

Olympian visits school



Jamie Baulch with youngsters at Boundary Oak School in Fareham

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A Fareham school that puts sport at the heart of its students' lives welcomed an Olympic athlete for a memorable speech day.

Jamie Baulch, who helped Great Britain to 4x400m silver at the Athens Olympics, was guest of honour at Boundary Oak School's annual ceremony.

The sprint star gave an inspirational talk about his career, presented prizes to youngsters who have excelled both academically and in extra-curricular activities, and even took part in a fun relay with children and parents.

Jamie says: 'What a lovely place Boundary Oak is. It is clear the children have had a super year and judging by the smiles on their faces they feel proud of their many achievements.'

One of the top award winners was 11-year-old Redmand Rance, who received the 2011 Headmaster's Prize for juggling his school studies with star roles in professional musical productions including *Billy Elliot* at the Fernham Hall and *Oliver!* at the Kings Theatre in Southsea.

Headmaster Steven Symonds says: 'The children had a wonderful time and they found Jamie quite inspirational.

'His speech emphasised the important message of working hard to achieve your goals. This is an ethos we try to instil into our children and ethos that we as a school hold dear to our hearts.'

Mr Symonds said the sporting visit fitted in well with the school's ambitious £96,000 project to create an indoor swimming pool and a build a brand new domestic science centre.

So far £40,000 has been raised through a variety of initiatives, including a 1,000km bicycle ride to the Pyrenees by four staff members and parents last year that raised £8,000.

Mr Symonds said: 'Boundary Oak is going through a very exciting period in its history. We want to promote a healthy future for the next generation.

'The new swimming pool will enable swimming all year round and the domestic science centre will be used to promote healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle.

'Both these facilities will not only prove an exciting asset for the school but also for the local community as well.'

The school has launched a 'donate a brick' campaign to support their fundraising efforts over the next few months.

For more information email the school at office@boundaryoak.co.uk.