



## LTA YOUTH SCHOOLS PROGRAMME SUCCESS STORY

# OPENING UP TENNIS TO UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

through the LTA Youth Schools Programme and partner collaboration

Chestnut Park Primary School in Thornton Heath, Croydon, is one of 41 schools (35 primary and six secondary) in the GLF Schools multi-academy trust.

## BACKGROUND

Located in the top 30% most deprived areas in the UK, the school has a total of 592 pupils from a mixture of ethnically diverse backgrounds with 41% of students receiving pupil premium. Initiated by The Tim Henman Foundation and the GLF Trust, Chestnut Park was encouraged to take up free online teacher training as part of the LTA Youth Schools Programme offer.





Following the training, the school chose to spend their £250 reward voucher on engaging an LTA Accredited and LTA Youth trained coach based at a local venue to deliver 10 curriculum-time one-hour tennis sessions to gauge pupil interest.

This culminated in a launch event attended by Tim Henman on 9th June 2021 to officially mark the partnership between the GLF Trust, the Tim Henman Foundation and the LTA.

In September 2021, the Tim Henman Foundation secured funding to offer the children at Chestnut Park further tennis activity. The partnership collectively provided a schedule for every pupil to be able to benefit from the LTA Youth Start Programme.

The LTA regional participation team engaged three coaches from MDL Coaching, an operator based at nearby South Croydon Sports Club. All MDL coaches have significant experience in delivering large-scale, high-impact programmes in Croydon and also completed LTA Youth and Youth Start training in 2020.

#### Key partners:

- **GLF Trust:** a multi-academy trust with a total of 41 schools (35 primary and six secondary)
- **The Tim Henman Foundation:** A youth charity with the mission of transforming the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged young people by improving mental as well physical health and creating sporting and educational opportunities together with partners
- **MDL Coaching:** an operator delivering tennis programmes at four local tennis venues in Croydon
- **South Croydon Sports Club:** a multi-sports club located two miles from Chestnut Park Primary School with five tennis courts and large community tennis programme



The Tim Henman Foundation invested over £10k, helping open up tennis to pupils facing barriers to participation, the vast majority of whom had never picked up a racket.

Over 70 teachers and teaching assistants from across the 41 GLF schools have signed up to or already taken part in the LTA Youth Schools Primary teacher training.

#### All 592 pupils at Chestnut Park Primary School received:

- Six tennis sessions with a specially trained LTA Youth Start coach
- A tennis racket and set of balls
- A branded T-shirt
- Activity cards, a lanyard, stickers and a certificate provided by the coach

210 children took their tennis journey further by attending an Easter holiday session.



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LTA, The National Tennis Centre, 100 Priory Lane, Roehampton, London SW15 5JQ  
[www.lta.org.uk](http://www.lta.org.uk)

