



Monday 20 June 2011

## **School days were the stuff of nightmares for the majority of Brits**

- *Maths teachers gave people the worst nightmares at school*
  - *PE was the subject the country bunked off the most*
  - *Wayne Rooney voted Britain's nightmare PE teacher*

The majority of British people would describe their old school days as a 'nightmare'.

Mathematics, PE and cross-country have people waking up in a sweat, while English gave them sweet dreams, according to a poll of 1,500 adults commissioned by Chance to Shine to mark 'Brit Insurance National Cricket Day' on 23 June.

Asked to describe their experience of school from the age of eight to 16, over half of those surveyed (52%) said it was a 'nightmare', with people in the North East having the most nightmarish school days (59%). North Ireland enjoyed the most dreamlike school days (61%), followed by Yorkshire (60%).

A quarter of adults (26%) said maths gave them the most nightmares at school with nearly a third of women (31%) fearing the subject; compared to just under a fifth of men (18%). Maths teachers came top of the list of 'nightmare teachers', while almost a third of people (31%) said they never had a dream teacher during the whole of their school days.

English was voted the most popular lesson; with almost a fifth (18%) saying it was their 'dream' subject, above History (8%), Art (7%) and Drama (2%).

Cross-country was equally unpopular for both male and female respondents with a fifth saying it was their most nightmarish sport. Overall, PE was the subject that made adults bunk off school the most and they were three times more likely to try and skip out of PE than maths.

The charity behind the cricket education programme 'Chance to Shine' is hoping that their day of cricket-themed activity can help give children better memories of PE than those of their parents. Nearly 4,000 schools have registered to take part in today's 'Brit Insurance National Cricket Day' and are planning cricket-themed lessons in class, playground matches and beach cricket tournaments.

In London, the charity is turning an inner-city primary school into a 'Dream Cricket School' for the day. A member of the **England Cricket Team** will take the PE class at Johanna Primary School, while a host of celebrity cricket fans will cover cross-curricular cricket classes. In Maths, Governor of the Bank of England **Sir Mervyn King** will teach pupils co-ordinates by identifying the position of fielders on a cricket pitch, cricket broadcaster **Mark Nicholas** will take a Media



class, while Sports Minister **Hugh Robertson** gets the ball rolling with a cricket-themed assembly.

Wasim Khan, Chief Executive of the Cricket Foundation said: "It's a shame that people have such bad memories of school and in particular of PE. We hope that Chance to Shine and events like Brit Insurance National Cricket Day can help turn these school sport nightmares into childhood dreams."

Chance to Shine's survey also highlights the qualities of dream teachers, including their enthusiasm (61%), knowledge of their subject (57%) and friendliness (52%). Nightmare teachers were deemed unfriendly (45%), grumpy (45%) and impatient (43%).

The nation's dream staff room would include Johnny Ball (Maths), Stephen Fry (English), Professor Brian Cox (Science) and Sir Steve Redgrave (PE); while their nightmare staff room would involve Kerry Katona (English), Katie Price (Science) and Wayne Rooney (PE).

Chance to Shine is the biggest grass-roots sport for development programmes ever undertaken in Britain. The scheme, run by the Cricket Foundation charity, helps link cricket clubs to local state schools and aims, initially, to reach two million children in a third of state schools by 2015.

For more details on Chance to Shine and Brit Insurance National Cricket Day or to view the full survey visit [www.chancetoshine.org](http://www.chancetoshine.org)

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### **Notes to editor**

- Opinion Matters questioned a representative sample of 1,507 adults between 3-13 June 2011

### **About 'Brit Insurance National Cricket Day'**

Schoolchildren across the country will unite for a day of cricket on 23 June 2011. Nearly 4,000 schools have registered for "Brit Insurance National Cricket Day", part of the 'Chance to Shine' campaign, and are planning cricket-themed lessons in class, coaching in the playground and competitions at local cricket clubs. Brit Insurance National Cricket Day will see beach tournaments held in Brighton and Cornwall and tape-ball cricket competitions in London housing estates; while schools as far afield as Afghanistan,



Australia and Japan are joining in the celebration of cricket. For more details visit [www.ncd.chancetoshine.org](http://www.ncd.chancetoshine.org)

### **About 'Chance to Shine supported by Brit Insurance'**

'Chance to Shine supported by Brit Insurance' links nearly 4,000 schools to around 500 local cricket clubs, through County Boards. In 2011, around 400,000 boys and girls will take part in the programme. Qualified cricket coaches will provide up to 280 hours coaching and competition to a cluster of eight primary and two secondary schools. Chance to Shine projects receive a maximum of five years funding to achieve a level of sustainable, competitive cricket. Great emphasis is placed on competition, the 'migration' of children from schools to clubs and teacher training to ensure that cricket cultures continue in schools post Chance to Shine.

The Chance to Shine programme costs £5million each year to run, an average of £15 per child. To date, the Cricket Foundation has raised £21 million in funds privately through individual donors, corporate partnerships, Trusts and Foundations. The England and Wales Cricket Board provides an annual donation of £1million and the Government, through Sport England, has provided an additional £12.5million funding to support Chance to Shine. For more details on Chance to Shine visit [www.chancetoshine.org](http://www.chancetoshine.org)

### **About Brit Insurance**

Brit Insurance is an international general insurance and reinsurance group specialising in commercial insurance. The Group writes a diverse portfolio of insurance and reinsurance offering worldwide protection. The scope is wide-ranging: from sole traders to the largest multinational corporations; from manufacturers to professional services; from shops to satellites. In 2010 Brit Insurance became team sponsor of the England cricket teams and principal partner of Chance to Shine, adding to its cricket sponsorship portfolio.