

Games project inspires thousands of young scots to go for gold as global citizens

Major Commonwealth Games educational project inspire>aspire inspires 36,000-plus pupils in Scotland to use the learning opportunities from the Games to commit to their vision for a better world.

National finalists were honoured at the inspire>aspire National Awards in the Bute Hall at The University of Glasgow on Monday June 16th. National prize winners were awarded their gold, silver and bronze placed medals by BBC Correspondent and Adventurer Mark Beaumont during Primary and Secondary ceremonies.

1st Prize Gold in the Secondary category was awarded to Gabrielle Edwards from Inverurie Academy who chose author J.K Rowling as her inspirational figure with Morgan Morris of Waid Academy awarded 2nd Prize Gold.

As a result of participating in inspire>aspire, Gabrielle said: "I feel that I have learned a lot about myself and I will now be able to improve myself for the future."

In the Primary awards, P7 1st Prize went to James John Walker of Dalmellington Primary School; P6 1st Prize went to Rebecca Brown of St Ninian's Primary School and P5 1st Prize went to Daisy Shannon of Carmichael Primary School.

During Mark Beaumont's keynote speech, he encouraged pupils to: "Make the most of the celebrations that are coming to Scotland this summer. Now you've been a successful part of inspire>aspire and drawn your posters and are here to celebrate it, go out and find out what other people have written, the world they live in and what they are aspiring to be."

Cabinet Secretary for Commonwealth Games and Sport, Shona Robison, said: "I warmly congratulate the winners, and finalists, from the inspire>aspire awards. Indeed, a big 'well done' goes to all the 36,000-plus children in Scottish schools who have participated in this educational 'Global Citizens in the Making' programme.

"Offered through Game On Scotland, this Supporting Legacy 2014 Project uses the 2014 Games as an inspiring springboard to encourage children to develop personal action plans based on Commonwealth values.

"By enabling children in Scotland to establish sustainable partnerships with peers from around the Commonwealth, and helping them to share their values, aspirations and visions for the future, it is to be highly commended for empowering young people to become responsible global citizens.

"inspire>aspire is thus a valued partner in supporting our Legacy ambitions, to create a lasting and positive Games Legacy which places young people at its heart."

With 36,000-plus pupils participating in the programme from Scotland this year it was a truly notable achievement for the 220 Primary and Secondary finalists. Participation from England, Northern Ireland, Wales and 42 of the 71 Commonwealth Nations and Territories took overall participation numbers to 56,000 pupils.

Project Director David Lorimer said: “The posters we received this year were of an exceptional standard and have truly highlighted the incredible learning opportunities the Commonwealth Games have provided pupils with.

“We have hundreds of these inspirational posters accessible online and I encourage you to view them (www.inspire-aspire.org.uk).”

The Awards had a truly Commonwealth flavour this year with teachers from schools that participated in inspire>aspire from Mozambique, South Africa and India along with prize winners attending from England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The National Awards culminated what has been a successful year for inspire>aspire with participation in all 32 local authorities achieved for the first time in the projects 7 year history (previously operating as Learning for Life and Olympic Values).

Exhibitors attending the event included UNICEF, Vision Africa, Micro-Tyco, Scotland Malawi Partnership, Scottish Youth Parliament and The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. Each of these exhibitors were able to speak to the inspirational young finalists about bringing their vision for a better world to life.

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Notes to Editors

Please contact Alex Gregg, inspire>aspire Operations Executive on 01334844900, 07931906920 or alex.gregg@inspire>aspire.org.uk. Professional photographs available upon request.

**inspire>aspire: Global Citizens in the Making is a Legacy 2014 Project which allows young people to use a unique poster format to lead them through a structured process of self-reflection and self-discovery that helps to transform their inspiration into aspiration. This activity also supports the educational offering of the British Council's 'Commonwealth Class', Education Scotland's 'Game on Scotland' and the Scottish Government's 'Support a second team' initiatives.*

inspire>aspire is a project of the educational charity Character Education Scotland registered charity no. SC040962.