

## Big Lottery Funded Badminton at Woodford County High School

The three-year Big Lottery grant for a lunchtime badminton session at Woodford County High School (WCHS) drew to a close this term. The sessions were led by Mrs Grace Chong, a Level 2 Badminton England registered coach. The generous grant was overseen by the SSCO of WCHS, Mrs Laurane Turnbull. Held every Friday lunch time, the project began on 2 November 2007. The remit was clear: to promote badminton in WCHS and to offer an alternative sport to other well established team activities.



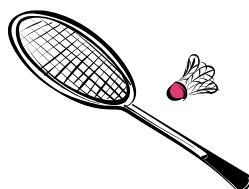
The sessions were enjoyable, popular and well-attended. With dedicated coaching, the girls quickly acquired the basic skills of the game, following which they progressed to the next level where tactics were taught. Given the opportunity to play badminton regularly, many of the girls became proficient players.



The success of the project culminated in three teams of players being entered into the Centre Parcs Badminton tournament, organised by Ms Claire Smith, in October 2009. The tournament was hosted by WCHS and aided by the school's very competent Sports Leaders who umpired the games and collated the scores enabling everything to run smoothly. In March, three of the Sports Leaders, who regularly assisted in the sessions and mentored by Mrs Chong were entered and successfully qualified to become Level 1 Badminton England coaches.

From this little acorn of a project, the Friday lunchtime sessions, WCHS is now the home of a Junior Community Badminton Club, a thriving Senior Community Club and a Tuesday After School Club, all serving the local community in which the school is based.





## 1<sup>st</sup> and 100% for Caterham SSP

In March, the first badminton coaching course took place at Caterham School. Organised by Mrs Grace Chong and the Caterham Partnership, this fully-subscribed Level 1 Badminton England course, held over three Saturdays, attracted participants from the borough and beyond.

Through the generosity of the Partnership and the Redbridge Sport & Physical Activity Team, the Partnership fielded seven candidates for the course from three schools (Woodford County High, Ilford County High and Caterham). All seven candidates were helping out in badminton sessions run by Mrs Chong within their schools and their efforts were recognised and rewarded by being put forward and mentored for the course. Not only is this the first badminton course for Caterham SSP, a 100% pass rate was achieved for all the candidates assessed.

With the popularity of badminton on the rise in schools, the creation of additional coaches is a bonus and a timely addition. These new Level 1 coaches will help deliver and support badminton sessions in their respective schools and the borough. Badminton is an Olympic-recognised sport and with the 2012 London Olympics in mind, it deserves greater recognition.



Participants of the Level 1 Badminton England coaching course flanked by organiser, Grace Chong, and tutors, Clive Ellames and Bev Woodcock.