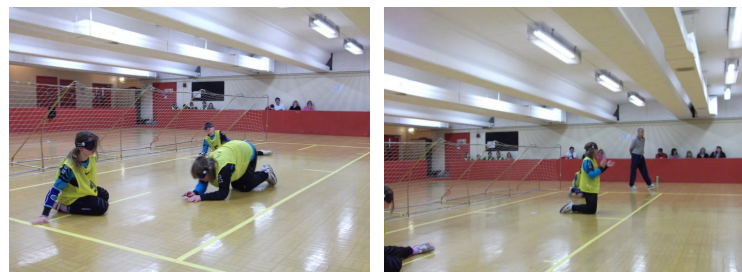


What is Goalball?

Goalball is a team sport designed for Blind or partially sighted athletes. Participants compete in teams of three, and try to score into the opponent's goal using a ball with bells inside. Teams alternate bowling or rolling the ball from one end of the playing area to the other. Players remain in the "home" area of their own goal in both defence and attack. Players must use the sound of the bell to judge the position and direction of the ball. Eye shades allow partially sighted players to compete on an equal footing with blind players. Of course sighted people can play too using the eye shades! Goalball is a fast, competitive game which is great fun to play and watch. It is being played at local, regional and international level across the world.



Photos courtesy of Norfolk and Norwich Goalball Team

Goalball has recently received media attention thanks to the London 2012 Olympics and Sainsbury's who are currently giving away free starter packs for several Olympic and Paralympics Sports to schools across the UK.

The Norfolk & Norwich Team meet regularly and play at City College, Norwich. They would welcome more players and hope to develop the game across the County if people show an interest.

Contact for more information:

John Rous Milligan

Team Leader, Visually Impaired Children, Young People and Families

E-mail: john.milligan@norfolk.gov.uk

Dates for your diary

11 June	Parents Workshop NNAB 7-9 pm
18 June	Open Evening VSSS 5-8 pm plus NDCS Listening Bus 4-8 pm
21 June	VI support group (key stage 1-2) 9.30-3.00 Visit to the Sainsbury Centre
20 July	End of term

If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact the Customer Service Centre on 0844 800 8001 (minicom 0844 800 8011) and we will do our best to help.



Virtual School Sensory Support

Welcome to the first issue of the Virtual School Sensory Support Newsletter

Summer 2012

The Norfolk & Norwich Association for the Blind works with VSSS

The NNAB Young Eyes Group visited The Theatre Royal to see Grease on December 3rd. It was organised by NNAB in conjunction with the VSSS and ten girls with visual impairment (aged 8-14 years) and their Support Teachers of the Visually Impaired from VSSS, took part. We were also joined by Sue Warnes, a Rehabilitation Worker with Social Services who was able to advise on, and supervise, the walk to the Theatre. The girls enjoyed the morning in The Bradbury Activity Centre dancing to programmes on our new Xbox Kinect, playing board games and making Christmas Tree decorations. They then had a Bring and Share lunch together before we all walked

down to the theatre, stopping on the way in The Bear Shop and Lush.

Before the performance we listened to a description of the performance we were about to see and had the opportunity to handle some of the costumes including a Pink Ladies jacket, a T Birds jacket and a prom head dress and dress. We then enjoyed a Touch Tour of the stage and explored Frenchie's bedroom and the Grease Lightning car. What a treat that was! The performance was amazing and I'm sure the girls slept well that night!

The Theatre staff were superb; their organisation of our visit was to be commended. We look forward to our next visit to the Theatre which will be Oliver in July.

Working with VSSS is always so beneficial to our vision-impaired young people and enables us to bring together families and those working to develop the skills of the young people.

Dorothy Bowen (Equipment Centres Manager NNAB and Governor VSSS representing NNAB)

Norfolk student picked for the 2012 Paralympics

Amy is a visually impaired student studying for A levels at Wymondham College. She hopes to go on to study Law at University.

Amy attended the inaugural meeting of the Norfolk & Norwich Goalball team about 18 months ago. Since then she has developed her skills and knowledge of the game alongside her studies.

The Team are delighted that she has recently been picked to represent the United Kingdom and is training hard for the Paralympics 2012 in London



Up to 30 visually impaired adults, young people, their families and coaches meet every other Thursday in the Sports Hall at City College Norwich to practise and play.

