

## Outstanding Commitment to Sport in the Secondary School

Rainbow Mbuangi - St. Vincent's School for Sensory Impairment.

Of all disabilities, participation in sports from the visually impaired (VI) community is the lowest of all due to a range of access, mobility and confidence issues connected with low vision and sight loss. Research indicates low participation can lead to isolation and mental health. A Sports Champion and significant role model amongst his peers is Rainbow. A totally blind student at St. Vincent's he has instilled confidence in others by bucking this trend through a most laudable commitment to sports.

Rainbow has not allowed himself to be held back in his desire to be a sports teacher. He has worked hard at all sports and has acted as a trainer for VI sports awareness in local and national schools at Primary and Secondary level whilst undertaking his Duke of Edinburgh Award. Simultaneously he has delivered VI sports awareness sessions to Liverpool Hope, Liverpool John Moores and University of Central Lancashire teacher training, sports specialist and engineering students. He was central in teaching the first ever session of the new '1 Rugby' developed at St. Vincent's to Merseyside Police Officers and blinded veterans from Blind Veterans UK during the United Nations Disability Awareness Day.

More recently, Rainbow represented his Country playing for the VI National football squad in Belgium and Japan. He presented on his achievements at the Palace of Westminster to MPS as part of the National Commemorations of the Great War attached to the leaving of a lasting legacy for those who lost their sight. He is a significant role model.



*(left) Rainbow delivers VI training to year 3 UCLAN students.*

*(right) Rainbow representing the England national blind squad this year in Japan.*