

# Multi-skill Academies

## Programme information sheet

### WHAT IS IT?

The Multi-skill Academy (MSA) programme was launched in 2003 and is part of the Junior Athlete Education (JAE) framework designed to guide and help schools provide comprehensive personal development support to the young talented performers within their school.

MSAs are specifically aimed at young people aged 8-12 years old who have been recognised as Gifted and Talented (G&T) in PE and sport. MSAs apply the principles of multi-skills development, enabling young people to develop a higher level of physical skill, rather than sport specific skills. This will help them to transfer between sports as the talent pool closes and their growth stabilises. MSAs also provide an opportunity for young people to develop their cognitive/thinking abilities and to challenge their creative, personal and social abilities.

The primary purpose of MSAs is to support primary to secondary transition for G&T pupils through:

- selection based on observation through delivery of national curriculum PE, fundamental movement skills and Multi-skill Clubs
- the opportunity to develop two core abilities – physical and cognitive/thinking – at a critical time in the young person's development
- offers of guidance and signposting to opportunities in local sports clubs
- support and tracking of G&T pupils through the transition from primary to secondary school, through a multi-ability pupil profile.

### How are they delivered?

MSAs are organised as part of an out of school hours learning programme within the School Sport Partnership. They are usually hosted by the Sports College or the secondary school to which the pupils will be moving.

They offer between two and four days of challenging multi-skill activities and coaching, as full or half days or shorter sessions, in a focused school holiday programme, or over a number of weeks. They are usually delivered by School Sport Coordinators, PE teachers and/or multi-skill coaches.



### How are MSAs funded?

In 2009/10, Partnership Development Managers can apply for funding to support the delivery of MSAs through the Programme Access Window process. £750 is available for SSPs who have not previously run a MSA and £500 for SSPs who have been running MSAs for one year or more.

### WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

The objectives of Multi-skill Academies are to:

- 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
- ensure tracking of gifted and talented young people from primary to secondary education

From an evaluation of Multi-skill Academies conducted in 2008 the majority of participants (>77 per cent) felt that their ability and performance had improved as a result of attending a Multi-skill Academy. The majority of participants also felt the MSA had improved their self-confidence, decision-making skills and increased their creativity in sport.



### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

For further information on the JAE framework and Multi-skill Academies please visit [www.youthsporttrust.org/talent](http://www.youthsporttrust.org/talent) or email [sport@youthsporttrust.org](mailto:sport@youthsporttrust.org)