

Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Dame Kelly Holmes visit West London Academy



Voters and sports stars of the future - Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Dame Kelly Holmes with West London Academy nursery pupils

Gordon Brown has announced a £100 million campaign to give every child the chance of five hours of sport every week.

The PM made the announcement on Friday 13th July whilst visiting the Academy noted for its excellence in sports. Joining the Prime Minister was Culture,

Media and Sport Secretary James Purnell, Children, Schools and Families Secretary Ed Balls, and double gold medal Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes.

Dame Kelly Holmes is the Government's National School Sport Champion. Appointed to the role in 2006, which is managed by the Youth Sport Trust and

supported by Norwich Union, the post enables the double gold medal champion to tour schools across the country to meet children and PE teachers and help to raise standards and promote school sport.

Not only will the new funding provide up to five hours of sport per week for all pupils, there are plans to create a

new National School Sport Week also championed by Dame Kelly. All schools will be encouraged to run sports days and inter-school tournaments building on the success of the UK School Games, a multi-sport event for the most talented children in the country, and its impact on motivating young people to take part in competitive sport.

Dame Kelly said:

"In my role as National School Sport Champion I've seen a lot of great work going on in schools across the country to encourage more young people to get involved in playing and taking part in competitive sport, and that's why the added investment announced by the Government is a welcome boost. I welcome the launch of a national school sport week, which will further enhance these opportunities."

The announcement has been welcomed by some of the biggest names in sport from Manchester United Manager Alex Ferguson to Olympic athlete Darren Campbell.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown said:

"We need to put school sport back where it belongs - playing a central role in the school day. Whatever their natural ability and whatever their age sport and activity can make our children healthier, raise self-confidence and self-esteem. It develops teamwork, discipline and a sense of fair play - values that will stand young people and the country in good stead in the years to come."

Welcome to our School!

The voters of the future lined up outside the Academy to greet our Visiting VIPs.

They all waited patiently to shake the hands of people that they would normally only get the chance to see on their television screens, but each student took it in their stride representing the Academy to the fullest.

Proud and confident Student Leader Carl 9W2 presented the Prime Minister with a special School Sports Partnership - Partnership Mark polo t-shirt. Many students at the Academy who excel in sports have expressed a keen interest and desire to compete in the 2012 Olympics.

The special guests watched football

games and participated in tennis and trampolining. A special performance then took place in the Academy Theatre where Primary pupils treated their guests to a rendition of a song from the Year 6 Show, and a Maypole dance.

It was a super end to an extremely busy but productive year for everyone at West London Academy.

“The Prime Minister was presented with a School Sports Partnership - Partnership Mark polo T-shirt from a proud Academy student.”



Once in a lifetime chance - Students welcome the Prime Minister and Dame Kelly Holmes to the Academy

Schedule of the Visit



9:10 - The Prime Minister arrived with Dame Kelly Holmes, James Purnell and Ed Balls where they were welcomed outside by Principal, Hilary Macaulay and Academy students.

9:20 - 9:30 - Sports Hall. The guests spoke to Jason Sugrue, British and Irish Table Tennis Champion and Academy coach, and the table tennis squad. Guests then went into the Gym to see a Trampoline display where they had the opportunity to speak to Kirsten Scott, SSCO Programme Development Manager and students.

9:30 - Dance Studio. The Contemporary Dance Group performed a short dance routine.

9:35 - Astroturf. Guests watched students playing football and talked to Football Academy Leader, Danny Edwards and students. Guests then moved on to the MUGA to see students playing tennis and also took part in the training.

9:45 - Academy Theatre. Key Stage 2 put on a special performance and May Pole Dance. Guests then walked along the top level of the Learning Curve past Design and Technology and Art and Design Classrooms where they saw students working.

10:00 - Primary Phase of the Academy. Guests talked to Primary staff and pupils.

