

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **GLASGOW SCHOOLS GIFTED BESPOKE 2026 SCHOOLS' BATON INSPIRED BY COMMONWEALTH GAMES KING'S BATON RELAY**

Glasgow schools and nurseries have gone 'All In' for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games with the launch of their own Schools' Baton Relay; a citywide celebration uniting 330 nurseries and schools, and giving all 70,000 children and young people the chance to see and hold a Baton, building excitement for the Games while inspiring learning about the Commonwealth and the power of sport.

Delivered on behalf of Glasgow 2026 by Glasgow City Council, the Schools' Baton Relay is a flagship part of the Games' All In programme; a Scotland-wide movement inviting communities, schools, sports clubs, cultural and voluntary organisations, and businesses to celebrate the Games in their own altogether brilliant way.

Inspired by the spirit of the official King's Baton Relay, which is currently travelling through all Commonwealth nations and territories ahead of its return to Scotland on 1 July, Schools Baton Relay is made up of 34 handcrafted Batons – one for each learning community across the city – which have been designed and produced by GalGael's Tim Norman, the creator of the official King's Batons.

Each of the 34 School Batons has been carved from the same Pollok Park ash tree used to make the King's Batons, with each learning community challenged to take on a creative design brief, developing a unique artistic identity for their Baton before sending it on its sustainable journey around the schools and nurseries within their community.

The inspiring journey began in the City Chambers, where pupils created a moment of pageantry and pride during a vibrant Schools' Baton Relay opening ceremony. 74 young flag bearers paraded the colours of every Commonwealth nation and territory through the magnificent Banqueting Hall, setting the tone for a relay rooted in unity, diversity and global connection.

**Glasgow's Lord Provost, Jacqueline McLaren** has welcomed more than 250 children to the City Chambers and is delighted that all Glasgow schools and nurseries will be involved in the Games build up.



She said: "This is the perfect opportunity for pupils to build excitement ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer.

"Not only are they are going to be able to hold a piece of history in their hands by taking part in the Baton relay – schools will also have the chance to turn this into a learning opportunity as well as encouraging increased sports participation."

**Phil Batty OBE, Chief Executive of Glasgow 2026 said:** "The Schools' Baton Relay is an incredible programme of activity which gives Glasgow's children and young people the opportunity to bring the Games to life in their own creative way. The programme encourages young people to explore and learn about the Commonwealth, while also increasing participation in sport and culture, and championing the benefits and importance of community.

"By placing these handcrafted Batons into the hands of school pupils, we've created an opportunity to connect them to a global Commonwealth journey, as well as celebrate what makes Glasgow special. We can't wait to see the creative ideas that the children and young people produce, and we look forward to showcasing all 34 Schools Batons to the world this summer."

**Scottish Netball star, Lexy Gillies** was excited to attend the launch at the City Chambers commenting: "I'm currently the youngest Scottish Thistle, so being here to represent the team is a huge honour. It's really exciting to meet young people who are in the same position I was not too long ago and to have the chance to inspire them.

"Events like this are so important because the Commonwealth Games aren't just about the athletes, they're about the whole city. The Schools' Baton Relay really captures the spirit of the Games and helps young people feel part of something bigger. It's only been three years since I represented Scotland at the Youth Games, so to now be involved in a home Games is incredibly special."

Glasgow 2026 takes place from 23 July to 2 August and will see 3,000 world-class athletes from 74 nations and territories compete in 10 sports and six Para sports in four iconic venues across an eight-mile corridor of the city.

**Although the Schools' Baton Relay is unique to Glasgow, the Glasgow 2026 team has developed a national digital resource pack, enabling schools across Scotland to get involved in their own way and join the nationwide buildup to the Games.**

To find out more visit <https://www.glasgow2026.com/about/schools-baton-relay>

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#### Notes to Editors

For media enquiries and interview requests, contact: [media@glasgow2026.com](mailto:media@glasgow2026.com)

Free to use assets are available via the [Glasgow 2026 Media Centre](#).

