



Media Notice
21 June 2021

Lords sport committee hears from pupils of St Aidan's Church of England High School in Harrogate

The House of Lords Committee on Sport and Recreation last week held a virtual roundtable with pupils from St Aidan's Church of England High School in Harrogate as part of its inquiry into how we can get more people across the UK to live physically active lives.

Part of the Committee's inquiry is to look at how sport and other physical education is delivered in schools and whether enough priority and resources are given to sport in the curriculum.

The Committee hosted a round table with 17 students from St Aidan's and another school in Leicester on Wednesday 16 June. The Committee heard a range of views from pupils aged between 13 and 15. Discussions covered topics including:

- What they like about PE and sport in school and what more could be done to make it more enjoyable.
- Whether negative gender stereotypes around sport puts some girls off taking part or being more active.
- The role of famous athletes and other role models in encouraging young people to be more active.
- What sport and other physical activity they take part in outside of school and how more young people can be encouraged to get involved.

Members of the Committee who took part in the discussion included Committee Chair **Lord Phil Willis**, Olympic gold medallist **Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson** and Vice-Chairman of West Ham United **Baroness Karen Brady**.

Commenting after the event Lord Willis, said:

“It was fantastic to hear the views of the students from St Aidan's. It is clear to us that schools can play a vital role in helping get young people more active, and also encourage a healthy lifestyle among the wider community by opening up their facilities to local groups. It was great to hear about the central role sport plays in school life at St Aidan's.

“We also heard clearly from the students that there is still more to do to ensure all young people get more active, with a wider offer of activities and exercise that fit with their own passions and interests. The views we heard will play an important role in the report our



Committee will produce in the autumn. We hope that report will push the Government to make real changes to help everyone take part in and enjoy physical activity.”

Year 10 St Aidan’s Pupil Alex Leitao said:

“The meeting was a great experience - it was full of interesting ideas that were brought forward from both schools. I found myself engaged in what each student had to say and felt the same respect for my contributions. Leaving the meeting, we were all excited to see how the Committee will follow through with the information that they gathered.”

Mr Burt Headteacher at St Aidan’s school said:

“We were delighted to see our Year 10 students contributing so well during the House of Lords Committee meeting. They were made to feel at ease by the representatives of The House which helped enable them to contribute positively and effectively about their experiences and ideas regarding sport and recreation.

“Young people are of course important voices to be heard on this issue and we are pleased that students were given the opportunity to influence thinking and decision making at a national level. The students involved have benefitted enormously from the whole experience as individuals and hopefully many other students will benefit in the future as a result of their contributions.”

Notes to Editors

1. For further details please contact Owen Williams on 020 7219 8659 or williamso@parliament.uk
2. More details on the Committee and its inquiry are available on its [website](#)