



Newsletter



October 2026

Welcome to the first edition of the Chester School Sport Partnership newsletter for this academic year. We have had a fabulous start to the school year with our events already underway. It has been lovely seeing all the children smiling and enjoying taking part in the events.

If you have not entered any primary school events yet, please do so by our website: [Chester SSP – Chester School Sport Partnership](#)

Congratulations to all the schools who achieved a School Games Mark Award in 2025-2026, you should all have received your badges to go on your pennants from last year. You can download your certificate from the School Games dashboard. Please do contact us if your pin badge has not arrived yet.

If you have any new PE subject leads in your school, or you have changed roles, please do let us know so that we can update our distribution lists. If you are new to the role or need some help, we are more than happy to come to your school and help explain what we do and about the School Games, please do contact us.

School Games Inclusive Health Check

Completing the Inclusive Health Check in advance remains a core component of the School Games Mark application. Please ensure that you complete this in good time, ideally in the autumn term to give time to reflect and implement any actions.

School Games Mark Criteria 2026-2027

The School Games Mark criteria for 2026-2027 has now been released and is available on your dashboard of the School Games website. Please do take a look at it so that you are aware of what questions you will be asked in the summer term.

All schools eligible for the Platinum award have been contacted, as well as those who get a year off for achieving Platinum last year.

If at any stage you need any help with the School Games Mark, the case study or compiling your evidence, please do contact us.

School Games Mark 2025/2026

Congratulations to the following schools who have achieved your School Games Mark awards this year:

Guilden Sutton Primary School
Bunbury Aldersey Primary School
Shocklach Oviatt Primary School
Clutton Primary School
Blacon High School
Saughall All Saints Primary School
The Firs School
Cherry Grove Primary School
The Arches Primary School
Upton Westlea Primary School
Grosvenor Park Academy
Boughton Heath Academy
St Oswalds Primary School
St Therasas Catholic Primary School
Abbey Gate College
Hoole Primary School
Chester Blue Coat Primary School
The Catholic High School
JH Godwin Primary School
Saighton Primary School
Eccleston Primary School
Lache Primary School
Maple Grove School
Belgrave Primary School
Delamere Academy
Newton Primary School
Huntington Community Primary School
Highfield Primary School
St Werburgh's and St Columba's Catholic Primary School
Upton High School
Waverton Community Primary School
Upton Health Primary School
Dorin Park School
Mill View Primary School
Tarvin Primary School
Eaton Primary School
Malpas Alport Primary School
Oldfield Primary School
The Queens School



Schools retaining the Platinum Award from 2024-2025:

Acresfield Academy
Bishop Heber High School
Mickle Trafford Primary School
St Clare's Primary School
St Martins Academy
Tattenhall Park Primary School

Koboca Health and Wellbeing Survey

We are asking all schools to complete the Koboca Health and Wellbeing Survey by **October half term**.

The survey will:

- Provide robust evidence for Ofsted
- Support applications for the School Games Mark (particularly Gold and Platinum)
- Help identify pupils who would benefit most from targeted interventions
- Offer valuable insight into activity levels, wellbeing, and community sport engagement

With the significant changes to school sport this year, capturing pupil voice has never been more important. There is now a strong emphasis on evidence-led decision making, and the new tender for the new School Sport Network highlights that schools will be able to apply for funding through a competitive process by demonstrating:

- Clear need
- A strong delivery model
- Evidence of impact

Work that supports least active pupils and underrepresented groups is likely to be given priority — all of which is evidenced through the national survey.

Schools who are registered on the Koboca website should have received a link direct to your school survey.

If you are not already registered or the lead contact has changed, please do contact us and we can help you through the process.

<https://www.koboca.co.uk/>

New Teacher Survey

You may have seen Koboca have launched a new Teacher Survey this year.

This information will help schools identify staff needs and, importantly, support the case for future funding.

With changes to school sport coming next academic year, we are keen to hear directly from teachers about the support that would be most valuable to them.

Your school's individual survey link can be found through your Koboca account:

1. Click the **'My Survey'** tab.
2. Next to **National Schools (Primary or Secondary) Teacher Survey**, click **'Copy link'**.
3. Share the link with all teachers in your school.

We would be grateful if you could share this link with your staff and encourage teachers to take part.

