

## JOHN SPENCE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES NATIONAL AWARD SUCCESS

A school in Tyne and Wear has picked up a prestigious national award during the Youth Sport Trust's 2020 Conference for helping its pupils to improve their wellbeing and achievement through the power of sport.

John Spence Community High School was presented with the national children's charity's Outstanding School – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award by Tanya Marchant, PGL during a ceremony in Coventry on 27 February.

The award, sponsored by PGL, recognises a school which has harnessed the power of physical activity, PE and sport to transform the lives of young people.

Across the past year, the school's values have been promoted consistently through the sports academy ethos and work with the local community. The values of respect, fairness and teamwork contribute well to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and leaders provide a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities for pupils and encourage as many as possible to participate in these. The sports academy is highly valued by the pupils who take part. Many pupils participate at a high level in local sporting competitions. Pupils demonstrate the values encouraged by staff and are inspired by participation in sport: teamwork, continuous improvement and fairness.

Ali Oliver, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust, said:

“The Youth Sport Trust would like to congratulate John Spence for winning the prestigious Outstanding School – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award. It has demonstrated a huge commitment to improving the lives of its pupils through the power of sport.

“John Spence has championed sport activism in their community. They are a worthy winner of this special prize and truly embodies the mission and values of the Youth Sport Trust.”

A total of six awards were presented at the Youth Sport Trust Awards Dinner. As the charity celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020, it introduced three new awards to mark the occasion.

The wider Youth Sport Trust 2020 Conference took place earlier in the day on 27 February with more than 700 headteachers, school sport professionals and businesses in attendance. The event saw Andy Grant, who went on to become a Paralympian after losing his leg serving in Afghanistan, share his dramatic life story at an opening address demonstrating how the power of sport can help people overcome the most extreme obstacles.

Other high-profile speakers at the Awards evening included England Rugby Union coach Eddie Jones and Will Bayley, British professional Paralympic table tennis player, ranked world number 1.

Attendees at the Conference also had the chance to network, make new connections, and take part in workshops.

For more information please visit [www.youthsporttrust.org/yst-conference](http://www.youthsporttrust.org/yst-conference)

