

While England were being thumped in the Six Nations, the debate raged over freedom of the press, and the Pope was settling down in the Vatican, a little reported but incredibly important announcement was made that will make a huge difference to school sport.

On Saturday morning the Prime Minister threw a Rugby ball around an East End pitch with Lord Coe and several kids and announced a £150 million Olympic legacy fund to improve the quality of school sport provision in every state primary school. That is an extra £3.9m for Kent schools and just under £700k for Medway schools.

Readers know me well enough by now to know I don't hide behind flowery politician's language – it was probably wrong in hindsight to scrap the school sport partnerships, even though not all of them worked, they were bureaucratic and the assessment was flawed.

The PM's announcement means there will be a lump sum for each school with a per-pupil top up which will roughly equate to two days a week of a primary teacher or specialist coach's time. It will bring back ring-fenced funding for sport but will up to the heads to decide how it is best spent for their pupils needs. Giving power of spending to schools is important as they know best whether to invest in a trampoline, a dance teacher or football coaching equipment. Furthermore, and this is something I called for, there will be a tougher assessment of sport provision by Ofsted.

If we are going to build on the legacy of last year's Olympics and Paralympics, increase participation in sport, help aid concentration in class and tackle the growing problem of obesity among our young, then investment in school sport is absolutely right. Embedding an enjoyment of physical activity from an early age will hopefully inspire the next generation of gold medal winners.