

## Annex 1

### Sporting Achievement

This year, students at the Academy have continued to demonstrate high standards and excel within local, regional and national competitions. We have made our main aims to promote the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle and lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.

Our football teams have demonstrated a high level of skill and drive, which has resulted in success in a number of competitions that have been entered. We continue our dominance in the Sandwell Schools competitions with all year groups winning their respective cups. We have been winners in the U13 English Schools Football Association (ESFA) Individual Area Cup for both boys and girls and the U16 Boys West Midlands Cup. Our U16 Boys made history by defending their National title and winning the U16 ESFA Elite Premier League Cup.

Our B Teams have continued to enter into national competitions and we have developed Special Educational Needs (SEN) and PAN teams (teams comprised of individuals with differing impairments, playing together, regardless of the limitations in play) in Football, Boccia and Athletics. Maintaining an inclusive attitude towards participation has ensured that levels of engagement and participation have remained high. Most importantly, this has ensured students of all abilities are rewarded for their dedication to training sessions with an opportunity to represent the Academy.

Handball is a sport that we have started to develop at the Academy and this has been reflected through strong performances from our teams at local and national level. Our main achievement has been our U14 Girls, who by winning at both local and regional stages, were given the opportunity to represent the Midlands at the national finals.

Participation in cricket has grown and our U13 and U15 boys and girls teams have competed in local and regional competitions, both indoor and outdoor. We have continued to develop links with West Bromwich Dartmouth Cricket Club and Staffordshire Cricket Board. Through this partnership, we have been able to help organise and host tournaments, assist in increasing the provision of cricket in Sandwell and give our students the opportunity to compete.

A special mention should go to our students who have achieved national representational honours. These include Morgan Rogers who has represented England at U16 level in football and Rico Richards who has represented England at U14 level. In gymnastics, Remell Robinson-Bailey is currently with the Great Britain training squad. Abbie-Jane Mansell continues to represent England in Karate and Finley Sloan has competed for Great Britain in Kick Boxing.

We continue to develop outstanding leaders and officials within the Academy. We encouraged 12 Sixth Form students to complete an FA Refereeing Qualification, which has now allowed them to act as officials in ESFA National Cup fixtures. This has been an excellent support to our Session 3 Fixtures Programme and has given these students the opportunity to develop their skills and experiences in this role. Our students have also been involved in organising and leading on local primary school sports days, demonstrating a high level of leadership skills to provide younger students with a positive sporting experience.

This year saw the launch of the 'Game of our Own' project, which has helped to develop the confidence and leadership skills in a selected group of girls. Through the project, the girls organised and led our annual

## Chairman's report – January 2019

Race for Life in July as part of our continual support for Cancer Research UK. Through the commitment, dedication and generosity of our staff and students, we were able to raise over £5,000 for the charity.

Selected students participating in the 'Beyond The Baseline' initiative in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association and Youth Sports Trust. The project helped to motivate disengaged students from Year 8, by taking part in a number of tennis sessions led by professional Joshua Ward Hibbert. The sessions developed the students' confidence, self-worth and a range of life skills.

The PE Department has continued to offer a range of wider experiences to enhance opportunities for our students. During the Easter holidays, 24 students participated in a ski trip to Austria, which allowed students to develop skills in a new physical activity, in addition to gaining a taste of culture from another country. We have also held visits to professional fixtures, including the basketball finals day, which allowed students the opportunity to observe elite level sport.

Over the course of the year, we have had a number of professional athletes visit PE lessons aimed at inspiring the next generation, including professional footballers from West Bromwich Albion and Great Britain mountain bike champion Hannah Escott. These visits included question and answer sessions, allowing students to obtain an insight into professional athlete's lives and backgrounds. Students particularly enjoyed Hannah Escott's 'Dare to Achieve' presentation and coaching session, which inspired students to push beyond expectations in order to achieve their goal.

We have continued to strive for excellence along with a huge desire to raise participation and engagement of students in PE and physical activity of all ages and abilities. We see and value the positive impacts that we as a department have on students physically, emotionally and socially. We view this as our personal responsibility and continue to keep this high on the agenda.