10:10 - 10:50 - Back to High School Main Reception for presentation of SSCO polo shirts by Student Leaders. Guests were interviewed for television and press. They happily signed autographs, posed for photographs and spoke to staff and students before leaving.

High five!



High five! Primary Junior Leaders meet Dame Kelly Holmes in the Theatre

Sports stars and voters of the future excitedly gathered around the Prime Minister and the double Olympic gold medallist after their performance in the Theatre.

The younger members of the Academy crowded around for their chance to meet the world class athlete and to be congratulated on their performance. Dame Kelly quizzed students on how they felt about participating in sports

while at school.

The announcement to provide 5 hours of sport every week to all school children builds on the Government's commitment to create a world-class PE and school sport system in the run-up to and beyond the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The Prime Minister chose West London Academy to make the national announcement because of its status for sporting excellence.

Question Time with the Prime Minister

It is a chance that only a fully qualified journalist can only dream of, walking side by side with the Prime Minister asking him pressing questions, but Year 9 student Sam took the entire experience in his stride.

The budding journalist asked a series of questions to the leader of the Government that any fully fledged journalist would have been proud of. Keeping with the theme of the visit, Sam asked the PM sport related questions including what sports he participates in and whether other schools will have the opportunity to have the great sports facilities that West London Academy has.

Sam: Will other schools be given the same opportunities in sports as West London Academy?

Gordon Brown: With this new initiative of providing 5 hours of physical education per week, we aim to

give all children the same opportunities in developing their sporting skills and giving them a good knowledge of health for their future.

Sam: Do you exercise regularly or play any sports?

Gordon Brown: Yes I do exercise regularly, I have a treadmill at home and I also enjoy swimming and playing tennis.

Sam: Will this initiative help to produce new talent for the 2012 Olympic Games?

Gordon Brown: Yes I believe it will help many aspiring athletes really excel and succeed in their chosen sports.

Sam: Prime Minister, thank you for your time.

Gordon Brown: Thank you very much.



Sam interviews the PM as they take a walk along the Learning Curve

Reflections on a School Day



Academy Principal Hilary Macaulay with the Prime Minister as Student Leaders Carl and Jack listen in

Academy Principal Hilary Macaulay took a moment to reflect on life at West London Academy with the Prime Minister.

She took time to explain the importance of the Academy being an all-through school and its benefits for children from the age of 3 to 19 and their families.

"Currently, we've have just over 1,300 students on roll and about 200 staff working here. The whole philosophy behind West London Academy and the all-through academy programme is that we can take children almost from birth right the way through, and their families, and give them a real life-long learning experience."

Jack 8W2 got the chance to listen in on the reflection:

"I couldn't believe that I got the chance to listen in to a conversation between our Principal and the Prime Minister - It was very interesting and very relaxed!"

Showing now in a Theatre near you



The VIP guests were treated to a special performance

It was a show stopping performance, fronted by West London Academy's very own Primary pupils in the Theatre.

Gordon Brown and Kelly Holmes were treated to an preview of *We're all in this together*, one of the songs that the pupils would later perform in the Year 6 Primary Show for their parents and fellow students of the Academy.

Guests were also treated to a traditional Maypole dance.

A Letter From the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister followed up his visit with a touching letter of thanks and praise to all who are a part of West London Academy.

"We were very impressed with the facilities that you offer, and the leadership you personally provide to both staff and students."

Prime Minister Gordon Brown

The PM praised the impressive sports facilities and the educational opportunities at the Academy. It was clear that the Academy was indeed the correct choice of venue for the Prime Minister to make the £100 million campaign announcement.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA
www.pm.gov.uk

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 July 2007

Dear Hilary

I am writing to thank you for hosting my visit to your Academy on Friday. It was a great opportunity to see for myself the kinds of sporting activities that all children should have the chance of taking part in.

Ed Balls, James Purnell and myself were very impressed with the facilities you offer, and the leadership you personally provide to both staff and students. Your Academy is clearly a centre of excellence for sporting and educational opportunity.

