



partnerships for schools
building schools for the future

This case study explains what can be found in a series of new films which share some of the Top Tips from headteachers who have spearheaded BSF and other school renewal programmes.

The films pay special attention to PE and sport and community use of facilities.

Key project information

Partners: PfS, Sport England, Youth Sport Trust

Schools featured: Pendle Vale Campus, Lancashire; Aylesford School Sports College, Kent; Queen Elizabeth's School, Dorset; Gorton Education Village, Manchester; City Academy, Bristol.

Sharing lessons learned: views from schools and sports colleges in new films

Project description

Partnerships for Schools, the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England all recognise the value that PE and sport can add to the BSF and Academies programmes. These organisations jointly support three PE and Sport Advisers to work strategically with key partners and local authorities participating in BSF.

How do you make sure that two schools sharing a single site have access to PE and sport facilities? How do you manage running your school's sports centre for public use? What can you do with the high ceilings and open spaces in your double-height reception area? These and many more questions are addressed in a series of short films which make up the 'BSF PE and Sport Top Tips DVD' now available to watch on the PfS website.

The series of short films, commissioned by Partnerships for Schools, Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust in response to requests from headteachers,

features a range of secondary schools that have been involved in capital programmes (pre-BSF), along with some of the results of the first wave of BSF. The films include Top Tips directly from headteachers and other members of the school who have had an input into the transformation journey, and design advice that should be relevant to all schools taking part in BSF and other capital programmes.

Rebecca Bracey, one of three PE & Sport Advisers at PfS, said the aim was not just to showcase new PE and sport facilities but to share the experiences of managing a programme like BSF in school. She added: "As the BSF programme matures there are lessons from the early days we can share with others. The Top Tips films give those embarking on their own transformation programme a chance to hear about what worked well, and in some cases some lessons learnt, directly from school decision makers. We hope the films will both inform and inspire to ensure that BSF investment provides top quality PE and sporting facilities and learning environments that can benefit the whole community."

Sharing lessons learned: views from schools and sports colleges in new films

Lessons learned captured on film

Among the projects featured are three BSF schools. Aspiring sports college, Pendle Vale in Lancashire, a Wave 1 school which opened in September 2008; and Manchester's first BSF project, which also opened in September 2008, consisting of two schools co-located to form Gorton Education Village.

Pendle Vale features a climbing wall making good use of the space in the reception area. Other top tips from the school include: thinking about a new image and identity to go along with the new start for the school; giving teaching staff the opportunity to find their feet in the new school - from how to find their way around to settling into their classroom - before students arrive; to consider making use of off-site sporting facilities and not feeling that every school needs to offer all facilities under its roof. Pendle Vale has also established a social enterprise company to manage community use of its facilities as part of its commitment to extended

opening hours.

Meanwhile Gorton's innovative use of space includes a fitness suite on the mezzanine level of the school building; staggered school days and separate timetables for the two co-located schools so they can maximise the use of facilities without getting in each other's way; a 'healthy lifestyle' wing which is open to the local community combines PE and Sport Facilities with food technology and enables the school to focus on the importance of healthy lifestyles and diet. Gorton's most important top tip is that a member of staff should be given the time, resources and freedom to work on managing and delivery BSF and the change management process in the school.

The films are available on the PfS website as part of the PE & Sport section and also through the BSF case studies area www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/library/PE_dvd1.jsp

Key contact

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Further information

More information about PE & Sport in BSF is available at: www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/library/PE_Sport.jsp

This web page also includes links to the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England and relevant materials such as a routemap for PE & Sport stakeholder groups, design guidance for PE & Sport, and Sport England's Designing for Sport on School Sites publication.