

8 November 2011

Press Release

## **STUDENTS TRY PARALYMPIC SPORTS IN COUNTDOWN TO LONDON 2012**

**Students and staff at Cambridge Regional College have been testing their skills at wheelchair basketball and goalball to mark the countdown to the London 2012 Paralympic Games.**

The fast-paced games were hotly contested as the players charged around the sports halls, relying on senses not normally used in games sessions. Over 250 students and a few brave members of the Students Services team participated in the activities.



CRC staff Agnes Toth, Sue Smith, Lorraine Goodfellow and Lisa Pollitt have a go at wheelchair basketball

Christine Spowell, CRC's FE Sports Co-ordinator, who organised the taster sessions, said they had been a huge hit with the students.

"Everyone really enjoyed taking part in the games, which were all fiercely contested despite being a new experience for most people," she said. "We organised 30-minute taster sessions – long enough for the students to have fun but get some idea of what it is like for disabled athletes to play sport.

"It was fantastic to have not only the Sports and Public Services students participating, but also students from across the college from Arts, Media, Beauty Therapy, Health & Social Care tutor groups.

"The taster sessions would not have happened without support from the enthusiastic group of students on the BTEC Level 4 Diploma in Sport course who planned and organised all the activities and were supported in delivery by the Year 2 sports leaders."

Wheelchair basketball and goalball – played wearing eyeshades and with a ringing ball – are two of the 21 sports in the 2012 Paralympic Games. Over the next few months, CRC is planning more events to mark the countdown to the Games.

"We'll be running more sports and cultural events within the College to promote the Olympic and Paralympic values – it's a great opportunity to get people involved in the Games," said Christine.

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## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk. Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.