Send Disney-Inspired Shooting Stars (part of England Football)

Inclusive Play. Confident Girls. Empowered Educators.

A 1-hour virtual training session designed for school staff who want to deliver inclusive, engaging football themed activities that support the physical literacy and confidence of primary-aged girls with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

What's it all about?

- This inclusive, extra-curricular programme, developed by The FA and inspired by Disney storytelling, uses movement and imagination to help girls with SEND build agility, balance, coordination and self-esteem.
- This training will prepare you to deliver the programme to both mainstream and special school settings.

This session will help you:

- Use story telling to engage and motivate girls with SEND
- Deliver inclusive physical activities that develop physical literacy
- Create a supportive environment that builds confidence and self-esteem

What you'll experience?

- A live, interactive Zoom session with expert tutors
- Opportunities to ask questions, share ideas, and learn from others
- A toolkit of practical strategies and resources

What happens next?

After attending, you'll receive a comprehensive SEND resource pack, including 13 mission cards and accompanying emoji cards, to support delivery in your school. The programme is designed to help pupils with SEND develop their physical literacy through imaginative, story-led activities, building confidence, social skills, agility, balance and coordination while encouraging them to get active and have fun.

When & where?

There are 3 sessions available throughout the academic year. All are delivered virtually via Zoom – simply choose the one that works best for you. To book, click on the link below.

SEND Disney inspired Shooting Stars

Tuesday 27 October 3:30 – 4:30 pm. You can register [here](#).

SEND Disney inspired Shooting Stars

Thursday 19 November 3:30 – 4:30pm. You can register [here](#).

SEND Disney inspired Shooting Stars

Wednesday 10 February 3:30 – 4:30pm. You can register [here](#).

Inclusion

Supporting PE for Teaching Assistants

This short course is designed to improve confidence in supporting the delivery of inclusive PE and to help support staff create outstanding experiences for every pupil regardless of their abilities. This course contains 14 topics and should take no more than one hour to complete. Suitable for teaching assistants and support staff.

The course can be accessed [here](#) for free using the code **tainclusion2028**.

Inclusive PE Training for Teachers

Build your confidence and discover practical approaches you can use to make PE and school sport more inclusive.

The Inclusive PE eLearning course improves your confidence and skills to progress all pupils in PE. It will guide you through the key principles of inclusion, offering interactive tasks and top tips to embed inclusive practice in your school sport and PE sessions.

Free access code: **IPEINCLUSION2028**

[Inclusive PE Training - eLearning course](#)

Stronger Everyday

Free toolkits and activity cards to help embed strength and balance activities throughout the school day. The Chief Medical Officer's guidelines for children and young people with disabilities encourages strength and balance movements to be completed at least 3 times a week.

[Stronger Every Day - Youth Sport Trust](#)

Inclusive Education Hub

Inclusion 2024 aims to increase and improve opportunities for disabled children and children with SEND to engage and participate in physical education and school sport.

The project is funded by the Department of Education. It is led by the Youth Sport Trust on behalf of a consortium of organisations, including Activity Alliance, the British Paralympic Association, Nasen and Swim England.

Click here to register and access practical resources and a self-assessment to help you review and strengthen your inclusive PE provision.

[Inclusion 2024 Inclusive PE hub](#)

Year 5 and 6 Hockey

On Wednesday 23rd September Upton High School hosted our year 5 and 6 Quick Sticks Hockey competition. We had 4 teams taking part in the event in what was a very competitive event.

The round robin event was very close with the top two teams getting the same number of points, with the winner decided by the highest number of goals scored.

Coming in a very close second place was Saughall Primary School with Tarvin Primary winning and progressing through to the county final.

Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to the coaches from CEPD for refereeing the matches, and to Upton High School for providing the pitches.

Good luck to Tarvin in the county final in March!



SEND Multi Sport Festival

Northgate Arena hosted our SEND multi sport event on Monday 28th September. Here 7 schools and 132 children took part in soft archery, boccia, new age kurling and table cricket.

The children all had a good time, many of them taking part in sports that were new to them. It was lovely watching the children all enjoy the festival in a fun and relaxed environment.

Thank you to the coaches from CEPD for helping us to run the event and to Chris from the Cheshire Cricket Board for running the table cricket.



