



Multi-skill Academies

Programme information sheet

WHAT IS IT?

The Multi-skill Academy (MSA) programme was launched in 2003 and is part of the Government's Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP).

MSAs are specifically aimed at young people aged 8-12 years old who have been identified as gifted and talented. They create a multi-skills environment which develops the young person's agility, balance, co-ordination, body awareness and thinking core skills and are designed to bridge the transition from primary to secondary school. The activities are non-sport specific and are based around the development of fundamental movement and sport skills.

MSAs are run through the school sport partnership network and their hub sports college. By March 2008, just over 400 MSAs were in place and by March 2009 this will be increased to 450 (one in every school sport partnership).

How are they delivered?

MSAs are based in school sport partnerships and take place either in term time as a weekly after-school activity or on consecutive days during school holidays. They are delivered by PE teachers and/or multi-skill coaches.

How is it funded?

In 2008/09 Partnership Development Managers (PDMs) were allocated funding based on whether their Partnership had ran an MSA previously. In 2009/10 all PDMs will receive the same amount of funding.

REGIONAL MULTI-SKILL ACADEMIES

In 2008 the Youth Sport Trust piloted the Regional Multi-skill Academy (RMSA) concept in a number of higher education institutes (HEI) across England. The RMSAs are designed to challenge the most able young people further through innovative practice using the five multi-abilities and to increase practitioner knowledge using the multi-skill approach to Multi-skill Academies.

Building on the success of the pilot, in 2009 RMSAs will be delivered by eight higher education institutes and eight sports colleges. To assist with the development and delivery of the RMSA, a £5,000 grant is available to each host.

Eight sports colleges involved in 2009:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Astley Sports College | Bridgemaury Community Sports College |
| Capital City Academy | Childwall Sports College |
| Earlham High School | Plymstock Sports College |
| St Paul's Catholic College | The Wey Valley School |

8 HEIs involved in 2009:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| University of Bath | University of Birmingham |
| Durham University | London South Bank University |
| Northumbria University | Nottingham Trent University |
| Sheffield Hallam University | St Mary's University College |

How are RMSAs run?

Each RMSA will be a one day event split into two strands:

1. **Multi-skill day for the young people designed and led by the HEI or sports college staff:** This strand should provide the young people with challenges within

a multi-skill environment followed by assessment of their ability in the five areas (see www.talentmatters.org). Feedback/profiling should be provided to each young person to take away with them, plus collated into generic information for the RMSA as a whole.

2. **CPD element for MSA practitioners led by Youth Sport Trust staff:** The aim of the practitioner CPD section is to improve the standard and consistency of MSA delivery across the country and to share new thinking.



WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

The objectives of Multi-skill Academies are to:

- ensure tracking of gifted and talented young people from primary to secondary education;
- improve the way schools recognise gifted and talented young people;
- challenge and develop multi-skill abilities in gifted and talented young people;
- provide guidance and signposting to local sports clubs.

From an evaluation of Multi-skill Academies conducted in 2007 the majority of participants (>78 per cent) and parents (>87 per cent) felt that they had learned new skills and improved their existing skills at a Multi-skill Academy.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Funding applications are normally needed to be submitted by the end of October of the academic year in which you would like to host a MSA or RMSA

For details of how to submit a proposal to host a RMSA in your HEI or sports college please contact Francesca Ruffoni on francesca.ruffoni@youthsporttrust.org

For further information please email performance@youthsporttrust.org or visit our dedicated gifted and talented website www.talentladder.org