

East London College in Clash of the Titans



Staff took on students in a sporting extravaganza at an East London College this week, in a contest that was billed as a real 'Clash of the Titans'.

Students on the Level 3 BTEC National Diploma in Sport at Tower Hamlets College are completing the Community Sports Leadership Award (CSLA), which is being piloted by the College this year, alongside their main programme of study.

They took on their teachers at Tug of War, Dodgeball, Basketball and Ultimate Frisbee in an end of term contest designed to show who the boss was once and for all.

The students were giving away a significant height and weight advantage and were up against it from the start. The basketball contest had to be abandoned after one of the teachers failed to practise what he preached and injured one of his creaking limbs by failing to warm up properly, but this was as good as it got for the students. They were outthought in the Dodgeball, outmanoeuvred at Frisbee and outclassed by a powerful staff line up in the mismatch that was the Tug of War.

Student Ashley Pepperell was in charge of organising all aspects of the event, from equipment and the choice of sports to refereeing the contest, having completed the CSLA course externally last year. He was faced with the tough task of keeping everyone in check as emotions ran high among a highly competitive group.

"I never realised just how competitive the staff would get and it was more of an issue dealing with their complaining and questioning of decisions than the students. I enjoyed it though and it was a really fun way to end the term. I had to do a fair amount of research in terms of knowing the rules for everything and then on the day we had injuries so it was good to experience what being a teacher is like on a day to day basis."

Despite the staff having triumphed overall, the runners up will receive gift vouchers and it is hoped the students involved will learn from their experience as they will be taking charge of a larger Sports Day event for the whole college in the New Year.

Tower Hamlets College has courses for adults and 16-19 year olds starting in January. Enrolment is from 11-14 January at Poplar. For more information, please call 020 7510 7777 or visit

<http://www.tower.ac.uk/newandfeaturedcourses>