

ACTIVE SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



December 2021



Thanks to Sport

SportScotland's monthly theme of 'Thanks to Sport' is a timely theme for us in December. A time for us to reflect upon term one of being back at it, a time to be thankful for what sport has brought us this year and a time to highlight the fantastic work that has gone on in and around our schools and communities during this period of uncertainty. Let's take a look at what the Team have been up to since returning in August! [#ThanksToSport](#)

Festivals and Competitions Round Up

The Active Schools Team was delighted to see the return of its calendar of events this term. It has been such a long time coming, but we couldn't be happier to be welcoming pupils back to the court!

Thursday 11 November saw the return of our first event in 19 months – **Small Schools Netball!** Twelve teams from across the Borders came together to play it out for the 2021 title. Denholm met Newtown in the Final, having beaten Glendinning and Gordon in the semi-finals respectively. It was to be Denholm's day as they came out victorious with a 3-0 win. What a day! Pupils brought nothing but enthusiasm and determination with them and it was obvious to see that we weren't the only ones excited to be back!



In November we welcomed the return of **Sportshall Athletics!** With a slightly different format to normal, four sessions over two days saw heats between Gala/Selkirk primaries and Earlston/Kelso primaries take place, with St Peter's and Knowepark and Melrose and Lauder, making it through to the Finals from their respective area competitions. Joining them in the January 2022 Finals will be Priorsford and Kingsland from Peebles. It was great to see the children taking part in another competitive event but at the same time, having lots of fun!

Our events wouldn't be possible without the help of school staff, PE teachers, parent volunteers and college students, who help prepare pupils for the event and also assist with the umpiring and officiating on the day itself. Huge thank you goes to everyone who gets involved, no matter how small the contribution!

Extra-Curricular Round Up

With the return of our calendar of events, we have also seen an increase in our extra-curricular offerings this term. No fewer than 146 primary and 116 secondary clubs have been running before school, at lunchtimes and after school, as teams prepare to get back on the court and pitch. Friday afternoon and weekend hockey and rugby fixtures have also made a welcome return in secondary schools. We finally got the go-ahead to recruit new volunteers in to our workforce and in the new year are very much looking forward to linking with Borders College, assisting students with sports placements in our primary and secondary schools.



School-Club Links



We have continued to build links (52 to be precise!) between schools and community clubs this term. These links help create continuity between school and community sport and enable pupils to further their enjoyment, skills and experience by continuing to participate in their local community. Partnerships like this are vital for our participation pathway and our quest to making our young people active lifelong.

For many children, making the transition directly from school to a community club can be a daunting prospect, therefore one of our key priorities is to increase the quality and quantity of extra-curricular sport available to school pupils, whilst ensuring that the transition to community clubs is easily accessible.

So what are the benefits of making school-club links with Active Schools? Clubs get direct liaison with cluster schools; increased profile and awareness of the club in the local community; potential for increased club membership and young volunteers and leaders assisting with the club. If you are a club and would be interested in finding out more about linking with Active Schools, please contact your local **Active Schools Coordinator**, who will be in touch!

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Active Schools Programme Round Up

The Team has been involved with the delivery of no fewer than 15 primary school **Junior Leadership Programmes** this term. These Playground/Young Leader Awards consist of five-to-six week delivery blocks, teaching pupils about how to safely organise and lead games to younger pupils during breaks and lunchtimes. During the programmes, pupils develop an understanding of leadership and build on important life skills such as organisation, communication and team work. We aim to give them the skills and confidence to deliver activities to younger pupils.



This year we have eight primary schools across the region with **Junior Active Schools Coordinators (JASCs)**. This is a great way for the Active Schools Team to promote sport and physical activity within schools. The JASCs also assist teachers/PE specialists with extra-curricular clubs, which creates more opportunities for pupils to get involved with. Pictured are the Knowepark 2021/22 crew who have already assisted with two multi-sports clubs at lunchtimes!

As well as primary leadership, we continue to be involved with leadership programmes in two of our high schools. At Earlston, nine fifth year pupils are involved in this year's **Level 5 Qualification in Community Sports Leadership**. The nationally recognised course enables learners to lead safe, purposeful and enjoyable sport and physical activity. The group has made a fantastic start and has done a tremendous job leading a block of tennis to an S1-3 group from pupil support. Next term they will continue improving their delivery skills and also organise and deliver their own sports festival.



Live Borders Culture & Museums



We are thrilled to be able to support the **Mission Christmas Cash for Kids** campaign for the second year running. Members of the public can go into the running for a 12-month One Club membership, simply by texting 'Cash for Kids' to 70215.

Please help us spread the word to ensure we raise as much money as possible for this fantastic initiative. For more info, including all T&C's, [click here](#).

Christmas Activity Book

It is the season of giving, so we're giving you the gift of an occupied child/children, with our new Activity Book! To view and download our book, [click here](#)! Feel free to print as many as you wish and forward on to anyone else you think has some little ones that would enjoy it!



Movies for a fiver! It's all happening at Heart of Hawick this December and January! For two whole months, all movie tickets cost £5...yes you heard right, a fiver! Not only that, but pizza is back on the menu - what better combination could you get?! Check out our upcoming listings and come and join us in our cosy 111 seat cinema! Book your tickets [here](#)!

Christmas Wishes!

This year has certainly had its ups and downs, but for the Active Schools Team, we have loved getting our young people healthier, happier and stronger again through our wide range of curricular and extra-curricular programmes; not to mention the excitement of being able to host festivals and competitions once more! We can't wait to continue this in the New Year with the return of our Primary Sportshall Final and Netball and Basketball Competitions, as well as our first ever Secondary Sportshall Athletics competition!

Finally, we would like to wish all our young people, school staff, parents, clubs, coaches, volunteers and partners a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