For more information please contact John Rous-Milligan on 01603 704040

Free home licences for young people with visual impairment who use magnification software

Due to the good relationship we have developed with Dolphin UK especially through the hard work done by James Burage (Technical Officer) we have been offered the opportunity to provide nearly 50 young people with visual impairment free home licence packs for adaptive software, Supernova Reader Magnifier Version 12. Each licence is worth £474 and will allow stu-

dents to replicate their PC support in school at home.

At £474 x 50 this means a notional increase in resource of £23700 without having to spend a single penny!! A huge thank you to James for his hard work on behalf of the students we work with. By the way we also appreciate his

lovely, cheerful "can mend" attitude when things go wrong!



The Great Debate

Cochlear Implant user, Theodore Jones (encouraged by City of Norwich School where he is in the sixth form) entered "The Great Debate", a competition held by The History Association. Having been runner up in Norwich, he ended up representing the East of England in the national 2012 final. He had to prepare a five minute talk on "why does history matter to you" and Theo chose for his presentation to look at the history of hearing

aids and the significance of this history to him.

The final was held at Merton College, Oxford and Theo had to travel down the night before, as he was due on in the first of four sessions which lasted throughout the

"Why does history matter to you?"

day. There were around 25 talks from students from throughout the UK, some had travelled from as far as Scotland and Ireland. Theo did well, and his talk can be seen on the internet at

http://www.history.org.uk/resources/general_resource_5320,5326_80.html.

The Cool Club meet at the NNAB

Nine girls met for a busy day at the NNAB on Wednesday February 22nd. Some pupils had been to the Cool club several times before, but it was nice to have one new face as well. In the morning we had a talk from a Consultant Ophthalmologist about the Eye Clinic. We then had an inspiring discussion with a District Councillor who has never let

being registered blind stand in the way of her successful career. Her gorgeous guide dog, Clark, was needless to say, hugely popular with the girls and staff! The Cool Club (named by the girls!) has always enjoyed cooking, and this time they made some wonderful scones which we ate with jam and cream at the table, with proper leaf tea

served in cups with saucers. This was after a session on the dance mat so we felt we deserved it.

The girls all got on well together and many of them text each other regularly and now meet outside of school. We feel this is a sign of how successful the group has been.

Parents Workshop

Parents/carers of children and young people with visual impairment are invited to a series of summer workshops concerning ways of promoting self esteem and confidence in their children. This project will use resources produced by Guide Dogs (who see confidence as the first step towards mobility and independence) and the sessions will be facilitated by

staff from the NNAB, Virtual School and most importantly by parents themselves. We will have a speaker at each session and this will be followed by informal discussion, hopefully leading to lots of ideas and mutual support. We hope to run a crèche if there is a demand for it. The workshops will run on May 14th, May 28th, June 11th and one

further date to be arranged in June. The workshops take place from 7 to 9 pm. The venue is the NNAB Bradbury Centre close to Magdalen Street Norwich (lots of parking close by and some at the venue). If you are interested in taking part please contact Liz Ashby at VSSS on 01603 704040. It should be fun!

The Governing Body of the Virtual School

The Governing Body will both challenge and support us. We have been extremely lucky to get representation from a wide range of people who bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge to meetings. Our governors are:

Parent	Mrs Sarah Jane Sutton	SEN Governor
Parent	Mrs Alison Chilvers	
Parent	Ms Karen Fumero	
Parent	Mr Niel Willcott	Chair
Parent	Mrs Helen Hargreaves	
Parent	Ms Claire Jack	
Sponsor	Mrs Anna Hiscox	Safeguarding Governor Deputy Chair
Sponsor	Mr Gary Nethercott	
Community	Mrs Dorothy Bowen	
Community	Mr John Fitzgerald	
Community	Mr Bob Moorhouse	
Community	Mrs Marie Hothersall	
Local Authority	Mr Paul Bowerbank	
Local Authority	Mrs Janet Murphy	
Local Authority	Mr Stuart Marpole	
Local Authority	Ms Judith Carter	
Staff Governor	Mr Andrew Brazell	
Staff Governor	Ms Elizabeth Ashby	
Staff Governor	Miss Kelly Everett	
Clerk	Mr Gerry Aldus	

If you would like to speak to any of our governors please ring 01603 704040.