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Pupils reach new heights

By TOM NORTON

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TEN-YEAR-OLD Jake Douglas has only been climbing once before and has never competed to prove his strength at it – until now.

The Sherwood youngster was among 80 pupils from across the county who last night took part in the first inter-school competition at the Nottingham Climbing Centre.

Jake, who is from Nottingham High School's Junior School said: "It was really fun, I liked the experience and taking part in a competition – we all tried really hard."

Pupils were given several climbing walls to ascend, with points assigned to how far they could climb on each.

The points were then tallied up to work out the winners.

Nineteen teams of four competed in last night's challenge, split into junior and senior groups.

The winning school team for each age group was presented with a trophy shield to mark their achievement.

Plans are already in the

pipeline to continue this event regularly with eight local schools taking part in the launch event.

Rachel Pereira, 13, of Broxtowe, was part of the senior team from Bluecoat Academy and said she felt proud of what



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she had achieved.

She added: "It was good taking part with others, it was a different experience.

"We could see other people's strengths and apply it to what we do."

One of the aims of the event was to invite youngsters to learn about rock climbing, take

part in exercise and enjoy the activity alongside other children.

It was sponsored by Hollygirt School in Nottingham.

Year three teacher and organiser Gill Twells said: "It's an absolutely new event.

"When I spoke to one of the directors I said it would be nice to bring some kids along from our school and do a team challenge. He suggested looking to do a schools challenge.

"The kids here are all very lucky; they are getting two hours free climbing which we hope will encourage them to do it more, get together and have fun."

Keith Harrison, director of the Nottingham Climbing Centre, emphasised it was about the kids having fun.

He added: "A lot of these climbs are straightforward, anyone can have a go – many of them haven't even tried it before.

"It's about the excitement, fun, balance and challenge."



Launching a new event? Let us know about it by emailing newsdesk@nottinghampost.com