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CSC school work commended by Sports and Recreation Alliance

[Chess in Schools and Communities](#) (CSC), a new charity that uses the ancient game of chess as a learning tool in classrooms across England and Wales have been shortlisted and highly commended in the annual Sport and Recreation Alliance's Community Sport and Recreation awards, formerly the Sports Club of the Year Awards, for 2012.

The judging panel, chaired by the [BBC's Eleanor Oldroyd](#) awards sport and recreation organisations that have excelled in areas such as volunteer management, school links and green thinking.

CSC, formed in September 2010, were not only shortlisted in the category of school links but were also highly commended for their innovative work in schools by the judging panel.

The charity teaches chess to children in class as well as organising the traditional after school and lunchtime clubs, showing that chess, a game that crosses all social barriers, is for all children and not just the academically oriented. CSC delivers chess sets, chess tutors and a 30 week chess curriculum that emphasises cross curricular links.

In December, CSC will be bringing 1000 children in their 'Urban Chess' program to Olympia to enjoy free training and sample the [London Chess Classic](#), their flagship event which will include five of the world's top players including world number one Magnus Carlsen and world champion Vishy Anand.

“Chess in Schools and Communities has already reached over 100 schools and we plan to involve 400 schools and teach 30,000 children the game over the next two years in inner city areas.” commented Malcolm Pein, CSC chief executive. “It's wonderful to see our work, and the role chess can play in improving educational outcomes, recognised in this way.”

The President of the SRA, [HRH Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex](#) presented the winners and highly commended organisations with their awards at the organisation's Annual General Meeting on July 19th at St. James's Palace.

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Notes for Editors:

1. The Sport and Recreation Alliance is the umbrella organisation for the governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation in the UK and represents more than 320 members as diverse as: the Football Association, the Rugby Football Union, UK Athletics and the Royal Academy of Dance.
2. Research into the academic benefits of learning chess can be found www.chessinschools.co.uk/coaching/research.htm

3. **The CSC Urban Chess Program**

Since June 2010 CSC has set up schemes in 22 LEAs with 120 schools and over 6000 children and we provide:

- Free chess sets, teaching aids and software
- Weekly visits from experienced chess tutors
- Opportunities to compete in national tournaments
- Resources distributed through our website
- A curriculum that develops thinking skills and supports other curriculum areas.
- Free courses to train people how to teach chess.

Chess makes children smarter by engendering the following skills:

- Concentration
- Critical thinking and logical reasoning
- Calculating ability and memory
- Builds self-esteem, increases patience
- Encourages good sportsmanship, self respect and respect for others
- Encourages children to plan ahead, foresee consequences and take responsibility