

Written evidence submitted by Colegrave Primary School, Stratford, London

2012 was an amazing year for pupils, staff and parents at Colegrave Primary School

Colegrave Primary School is situated in Stratford; our school overlooks the Athlete's village. We could see every stage of the building process from our school playground. Our initial springboard for thinking about London 2012 was a local authority partnership (Newham + Barnsley) we made with a school in Barnsley in 2010. To celebrate this partnership we planned a showcasing event in June 2011 that highlighted all the work we had done together and how the pupils from both authorities had embraced this. Little did we know that this would be our first taste of things to come Lyn Brown (MP), Dan Jarvis (MP), Sir Robin Wales (Mayor of Newham) the Head of London 2012 in Newham attending this event. The support and vision of the head teacher and her team has enabled this partnership to grow from strength to strength. Both schools have been involved in a joint filming project documenting what it is like to live in Barnsley and Stratford; residential visits have also taken place and our partner school made special visits to London when we hosted our Olympic visitors e.g. Michael Johnson and Danny Boyle.

The school joined the online community GetSet and the pupils began blogging about London 2012. This soon became very popular in school and we decided to set up an Olympic and Paralympic Committee which comprised of eight pupils and two members of staff. We then started the mammoth task of getting people to visit our school as we needed to get our school name known to London 2012 – we wanted to be part of this spectacular event and we were determined to do so. Proactive contact with the Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committees and other organisations supporting London 2012 were made by the school, without this there would have been minimal opportunities offered to the children at our school.

Parents and carers were also instrumental in supporting the school in all our London 2012 events. The enthusiasm shown by the children and staff became a catalyst for our parents who could see that the school was determined not only to create opportunities to involve their children but also be involved in as many as possible.

All the work we have undertaken about London 2012 was recognized by the local authority which is why we were part of the Olympic Opening Ceremony. Our countdown to London 2012 was turned into a photo book; this documents our journey leading up to and beyond London 2012. I hope you are able to see this book (courtesy of Lyn Brown MP).

Here is an overview of our 2011-2012 year.

September 2011	We opened the new John Lewis store in Westfield (we had made previously made links with the store). We also found out that we had been selected to be part of the London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony.
----------------	---

October 2011	We hosted the American Worldskills Team at our school. (We also made links with the American Embassy in London).
November 2011	Michael Johnson visited our school and we were featured on the BBC 1 programme '2012 Olympic Games: 100 Days to Go.'
December 2011	Danny Boyle visited our school (we had written to him in July 2011 and asked him to come and see our us). The American Wrestling Team visited our school.
January 2012	It was announced that our school had been selected to be part of the London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony. We were the featured school on all the press releases for this event and also appeared on BBC London news.
February 2012	Ofsted inspection they commented on the outstanding links with the school in Barnsley and how all the work we were doing about London 2012 <i>'had a major impact on the self-esteem of pupils, on their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and above all on their confidence and wiling ness to learn.'</i>
March 2012	We appeared on Japanese TV. This was a live broadcast about the Olympics. The pupils involved had to learn some Japanese phrases (which they still remember).
April 2012	We made links with BBC World News and they made four programmes about how our school was preparing for London 2012. These programmes were broadcast around the world
May 2012	We entered the Chelsea Fringe and designed an Olympic garden we called it 'growing for gold'.
June 2012	We were invited guests to the House of Commons in celebration of our partnership work with the school in Barnsley. We also visited Barnsley during this month and had the opportunity to see the Olympic Torch.
July 2012	We appeared in the London 2012 Olympic Opening ceremony and we featured on the BBC 1 six o'clock news. We held a party in the school hall on the night and invited parents and carers. BBC World News filmed this party live. After appearing at the stadium here are some of the thoughts from our performers:- Isra – I feel inspired Michael- I feel spectacular Moiaz –I feel proud of myself Johan –I feel speechless and amazed
September 2012	We went to the athletes' parade in London and were interviewed by BBC London news. A few days later ITV daybreak contacted our school and we hosted two Olympic gold medalists at our school. Nicola Adams and Danni King. I was also nominated by London 2012 ceremonies to attend a gathering at Clarence house in recognition of all the work the school had undertaken.

The legacy for our school

The impact of being part of London 2012 and the legacy has not only left lasting memories of a spectacular year but has also brought the school community together. After reflecting on

the rigorous rehearsals that our pupils attending leading up to the night we now recognize that our pupils are capable of much more than we ever imagined. Very few pupils missed rehearsals and the long days and often-late nights did not put our pupils off. They had more resilience than we gave them credit for. Something that we intend to build on. Next month we are going to be working with a local film company and make a film that will capture the excitement and enthusiasm of our London 2012 journey. We have already made links with the London Legacy Development Corporation and are working on a project with architects and developers based in the new Queen Elizabeth Park.

Impact on school sports

As a primary school on the doorstep of the Olympic park, we welcome the recently announced funding of £150million to inspire children to become more active, as part of the Olympic Legacy. When funding for the School Sports Partnership was cut in December 2010, competitive sports in our school suffered. We look forward to working collaboratively with PE specialists, to deliver high quality PE lessons and rebuild sports partnerships with schools.

May 2013