

## Supporting messages from Quest members-

**Susan Thomas** Both my children Pierce (9) & Gabriella (6) love training with Quest Taekwondo. Pierce has been a member with Quest for four and a half years & Gabby has trained intermittently over the past two years.

Quest offers them the opportunity to participate in a sport which promotes concentration, determination, skill, focus & fitness. Pierce has competed all over the country & also in Germany. They have also trained with top GB athletes on a regular basis. They would not have these opportunities available to them without Quest.

Quest is run by Master Mike, whom my children adore & respect, they train in a controlled and safe environment with coaches that are extremely well qualified and caring.

Furthermore I feel happy in the knowledge that both my children have the ability to defend themselves if they are ever attacked or assaulted.

Quest will undoubtedly benefit from a full time club venue as it will allow more classes to run at times that better suit the individual & ensure that Saturday training is not cancelled due to other events taking place at PGS.

My son & daughter will always be Quest.

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### Mark Burden

Mark Burden Hi to who it concerns I have know Mr Mckenzie since I was 13 years of age. Quest is more than a club its a community it promotes positive role models and a positive attitude the club invites world class olympians to coach our students to inspire the next generation of athletes . My daughter Emily Burden has become a taekwondo student and loves coming from Bradford to train at Penistone. The Quest family have welcomed Emily, all the children and coaches are fantastic. Regards Mark.

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### Joanne Neal

Joanne Neal Quest Taekwondo Penistone 🏪 is a great club. Every coach gives 100% at each session which is clearly pre planned and executed with both enthusiasm and professionalism. The technical expertise of everyone running the club gives it a safe, welcoming and fun atmosphere for everyone involved either watching, or taking part for a vast age range! Initially, I took my son to aid his confidence and lack of self esteem. The transformation in him is amazing. With the help of Master Mike McKenzie and his team my son has developed an excellent level of fitness, confidence without arrogance, he learns new skills on a weekly basis, he can now sit still and listen for longer periods of time and more importantly he enjoys it and thinks it's fun! He gets to train with different ages and meets athletes competing at a very high level representing GB 🇬🇧. The transformation has also been commented on at his school, where he is making more progress since starting Taekwondo. It was not long until my daughter wanted to join in and she absolutely loves it too. There are also great female role models for the girls which makes it cool for them to engage in sport. Later came the family fun sessions and so the whole family can enjoy taekwondo together. Our children love telling us what to do as they are a lot better than us!! It would be great if Quest Taekwondo could move to a full time venue at Martree Business Park Oxspring so we can continue to enjoy this wonderful sport without the distraction of badminton, tennis and trampolining in the same sports hall while we are training. Also, we would be able to train more and the mats would not get damaged by putting them out and away each session. Finally, more people would be able to train, start taekwondo and enjoy it as my family does. We are all proud members of Quest Taekwondo Penistone and wish the club success on this new venture, Joanne, James, Ian (8) and Caitlin (6).

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### **Jenny Sparrow**

Jenny Sparrow My son Eddie has loved training at Quest Penistone since the age of four. He is now coming up to eight and continues to enjoy his time there. The quality of tuition is excellent and the standard of care second to none. We are so lucky to have world class coaching on our doorstep. The ethos of the club is also outstanding. Eddie has grown in confidence and benefited in many ways from his time with Quest. I look forward to it continuing in the future.

Thanks Jenny Sparrow

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### **Craig Wooller**

Craig Wooller My son Ashton Wooller is a member of Quest Taekwondo and trains with Quest Penistone 3 or 4 times a week. Since training with Quest for the last 2 years his confidence has grown tremendously. He loves training with Mike and the other coaches, and has formed relationships and friendships he wouldn't normally have had the opportunity to without Quest. I think Quest Penistone would benefit massively from having their own dedicated venue, often classes have to be cancelled to accommodate conflicting schedules with other clubs at Penistone Grammar School.