I want to especially thank the teachers and student leaders who were kind enough to accompany myself and my colleagues on our tour of the Academy.

I look forward to visiting again and enjoying a proper game of tennis!

Yours sincerely

Ms Hilary Macaulay

Visitors to the Academy to Date



2006

Johnny Ball - Children's Television Presenter

Ruth Kelly MP

John Barnes - Footballer

2007

Jim Knight MP

Gerry Sutcliffe MP

Gordon Brown Prime Minister

Dame Kelly Holmes - Olympic Gold Medalist

Ed Balls MP

James Purnell MP

Your Say!

What students of the Academy thought about the visit.



Amee 9W1:

I still cannot believe that I had the opportunity to meet Dame Kelly Holmes. She was really nice and so down to earth.

I am looking forward for the opportunity to be doing even more sports at school!



Carl 9W2:

It was such a great feeling meeting the Prime Minister. I got to present him with a Schools Sports Partnership - Partnership Mark polo t-shirt which was also great!



Sam 9W2:

It is a memory that I will never forget. Not many people my age can say that they have walked side by side with the PM and interviewed him!



Suzana 8W2:

I really enjoyed the visit. I couldn't believe that I have met the Prime Minister and Kelly Holmes! It was such a great morning.

Once in a Lifetime Chance - Meeting a Sporting Icon



Staff and students proudly pose with sporting icon Dame Kelly Holmes

Potential 2012 competitors were star struck and in awe of the VIP guests.

Honoured with a Damehood by the Queen in the New Year's Honours, the visit to the Academy by the Prime Minister and Dame Kelly was a great boost for both staff and students.

The extra money will mean that there will be more sport coaches in schools and the community to deliver expert sporting advice to young people - so what may have been a dream for some to compete in the Olympics may now be a reality.

“ I'M HERE AT THE WEST LONDON ACADEMY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, GORDON BROWN, ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE MORE MONEY PUT INTO SCHOOL SPORT. ”

Dame Kelly Holmes

Dame Kelly Holmes Shows how it's done



Dame Kelly Holmes entertains Academy students on the trampoline

With extreme prowess Dame Kelly Holmes took centre stage in the Academy Gymnasium on the trampoline.

After watching students perform a trampoline display, Dame Kelly confidently executed a variety of moves much to the delight of the students who

looked on in awe at the sporting icon - but before she could perform, SSCO Programme Development Manager Kirsten Scott had to donate her socks to the double Olympic Champion!

It was a great show of sportsmanship by the athlete, and a fantastic opportunity for the students to see a legend in action.

Game, Set and Match!



The Prime Minister gets ready to deliver his serve then checks for approval from his Cabinet colleagues (inset)

During their visit to the Academy, the Prime Minister together with Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families Ed Balls indulged in a spot of tennis on the Academy courts.

Dame Kelly Holmes and students watched on as they each took turns to serve against other students. Everyone

was impressed with the strength of the Prime Minister as he smashed the balls past his opposition.

It was another great example of how down to earth and genuinely interested that he, Ed Balls MP and Dame Kelly Holmes were in getting a taster of just some of the sporting activities that the Academy has to offer in its curriculum.

Front Row Seats for Special Table Tennis Game



Jason Sugrue and Igor battle it out in a special game for the VIPs

After sampling the sporting activities that the Academy offers, our VIP Visitors finally left it to the professionals and were treated to a special table tennis match fronted by British and Irish table tennis Champion and resident coach Jason Sugrue and rising star, Primary pupil Igor.

They had the best seats in the house as each player skillfully battled it out in the fast paced sports game which many of the Academy students excel

in. Everyone was thoroughly impressed with the speed and skill of 11 year-old Igor who will be transitioning from year 6 at West London Academy Primary to start Year 7 in September.

The Olympic Champion said: "This is a future talent. This is what school sports are all about - getting the opportunity to see a star."

The Prime Minister could not resist and decided to demonstrate his own skills, only this time it was on a much smaller court!