

Into the Den



INTO THE DEN Valentine, Jason and Jocelina, students from Manchester Academy who successfully pitched their business ideas to entrepreneur Peter Jones in a mini Dragons' Den, received a cash investment from Mr Jones for their efforts.

GOING FOR GOLD



THREE Northumberland schools joined forces to recognise the many talents of their pupils.

Castle Federation Schools, made up of Cambo, Whalton C of E and Longhorsley St Helen's First Schools, marked the inaugural Shine Week by staging a mini Olympics.

The children, aged five to nine, also wrote a Northumberland anthem for the tournament at Gateshead International Stadium.

St Helen's assistant headteacher Sue Hall said: "It's been wonderful. We had an opening ceremony, when the children performed the anthem as well as a dance, and we also staged a closing ceremony with parents watching from the stands.

The children's reaction upon entering the stadium was just amazing, and for us the day has formed a finale to two terms' worth of work on China."

Shining stars

"It's an important part of young people's development to discover and be encouraged in what they are good at – and that's why we are celebrating both National School Sports Week and the Shine festival, the first national schools celebration of young people's talent in all its forms. "97% of schools now hold a competitive sports day thanks to our investment and the hard work of the Youth Sport Trust and staff on the front line. Competitive sport should be at the heart of school life, especially in Olympic year. "It helps young people develop lifelong skills like teamwork, discipline and respect for others – as well as being massive fun. "All children should have the opportunity to compete and be challenged at their own ability level, instead of competitive sport simply being the preserve of the most able as in the past. "Almost three-quarters of pupils now take part in house matches and leagues, School Sport Partnerships have organised a further 10,700 festivals of sport and the new network of Competition Managers and other changes coming into force will mean that competitive sport will carry on expanding."

Children's Minister
Kevin Brennan speaking
last week

"As a School of Creativity we are delighted to be involved with Shine week.

We believe each and every child at Kingstone has a talent and encourage all of our pupils to find theirs - whatever it may be! We believe in providing opportunities for all pupils to express themselves and embrace creativity. During Shine week, we're thrilled to be hosting the world famous Aurin choir, who will be taking part in workshops in and around our school community. We hope their influence, as one of the best choirs in the world, will inspire even more of our pupils to Shine!"

Matthew Milburn,
Headteacher at Kingstone
School in Barnsley



Making a big song and dance together

HUNDREDS of schoolchildren are making a big song and dance about fitness and health. Around 620 pupils aged six to 15 are representing 10 primary and secondary schools from across the city at Big Dance Birmingham, in Centenary Square.

The specially choreographed event forms part of the National Big Dance Project funded by the Arts Council England.

But it is also helping to celebrate national Shine Week, which aims to showcase the huge variety of creative talent within schools in the United Kingdom.

Shine activities covered a range of subjects from music and the arts to theatre and sports.

That included pupils from the Big Dance schools in the city such as Canterbury Cross Primary and Broadway Secondary working on their steps with artists Amayra Fuller, Hannah Lockyer and Merie Hope.

Big Dance Birmingham, compered by Birmingham Mail columnist Adrian Goldberg, was one of three events being produced by Argy Bhaji Productions on behalf of Bright Space.

The 10-15 minute long piece was choreographed to the music of Lulu, James Brown and Michael Jackson.

Rachel Carter, outreach co-ordinator for Bright Space, said: "The whole aim is to get children and young people up and dancing and exercising, which is why we are going for upbeat music."

Other schools taking part were Arden Primary, Aston Tower Primary, Calthorpe Special, Christ Church CE, The College High, William Cowper Primary, Wyndcliffe Primary and Yardleys.



BIG MOVES Canterbury Cross primary school pupils rehearsing for the Big Dance project, with dance instructor Amayra Fuller and Nisha Sezan, eight, Arooj Shahzad, eight, Sabiha Yasmin, eight.