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The Games hashtag is **#Glasgow2026**

### **About All In**

All In is the national call to action for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games. A Scotland-wide movement inviting communities, schools, sports clubs, cultural and voluntary organisations and businesses to celebrate the Games in their own altogether brilliant way.

Reaching from the Highlands to the Lowlands and every glen, town and shore in between, All In gives people the tools to create inclusive, locally led activities and events that build excitement, pride and connection ahead of an unforgettable summer of sport.

With free official branding, ready-to-use digital toolkits and opportunities for nationwide visibility, All In empowers supporters to get involved in a way that works for them and their communities, boosting skills, wellbeing and local impact. From town-hall events to pub watchalongs, decorated shopfronts to family festivals...It's our Games, your Games, a'body's Games.

Together, we're All In for Glasgow 2026.

### **About Glasgow 2026**

Glasgow 2026 promises an altogether brilliant Commonwealth Games, paving the way for a new era of Commonwealth Sport.

Taking place from 23 July to 2 August, Glasgow 2026 is an 11-day celebration that combines world-class sport with a future-focused vision, built and delivered by the vibrant spirit of Glasgow.

Set within a concentrated, eight-mile corridor that brings the Games closer to the fans than ever before, Glasgow 2026 will deliver:

1. A record-breaking Para sport programme – 47 events across six sports
2. The biggest Track Cycling, Swimming and 3x3 Basketball competitions seen at a Commonwealth Games
3. Groundbreaking events like the return of the Commonwealth Mile in Athletics

10 exhilarating sports across four of the city's iconic venues; from Scotstoun Stadium to the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome and Arena, to Tollcross



International Swimming Centre.

Glasgow 2026 will see 3,000 volunteers, alongside thousands of fans, and communities from across the city join together to welcome 3,000 athletes from 74 nations and territories to the city.

Led by Chair George Black CBE, an independent Board and Chief Executive Officer, Phil Batty OBE, Glasgow 2026 Limited is the Organising Company (OC) which will deliver the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow next summer.

Based in the city centre, the OC will directly employ around 160 people and is privately funded, securing its income through Commonwealth Sport, corporate sponsorship, broadcast rights, global partnerships and ticket sales, which will see almost £150 million local spend into the city of Glasgow, with no cost to the public purse to deliver the sporting competition.

### **About Commonwealth Sport**

Commonwealth Sport is the organisation with responsibility for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games, and for delivering the vision of the Commonwealth Sport Movement: 'Our Commonwealth, united through sport'.

Our mission is to deliver inspirational and impactful Games; to excite and empower athletes and young people; and to drive equality in sport and society across the Commonwealth. Established in 1930, the Commonwealth Sport Movement brings together 74 independent nations and territories creating a diverse Commonwealth community of over 2.5 billion individuals, representing one-third of the world's population. Together we stand as a beacon of unity, diversity, and equality, completely integrating Para athletes, driving gender equality and advocating for legacy and social change through sport.

### **About Commonwealth Games Scotland**

Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) is one of 74 Commonwealth Games Associations who are members of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Commonwealth Games Scotland is the lead body for Commonwealth sport in Scotland, and is the organisation responsible for selecting, preparing and leading Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.

Scotland has competed in every Games since the first Empire Games in 1930 and has hosted the Games three times - twice in Edinburgh 1970 and 1986 and most recently in Glasgow in 2014.

Working closely with Scotland's national governing bodies of sport and the sportscotland institute of sport, Commonwealth Games Scotland aims to have the best prepared team possible at every Games, creating the right performance environment and giving athletes every opportunity to excel at the Games, as part of a world class sporting system.

Commonwealth Games Scotland and its member sports rely on investment, including National Lottery support, from sportscotland, the national agency for sport. CGS also

actively seeks additional support for team preparations from commercial partners, fundraising activities and the Commonwealth Games Endowment Trust.

