

Schools going for gold in 2012

Hundreds of schoolchildren got their own taste of Olympic-style competition last month, as they competed in the first School Games festivals.



The events, held in Hertfordshire and Crystal Palace, are among nine pilots planned across the country ahead of the nation-wide School Games launch in September.

Competitions will be held at local and regional levels culminating in national finals to be held at the Olympic Park next May.

During the event, Jeremy Hunt announced plans to improve school sport for disabled children by measuring participation rates, improving the variety of disability sports on offer, and providing more guidance for schools. The Secretary of State said;

"The School Games will revive competitive sport in thousands of schools up and down the country, and will be a key part of the sporting legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. And we are going to level the playing field for young disabled athletes by giving them more opportunities to play sport".

Above: Jeremy Hunt and Olympic medalist Gail Emms opened the event by lighting the School Games cauldron

Below: new measures to support disabled sport were announced



Message from Jeremy Hunt Secretary of State

As a nation of sports lovers, we always knew that demand for Olympic tickets was going to be sky-high.

Even so, it has been incredible to witness the scale of that demand over the past few weeks - with much of it driven by the affordable pricing structure that has been put in place.

In the first ballot, LOCOG received more than twenty million applications for 6.6 million tickets, with one million applications for the men's 100 metres final alone!

Unfortunately though, this meant that many people missed out in the first round, but LOCOG have worked hard to ensure that all those who did get priority as more tickets went on sale last month.

And there will be further chances too: around a million more Olympic tickets will go on sale next year; Paralympic tickets will be up for grabs from September; and you can already buy tickets for this summer's Test Events to get an early taste of the action.

Don't forget the fantastic Torch relay events being held across the country, along with a UK-wide, summer-long festival of culture featuring top talents like Damon Albarn, Leona Lewis, Tracey Emin and many, many more.

With just over one year to go, and the Olympic build set for completion in the next few weeks, 2012 is shaping up to be a fantastic year of sport and culture. LOCOG is doing all it can to make sure everyone in the country shares in the celebrations.

Legacy

Cultural calendar to capture spirit of 2012

Blur and Gorillaz frontman Damon Albarn and top artist Tracey Emin will be among a host of stars helping the country celebrate the best of British culture in the run up to 2012.

The London 2012 Festival's free events will enable seven million people to enjoy top performers as the four-year Cultural Olympiad reached its climax. Other acts will include Plan B, Olafur Eliasson, Miranda Hart and Leona Lewis.

Leading artists, such as Tracey Emin, will design official London 2012 posters to be shown in a free exhibition at Tate Britain, with limited edition prints going on sale this autumn.

It all supports our promise to keep culture a "key pillar" of the Games. The next event to whet the nation's appetite is this summer's annual Open Weekend (22nd – 24th July), with 1,000 events taking place across the UK, including special movie screenings, dance classes and exhibitions.



One of the biggest parties the UK has ever seen: Damon Albarn is among the stars involved in the London 2012 Festival next summer.

Did you know?

More than **1,400** previously unemployed people have secured jobs through the ODA 'Jobs, Skills, Futures' Brokerage programmes.



Bright future: Amirah Gaija from Hackney gets to see the Park taking shape first hand as an Electrical Design Engineer on the Athletes' Village.

Games for Growth

LOCOG chairman Seb Coe met with job seekers last month to talk about 2012-related opportunities as LOCOG prepares to create thousands of new jobs in the run up to the Games.

The event, run by the South East London Chamber of Commerce is among a series of 'job brokerage sessions' to help local people find work during 2012, and is yet another sign of how the Games is helping to support economic recovery.

More than 30,000 people have already been employed on the Olympic Park project, with many more working on supplier contracts around the UK – far exceeding the Olympic Delivery Authority's original projection.

As LOCOG prepares its own recruitment drive for roles during the Games itself, Seb Coe said that finding local people with the right skills was "a win-win" situation.

London 2012 in Pictures

Right: Tracey Emin is one of 12 British artists who will design the official London 2012 poster.



Below: the London Prepares test events began this week, with dressage at the historic Greenwich Park.



Above: Kate Hoey, Mayor of London's Commissioner for Sport, meets children local schools who got a taste of London 2012 as part Lee Valley White Water Centre's Schools Festival.



Right: last month also saw the launch of the Tickets for Troops scheme which will see LOCOG donate 10,000 tickets to the Armed Forces.

News in Brief

Boris hears from young people's legacy plans

Boris Johnson (right) has met a youth panel set by the **Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC)** up to give a voice to local people to discuss legacy plans for the Olympic Park. The Mayor said it would be "a tragedy" if young people did not have a voice in shaping the future of the Park. [Read more here.](#)

Local residents to get top views of Road Race test event

Residents in Surrey have been offered the chance to see world-class sporting action from **unique vantage points** at the **London-Surrey Cycle Classic**, the London 2012 Olympic Road Race test event, on **14 August**. [Find out more.](#)

Equestrian test event wows crowds

The first day of the Olympic Equestrian test event at **Greenwich Park** was hailed **a success** by competitors, who have praised both the venue and the organisation of the event, with medal hopeful William Fox-Pitt saying it already has an "Olympic feel". [Find out more about the test event.](#)



Coming Up

July	19	Publication of the London 2012 Government Olympic Executive Quarterly Report
	22-24	London 2012 Open Weekend - art, dance, film sport events across the UK
	27	One year to go to London 2012 Olympic Games
	31	Test Event: Mountain Bike International (Hadleigh Farm, Essex)
August	9-14	Test Event: Beach Volleyball International (Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall)
	16-21	Test Event: London International Basketball Invitational (Basketball Arena, Olympic Park)
	19-20	Test Event: UCI BMX Supercross World Cup 2011 (BMX Track, Olympic Park)
September	8	International Paralympic Day
	9	Paralympic ticket applications open

Tell us your 2012 story... Do you have any articles or information you would like to share? If so, then please get in touch with Julia.Taylor@culture.gsi.gov.uk

This newsletter was produced in-house by the GOE Communications team