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SPORT**

Improving community access to school facilities

THE BACKGROUND

London Sport's aim: Improve community access to school facilities

1. To support the schools to open-up their sports facilities, to broaden the offer of extra-curricular and out of school hours sporting and physical activities available to pupils and the wider community (after school, weekends and school holidays).
2. To ensure that open facility access is being supported by a strong and varied offer of sport and physical activity that appeals to young people in the schools and communities being targeted.
3. To work with schools and providers to convene and share best practices for wider activation

Project Details:

- 3 phases of funding
- Actively working with 14 schools across 11 boroughs
- Supported a further eight schools with other funds and advice





SUPPORT PROVIDED BY LONDON SPORT

London Sport worked with each of the schools involved in the project to help them find out what young people in their school community and local community wanted to do.

The process varied from school to school but included:

- Referring to insight provided from London data provided by the Sport England **Active Lives for Children and Young People survey**
- Signposting towards local insight collected by the local authority
- Providing a survey for students to complete at school
- Consulting with local stakeholders such as parents, school staff, civic and charity leaders

SCHOOL: Oasis Academy, Shirley Park

- **Borough:** Croydon,
- **Project Phase:** #1
- **Proposal:**
Building a Community Boxing Hub

ABOUT THE SCHOOL	
Name of school	Oasis, Shirley Park
Local Authority	Croydon
School Phase	Secondary
Type of school	MAT
Locality type	Urban
Ofsted rating	Outstanding

School context:

This is a community school with a large proportion of disadvantaged students who live in the wards of Thornton Heath, South Norwood, Woodside, Ashburton and Addiscome. The school is mainly made up of students from ethnically diverse backgrounds (over 76%), many of whom face challenges of growing up in Croydon, including deprivation, violence, and limited ambitions. Many young people demonstrate some evidence of developmental trauma and struggle with emotional regulation, concentration and self-esteem. The school already offers a range of extra-curricular activities such as basketball, table tennis, football and netball clubs.

Strengths: *Children and young people engage in fun/healthy activities outside of school hours.*

Weaknesses: *Not enough activities engaging girls, there are still many young people who don't attend these clubs. There is no wrap around accompanying pastoral support, especially for our young people who are at risk of exclusion.*

Engagement with pupils at Oasis Academy

1. All of the students at Oasis Academy completed a student survey, identifying likes and dislikes about sport and physical activity.
2. The results of the survey suggest there were already a number of students who were accessing Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and/or boxing clubs or who would be interested in attending clubs of this nature if they were available
3. Local consultation with parents, school staff, local authority and community providers identified a lack of local provision for girls and young women and fears that children will become involved in gangs – preventative activities needed.

This led to Oasis Academy creating a Community Boxing Hub on the school site, accessible to school students and the local community, and the timetable of activities (right).

School Testimony:

'Alongside partnering with [Gloves Not Guns](#) and other local partners we created a weekly schedule of youth and community boxing and fitness provision which enables young people to engage with youth workers, sports coaches and volunteer positive role models.

These people are able to help and support them in their transition towards adulthood, encouraging them to make good decisions, deterring gang involvement, helping boost self-confidence and self-esteem.'

Session	Target Group	Time slot Session regularity
OASPS - Transferable skills workshops	2x groups of young people (juniors and seniors)	4-6pm 2 x sessions / week
OASPS – Mentoring	Students at risk of exclusion	During school hours Approx. 5-10 sessions per week
OASPS - Girls only (This Girl Can)	Teenage girls	4-6pm 1 x session per week
OASPS - Boxing circuits	PE Students	During school hours 1 x session per week
Community - Box Fit	Local residents	Evening or weekend 1 x session per week
Community – Self Defence	Local residents	Evening or weekend 8 x weekly sessions, once per term
Community - Club hire	Martial arts clubs	Evening or weekend 2 x sessions per week
Community – Women and girls only boxing circuits (This Girl Can)	Local residents	Evening or weekend 1 x session per week

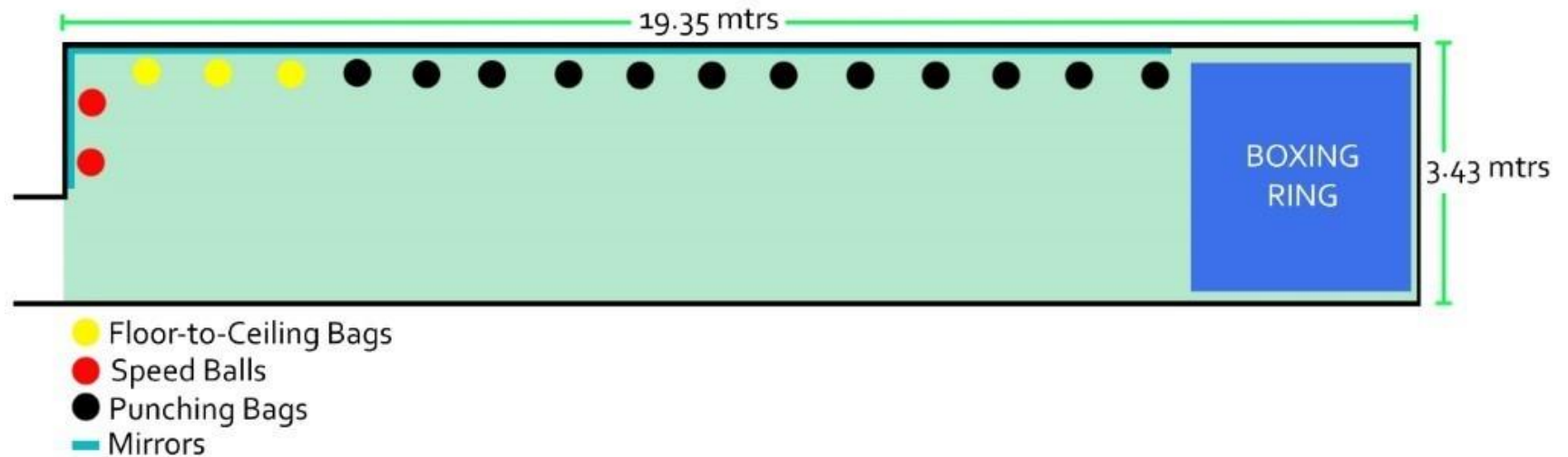


Community Boxing Hub at Oasis Academy

The school were then able to identify an area of 'dead' space within the school that was not being used, mainly due to its shape. The Community Boxing Hub has been built in the space, providing boxing activities for students, and surrounding communities.

This area can be used by students during/after school, combined with pastoral support, and provides affordable space for the community with clubs/classes during evenings/weekends. It also enables the school to engage with more girls, providing activities that they have said that they want.

Mezzanine Area for Boxing Gym





Progress, Learnings & Next Steps

The Covid-19 pandemic has delayed building work but Oasis Academy have used this time to great effect, to conduct further analysis into what their young people want and evidencing the impact of this project.

They plan to measure the impact of the project on a termly basis, and to use this evidence to continually shape the schedule and inform their approach moving forwards.

The next steps is for an open evening event once the school re-opens fully to the community. In partnership with Gloves not Guns, the local community, parents and young people will be invited to attend a fun taster boxing session, followed by a presentation about the Hub plans.

They aim to gain feedback from the young people to shape further planning and buy in from key stakeholders who may want to hire the space.

Contact Us

For more information contact gary.palmer@londonsport.org

The logo consists of a white shield-like shape with a pointed bottom, centered on a red background. Inside the shield, the words "LONDON" and "SPORT" are stacked vertically in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

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