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Media Release

Sebastian Coe meets Plymouth's young stars

Lord Coe met the Plymouth area's best athletes today as he made a special visit to the College of St Mark and St John.

During his visit, London 2012 Organising Committee Chairman Sebastian Coe met Year 7 students from Estover Community College and Sir John Hunt Community Sports College who will be working on multi-skills activities as part of their programme of Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD).

Seb was introduced to up and coming stars from Plymouth and the surrounding areas who have been supported by the Plymouth Community Sports Network, which is a multi-agency approach to encouraging people to take part in physical activity on a regular basis.

Sebastian Coe said: "Our vision for the London 2012 Games is that they inspire young people to take up sport. The Plymouth programmes I have learnt about today are enabling this to happen right now. The support being given to the area's up and coming stars is invaluable and I wish them every success for the future."

Guy Lavender, South West England Director for the 2012 Games, said: "We are very grateful for Lord Coe coming to Plymouth to see our emerging athletes. His visit will spur them on with their training and aspirations, while also giving people the opportunity to find out more about London 2012 and our legacy plans in the South West."

The wealth of local talent comes from the sports of table tennis, swimming, diving, fencing, modern pentathlon and sailing.

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Lord Coe will also attend a lunch by prominent business leaders from the area to discuss the opportunities the 2012 Games provides to business and tourism and its potential legacy to sport, culture and the broader community.

Ends

Notes to editors:

- Contact **Sue Handford** or **Deborah Bertram** at Team South West on 07785 593690 or 07769 874784 for more details.
- The South West England Directorate for the 2012 Games is funded by South West RDA and Sport England and has been developed to ensure South West England secures a lasting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The director Guy Lavender will be an advocate for the 2012 Games at all levels across South West England and will lead Team South West in its mission to ***“maximise the business, sporting, cultural and social opportunities of London 2012 to deliver a lasting and discernible legacy from the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games across the South West”***.

www.southwestrda.org.uk/london2012

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