

Dear Parent/Carer,

Next week marks the launch of our **Sporting Academy Programme**, an enrichment opportunity that has been available to John Spence pupils for several years. The programme not only supports the development of pupils' sporting abilities but also helps to build their organisation, commitment, and overall achievement.

This year, pupils can choose from seven academies: **Football, Girls' Football, Dance, Netball, Trampolining, Rugby, and Table Tennis**. Sessions are delivered by a mix of internal and external coaches and will run every Thursday morning from **8:15am – 10:00am**. Please note that pupils will miss form and lesson 1 on this day.

On **Thursday 17th September** and **Thursday 24th September**, we will hold **Open Sessions**. During these, pupils may try out a sport for the full session and, if they wish, switch to another sport the following week. Pupils who are confident about their choice are encouraged to attend the same sport on both weeks. Following the open sessions, registers will be taken, coaches will give feedback, and pupils will then be offered places for the remainder of the year.

Please note that the Sporting Academy Programme is a **privilege, not an automatic entitlement**. Some sports are particularly popular and may be oversubscribed, meaning not every pupil will receive their first choice. In addition, places may be withdrawn if a pupil's behaviour, attendance, punctuality, organisation, or completion of SPARX homework falls below expected standards.

Pupils can remain in PE kit after the sessions for the remainder of the day. If the weather is poor for the outdoor sports on these days, pupils can wear additional/alternative layers in order to protect their PE kit which they will be in from 10.00am.

With the new systems in relation to a mobile phone free school, all pupils should enter through the main gates and meet at the SPORTSHALL for these sessions.

We are excited about the opportunities this programme offers and look forward to welcoming pupils who would like to take part. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Pilkington

Headteacher Ms Katie Marshall

John Spence Community High School, Preston Road, North Shields, NE29 9PU.

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