



HT Sports Partnership works across local schools to promote sport, and provide regular opportunities to young people

Promoting Youth Sports and Development: A strong start to the academic year

Over the course of this term, we have seen growth in the engagement of young athletes across a variety of sports. From Table Tennis to Badminton, Basketball, and our Active 60-minute initiative.

Our school sports events have focused not only on competition but also on developing an understanding of teamwork and the importance of physical activity.

Table Tennis: The First Event of the Term

Our journey began with the U13 Boys and Girls Table Tennis tournament at Haileybury Turnford. This event was a stepping stone for the U13 boys' team, who went on to achieve success by qualifying for the County Finals at Ridgeway Academy in Welwyn Garden City. The tournament was not only an opportunity for the students to showcase their skills but also for the school to highlight its commitment to developing young talent in sports. The standard of Table Tennis at the County Finals was impressive with some fantastic skills on show.

Our next Table Tennis event was for the U11s, Cuffley School girls' team was successful and went forward and competed at the County Finals. Cuffley's girls' team were placed in 4th position, missing out on 3rd place by only 1 point.

Basketball: Building Confidence through Participation

One of our most engaging events this term was the Year 5 and 6 4v4 Basketball tournament held at St. Mary's Church of England High School. Seven primary schools participated, with Cuffley School emerging as the winners and advancing to the County Finals. The inclusion of music for one minute during the game was a huge hit as it allowed schools to score double points whilst the music on! The energy and atmosphere the music added was great to see.

The lead-up to this event was particularly exciting, as we visited the participating primary schools to provide coaching and training sessions. We visited Millbrook, Dewhurst St Marys, Cuffley and Holy Trinity. These sessions were designed to build the students' skills, confidence, and understanding of the game.



Badminton: A Competitive Showcase

In the U13 and U16 Badminton tournaments, we hosted events at both John Warner and Presdales Schools. These competitions featured both boys' and girls' teams, with John Warner School emerging victorious in each category. These events were excellent platforms for the students to compete whilst learning valuable lessons in sportsmanship.

The success of John Warner's teams was clearly a testament to the hard work and teaching which was put in prior to the event.

Active Minutes Initiative: Encouraging Daily Physical Activity

Beyond the competitive events, we have also placed a strong emphasis on promoting physical activity throughout the school day. As part of our commitment 'sit less and move more', we introduced 60-minute active lunchtime sessions for students. These sessions, which include a variety of activities and sports, are designed to get students moving, improve their fitness levels, and create a fun and energetic atmosphere during break times.

Additionally, we conducted assemblies to educate students on the importance of staying active and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This initiative has been well-received, with students eagerly participating in the sessions and gaining a better understanding of how physical activity benefits their overall health and academic performance.



Sports Leaders

In order to host all these events, we required support from Haileybury Turnford students. We would not have been able to do it without the help of our Year 9 student leaders. In the lead-up to the events we trained the students by sharing the rules, allowing them to officiate and understand how the events run.

The girls really developed their leadership skills and did a fantastic job, and it was great to see the girls' confidence grow. We look forward to working with more student leaders for future events.

Looking Ahead: Exciting Sports Events and Festivals

As we look to the future, we are excited to announce a variety of upcoming sports events and festivals.

These include a range of activities such as Sports hall events, Rapid fire cricket, Dynamos cricket, Mini tennis, and Year 7 Basketball. Each of these events is designed to offer students new opportunities to try different sports, develop their skills, and compete in a fun and supportive environment.



We are also planning to host numerous festivals that will allow students to experience a variety of sports in a non-competitive, inclusive setting. These festivals will be designed to foster a love for physical activity, encourage participation, and build a sense of community among students.

Conclusion

Our sports programmes over the past term have been hugely successful, with numerous achievements across a variety of sports. From Table Tennis to Badminton, Basketball, and more, we have provided students with opportunities to develop their skills, compete at higher levels, and gain confidence in their abilities.

By offering active sessions and emphasising the importance of staying fit, we are not only nurturing talented athletes but also encouraging lifelong habits of physical activity and wellbeing. While hosting all these events we would not have been able to do so without the help of the young leaders, the students of Haileybury Turnford. The leaders help to officiate, score and organise the schools on the day, making the events run smoothly, and we look forward to using them again for the future events.

As we look to 2025, we remain committed to offering a wide range of sports opportunities that will inspire and engage students, ensuring they continue to enjoy and benefit from an active, healthy lifestyle.

