

TABLE TENNIS JOINT SPORTS HALL CASE STUDY

DEVELOPING QUALITY STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN TABLE TENNIS SCHOOL/CLUB LINKS IN WOOD GREEN HIGH SCHOOL, SANDWELL

At original Sports College designation in 1998, Wood Green High School College of Sport, Maths and Computing decided to adopt table tennis as one of its focus sports. A local club, Leckie Table Tennis Club, trained at the school but was looking for a more permanent home – this led to a community agreement between the college and the club.

The school felt that table tennis had the potential to engage pupils of all ages and abilities, as well as becoming a focus for sustainable community provision for all. A sustainable partnership approach was required that encompassed schools, the club and expertise to tap into various funding streams and, in particular, the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA).

By 2010, staff from the school had posts within the club and club members sat on the Sports College sub-committee which was important to create mutuality - this process has been repeated in four of our other community clubs.

The club adopted the name Wood Green Table Tennis Club, which now has over 130 active members and fields 16 teams in the local adult league. Players in the league are aged between nine and 86 years of age. The junior section competes in



National and British Junior leagues as well as the National Cadet league. The school provides facilities and coaches for the club and the club in turn provides coaches for the school and its partner schools. The school has an open table policy, every Wednesday; anyone can come and play, advertised through ETTA and school websites. Participants include whole families as well as serious players looking for table time – this was run using a 'Pay and Play' scheme, providing a bridge to convert the social player into a club player.

Sports College and School Sports Partnership funding was used, alongside the expertise of the English Table Tennis Association, to

establish satellite clubs in the primary environment to fund coaches, curriculum provision and to deliver after school clubs. Club members also worked with schools to establish a competition structure.

The ETTA provided regional coaches to deliver coaching qualifications to junior club members and teaching staff, in return the school facilities are used by the ETTA for a range of competitions, as a high performance centre and regional/national meetings and updates.

Further information:

Youth Sport Trust

www.youthsporttrust.org

English Table Tennis Association

www.etta.co.uk



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ETTA supported a bid for £65,000 to upgrade the school's facilities in particular providing outdoor table tennis tables. Pupils can be seen playing every day before, during, and after school. The outdoor tables are part of an active lunchtime strategy that has drastically reduced instances of poor behaviour during the lunch break and consequently any fall out during afternoon school.

The school has also worked with ETTA to fund a disability/club development officer.

The school's talented players have a mentor and the table tennis programmes have been a great marketing tool to recruit pupils into the school. In 2010, two teams participated in the British Junior league and both have been joint top of their respective divisions and, at the UK School Games, the Club provided a team manager and non-playing captain for the Midlands team that won all of the able bodied gold medals. In total, the school has had over 50 young people with national rankings in the last 3 years, including a lead player who was selected for the England development squad.

At the start of our programme we had a disabled pupil (cerebral palsy) who played at school and joined the club, with her able bodied twin brother. Today, both are at university with the disabled pupil studying a degree in Sports Coaching. She is currently



part of the Great Britain Paralympic Development Squad and won a bronze medal at the Italian Open, her first senior international. She also plays and coaches at the Wood Green Table Tennis Club, working with some of our younger players and also helps out with an after school club.

Currently the school has 45 Year 7 pupils training regularly and 70 per cent of Year 7 and 8 students achieve at least five hours of activity a week. The club is on a sustainable footing, has achieved Clubmark status, has been nominated for the Sport & Recreation Alliance (formerly CCPR) Club Link of the Year and continues to grow.

“It is vital that we help to continue build our communities so that young people engage in activities both in and out of school time. Sport has always been a major success driver and is an excellent tool for engagement.”

Pank Patel, Headteacher
Wood Green High School College
of Sport, Maths and Computing

“This programme has enabled young people to become more active citizens and helped develop long term benefits for the local community. It has helped focus young minds on active pursuits. It has helped develop more healthy lifestyles and built a much greater sense of community.”

John Blackband, Chairman
Wood Green Table
Tennis Club

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