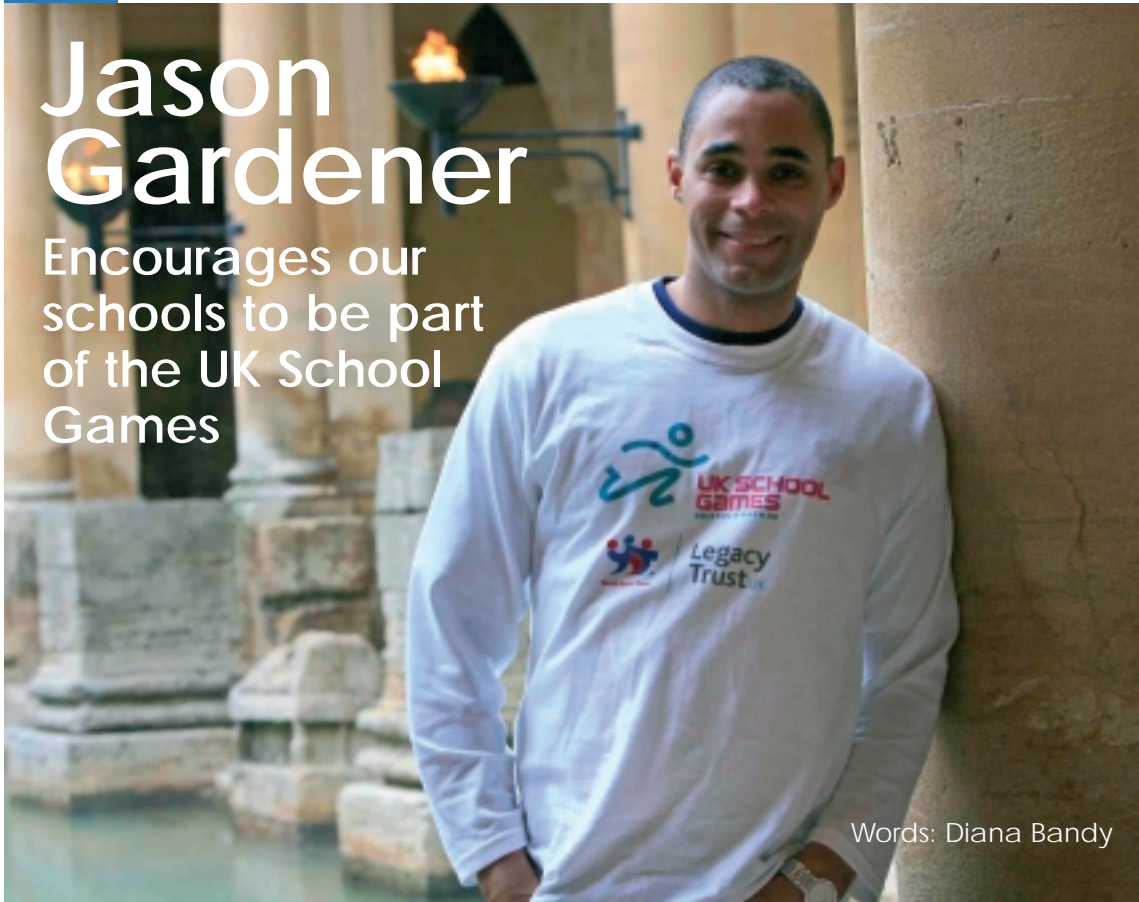




Jason Gardener

Encourages our schools to be part of the UK School Games



Words: Diana Bandy

Diana Bandy has an exclusive interview with MBE and Olympic Gold medallist, Jason Gardener.

Q: You are working with the Youth Sport Trust on the 2008 UK School Games which Bath and Bristol are hosting this summer. How are you involved?

A: I am trying to encourage our UK schools to be part of the UK School Games. Our government is very pro sport and certainly the fact that London is hosting the 2012 Olympic Games has enabled us to put this event on. This is the first time it has gone to bid and Bath and Bristol won. You only have to turn on the television to see that there are a lot of social ills out there with our youth, we have a disengaged generation and this is a positive way in which we can give them opportunities to do something good.

For me, sport has been my life, I've been fortunate to come from school sports right through to

Olympic level and so I have a natural affiliation with these young people and hope to motivate them. I have met some fantastic people who have helped me over the years such as my training partners.

Q: It must be an interesting relationship between training partners because there is obviously direct competition yet you are also motivating each other?

A: Well that's what you get when you put athletes of a similar mould together; you get that competition within training. You're all chasing the same things, you're all highly goal driven and determined. I took my training partner, Craig Pickering under my wing from our group and helped groom him, he's a real talent.

Q: Do you think he will do well in the Olympics?