event. 10

Sports Leaders from Preston supported the work of Stuart Richards the National Governing Body Development Officer for Athletics and Adam Beauford, Holy Trinity's Primary Link Teacher (PLT) who said " *This event has been run in the past but had disappeared from the School's sporting diary over 6 years ago in the Yeovil Area. The intention is to develop a series of competitions with records being kept for each event. It was great to see and hear the children enjoying themselves*"



## Yeovil College Badminton Success

Yeovil College Badminton Academy is celebrating after two of its students won the Somerset Colleges Mixed Doubles title for the second time. Kirstie Allen (19), who is studying for a Foundation degree in Business at UCY, and Tom Green (18), completing a BND in IT Practitioners, are now the number one Somerset College's Mixed Doubles Team after an exciting tournament held at Bridgwater College. The pair won all their matches, beating both Richard Huish College and Bridgwater College teams to gain the top spot. Not to be outdone by their teammates, Dave Deane and Abi Taylor also put in fine performances, which eventually gave them the runners up spot. Kath Purnell Yeovil



College FE Sports Coordinator said " *This is great 1st and 2nd for the Academy players. Year on year Yeovil College continues to produce excellent sportsmen and women and it's fantastic to see them achieve so much. This is the second year our players have come out on top at the Somerset College's tournament and we have high hopes for the future.*"

## KS 4 FUN Festival

A main focus for the Partnership this year has been to increase the number of pupils taking part in inter school competition. In order to encourage more pupils FUN festivals have been designed to provide a less formal competition catering for alternative activities. Frome College and Whitstone School ran their first joint FUN festival on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at Whitstone. Each school brought pupils from year 10 and 11 who had opted for one of the four activities, which included: table tennis, badminton, dance mats and Nintendo Wiis. Pupils spent the afternoon trying the new activity and competing against each other. The dance mats and Wiis proved most popular. SSCos Dave Hallam and Lucy Gardner were really pleased to see some new faces that do not normally take part in competition and would like to thank the staff from both schools that helped with the event. Both schools are looking forward to the next festival planned for year 9 in the summer term at Frome College.