Touch Rugby

Chester Rugby Club hosted the year 3&4, and 5&6 touch rugby festivals on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th October.

For the year 3 and 4 event, we had 9 school teams take part in the event involving over 85 children. Many had never played touch rugby before and a few were a little apprehensive to start with. However with some coaching from the CEPD coaches, by the end of the morning all the children knew how to play and there were plenty of smiles all around. The improvement of all the school teams from the first game to the last game was clear for everyone to see. They were all superstars!

In the year 5 and 6 event, we had 13 schools and 115 children taking part. Some children were players of local rugby teams, whilst others were new to the sport. Again the coaches spent time in coaching the children whilst they were playing. The children showed great teamwork and their skills developed throughout the morning play.

Well done to all the children for taking part!

Thank you to the teachers for bringing them to the event, to the coaches from CEPD who were excellent, and also to Chester Rugby Club for the use of the fabulous facilities.



Fishing for Families

Fishing for Families is about improving children's mental health and wellbeing by spending quality time with adult family members through fishing.

This is a FREE project for children who may struggle with self confidence, social interaction or who want to try something different.

The project involves a day of CPD for a member of staff, followed by two introductory sessions for the selected children and their families.

Children and their families are then invited to attend weekend events and are signposted to community clubs and the Canal & River Trust Let's Fish programme.



The programme allows up to 8 children per school.

Day 1 = 2 hours coach led training.

Day 2 = 2 hours where the children receive fishing tackle.

Children then are invited to attend the regional fishing celebration events next summer and a national celebration event (**those who do not attend two or more celebration events are to hand back the equipment**).

Children who you select to take part in the project must have parental support and willingness to take part and commit to the programme.

The staff CPD date is: Friday 13th November.

Time: 9am - 3pm.

Venue: Anderton Boat Lift Museum, Lift Lane, Northwich. CW9 6FW.

To book your place and for full details including the itinerary, please click the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cheshire-schools-cpd-workshop-13112026-trent-mersey-canal-northwich-tickets-2003127293658?aff=oddtcreator>

West Cheshire Athletic Club Schools Cross Country Race Series 2026/27

At Ellesmere Port Sports Village, Stanney Lane, Ellesmere Port, Registration from
9.30am for school years 3 & 4

And from 10am for school years 5-8. First Race Starts at 10am.

Dates of Fixtures:

Saturday, October 17

Saturday, November 28

Saturday, January 30

Saturday, March 6

Race Order for the following Girls and Boys year groups: Year Three, Year Four, Year
Five, Year Six, Year Seven, Year Eight.

Medals will be presented to the first three finishers in each race.

The first three finishers from each school in each race will count as a team towards a
team score based on their positions, and the team event will be held over four rounds.

Awards will also be presented to the top three finishers overall in each age group after
four rounds.

Each pupil from each school will be provided with a race number which should be
attached to the front of their T-shirt/vest.

Each participating school should provide a representative/parent/team manager at
each round.

Further details from Dennis Wall at West Cheshire AC. Tel: 07968 643038.

Email: dennis.wall1@ntlworld.com

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CONTACT:



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School Games Values



The Spirit of the Games values of eco friendly, determination, honesty, passion, respect, self-belief, and teamwork were developed by young people to identify what the experience of school sport should be built around and they focus on personal excellence through competition.

These values have been successfully applied by schools to develop a range of behaviours, qualities and inter-personal skills with their students based on sporting experiences, scenarios, and attitudes.

We have some Spirit of the Games certificates on our website should you wish to print them and use them in celebratory assemblies with your pupils following any of our events.

<https://www.chesterssp.co.uk/>

There are also some Spirit of the Games posters available on the School Games website resource section which are very good for sports notice boards too! <https://www.yourschoolgames.com/>



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Don't forget to follow us on Instagram for all the latest pictures and updates.

[@chesterssp](https://www.instagram.com/chesterssp)

Website: www.chesterssp.co.uk

If you no longer wish to receive the Chester School Sport Partnership newsletter, please can you notify us on enewstead@blaconhigh.cheshire.sch.uk or claire.smedley@blaconhigh.cheshire.sch.uk and we shall remove you from our mailing list.

‘Providing opportunities for every young person to shine’