

# PUPIL VOICE: YOUNG EVENT HOSTS

A group of 12 young people from across the UK have been selected to be part of the Young Event Hosts Programme. The programme offers young people the opportunity to build their confidence and gain first-hand experience of how to present 'on the big stage' in a variety of roles at Youth Sport Trust and partner chosen events.

The young event hosts have been mentored by YST Athlete Mentors Jeanette Kwakye, former British sprinter now broadcaster, and Tim Prendergast, Paralympic athlete and motivational speaker. The workshops focused on giving the Young Event Hosts guidance on body language, presentation skills, communication styles and tips to get over their nerves.

Four young people have since undertaken their first challenges hosting the School Games Summit Celebration Lunch and the YST Lead Schools Conference.

## MEET THE YOUNG EVENT HOSTS

### JAMES FARR (15)

The Joseph Whitaker School, Nottinghamshire



I have always been very active, participating and competing in many sports including football and rugby. As I have moved through school I have found a new passion for the performing arts and dance but sport has continued to be at the forefront of my life. I firmly believe sport is essential for a healthy mindset and lifestyle. I want all young people to be encouraged to step outside of their comfort zone and embrace sport. Being involved in the Youth Sport Trust's Young Event Host Programme has not only given me access to amazing opportunities – such as presenting the School Games National Summit Awards lunch – but has taught me valuable lessons on how to present. This has drastically improved my confidence on stage. I've also been given the opportunity to meet and work with inspirational athlete mentors."

### BRAD ARMSTRONG (17)

Oakwood School, Manchester



Being nominated made me really happy and provided me with a pathway for my future. I used to find it difficult to interact with people I didn't know and this has given me more confidence to speak in front of others. It felt fantastic, and I was over the moon to be selected to host the YST Lead Schools Conference."

### JESS LONNEN (14)

Witchford Village College,  
Cambridgeshire



I love sport, particularly horse riding and netball, and sport is what has led me to find the Youth Sport Trust. I competed in the School Games summer festivals for both netball and rounders, and admired the YST Young Ambassadors presenting at the opening ceremonies. I'm just beginning my public speaking journey and in November was excited to be hosting the School Games Summit lunch which was amazing."

### MACKENZIE SMITH (13)

Brookvale Groby Learning Campus,  
Leicestershire



I am privileged and feel fortunate to have been selected. Hosting the Lead Schools Conference gave me the opportunity to put the skills I learnt from the athlete mentors (the pros) into action. It took me out of my comfort zone as it wasn't easy to stand up in front of 200 people. I can't wait to get involved in another event."



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