

Name of Case Study: Outdoor Table Tennis Tables

School: NewVic Sixth Form College

Activity: Table Tennis

Date: June 2012

Beth Harris, Sports Academy Manager, NewVic



How has the Jack Petchey Outdoor Table Donation benefited your school?

Four weeks ago our sports hall was closed to sport and taken over for summer exams (an annual challenge). Since then all of our sports activities have taken place outside, and with no outdoor tables previously we've had no table tennis delivery during the summer months, resulting in a significant drop in sports participation. This year since the instillation of the outdoor tables we've had over 80 students use the Outdoor Table tennis tables on a casual basis borrowing paddles & a ball repeatedly throughout the day.

Why did you choose table tennis?

Table tennis has a really high participation rate at NewVic. We have had over 140 students take part at some stage in our lunch time drop in sessions during the Autumn & Spring Terms, and we wanted to be able to continue this casual participation offer throughout the summer term.

How have the tables been used e.g. do the students just start playing, or does a teacher need to instruct them etc.?

The tables have been used both casually (over 80 students having used them repeatedly within the last 4 weeks), and also as part of curriculum practical sports delivery. We do not provide coaching / staffing on the tables, however multiple members of curriculum staff from across the colleges spectrum have also used the tables with the students.

What is the BEST thing about the tables?

Their accessibility allows a real social element to the student participation. The students have moved a number of benches to surround the tables allowing a spectator element to their games. They also allow participation throughout the college day with no need for formal supervision & coaching, in a very relaxed environment, which engages new participants daily.

Do you the students/teachers play table tennis outside of school, has this made them want to play more?

A number of our students play table tennis in a club environment (having been recruited through our indoor table tennis coaching & delivery) and we're hoping that this regular engagement into the summer term will continue to promote the sport.

Quotes from students:

"In the past our outdoor sports facilities have only provide opportunities for people who want to play football, basketball or cricket, so if you didn't want to get sweaty chasing around between lessons then there was nothing for you to do. The outdoor table tennis tables have given us something simple and fun to do during our free periods or if we need a break from revision."