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### **Mark James**

Mark James Quest is one of the best clubs in England and stands at a high level against other clubs, my son Marcus has been with Quest for two and a half years, since my son moved to the Quest club his skills have come on really good a lot better than what he was, been with Quest Marcus has loads of opportunities regarding WTF Taekwondo, he's already since been with Quest fought in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire events winning some and losing some, he's also been prepared and qualified in his first 6 months of being with Quest been ready and trained to enter the British Nationals and Scottish Open plus qualified for events abroad, this is down to the training by Mike and other teachers at Quest Taekwondo Penistone, Baildon and Dewsbury, also with Mike and Quest other opportunities are possible, there is at least 4/5 other students who train with my son who are already training for GB squad at a young age of 14+ years, also there are students 13+ who are or have been British champions, due to the training of Quest, my son and Quest students are also trained with Olympic winners and trained with GB teachers, Mike is well known in the GB representatives and is very well respected in the WTF Taekwondo world, this helps our children in getting to fight in the top level of competitions and be GB competitive, he also helps make decisions in the Taekwondo world in making things better for our children, Mike along with his Quest club opens up a lot of very big opportunities for our children, no other clubs in England can open up and support the kind of opportunities Mike (Quest) opens up for our children, it would be very good for Mike to be teaching in a place where he can teach and put his skills into our kids for these opportunities at Marquee Business Park. Observing so we can continue to give our children these amazing gifted opportunities Mike and his club has to offer, thank you,

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### **Sally Gill**

Sally Gill My sons are 6 & 7 they have been attending Quest since last October 2016. It is the first activity that they have both enjoyed and tried hard to achieve goals. Please keep it local to help us busy parents!

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### **Angus Naylor**

Angus Naylor bit rushed but.... We have been attending Quest as a family since August 2016, following a strong desire from my 5 year old son to take up a martial art. My wife and I started training at the same time and 8 year old daughter soon expressed an interest and joined two months later. We selected Taekwondo and specifically Quest after quite a bit of research because it seemed to have the highest standard of coaching and club support for any club miles around, and additionally because there were options to train as family. The club is quite simply a fantastic asset within the Penistone area and it's clear the reputation of the club not only draws in lots of local kids/teenagers/adults, but also folks from outside of the area. The whole family has seen really improved fitness and quality of life from training regularly and in particular the kids seem to be calmer, more confident and have much greater self-discipline, as well as having the opportunity to mix with kids outside their normal social/school circles, who seem to show the same improvements. I think it's little improvements and opportunities at a local level like this which actually help improve our communities. It would be great to see the club being able to expand its operations through dedicated premises to help build on this success. From a personal aspect it will give us more opportunity to train and from a broader perspective it will have a positive impact on the local area by giving the opportunity to get more people involved in this great sport.

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### **Natalie Leech**

Natalie Leech My daughter Bobbie has been training at quest penistone for almost 2 years. Travelling from Stoke up to three times a week to attend sessions led by experienced and knowledgeable coach mike mckenzie and his coaching team. Quest penistone provides bobbie a safe and controlled environment and ensures the welfare of its members at all classes, competitions and events. Bobbie loves coming to quest. She receives the best training, due to the fantastic, patient coaching team and talented members she gets to train alongside. Since joining she has been able to compete nationally on a regular basis. She's attended seminars with GB athletes and coaches. She also had the opportunity to be part of a team of 18 children competing in Germany. Quest penistone provides Bobbie with opportunities that are not available to her at other clubs in her area. Quest develops and inspires her to achieve her potential. Bobbie would benefit greatly from quest moving to a full time venue. Sometimes school, work and family commitments stop her from attending training on the set days available to her, especially with the distance/travel time and with no alternative sessions, she either misses or would have to travel to baildon or Barnsley to train. A full time venue would also accommodate a 'holiday club' which at the moment she has to go to another club if she wants to train during the school holidays . Wether it does move to a full time venue or not I am sure quest will continue to to be the best they can be !

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### **Charlotte John**

Charlotte John My son Wade has been training with Quest for a number of years after his own local club closed in Huddersfield. It is a testament to how highly thought of Master Michael McKenzie and the rest of his coaching team are thought of after Wades original coach told him to goto Quest and not other clubs in Huddersfield. Not only does he get to advance and learn taekwondo in the best environment but the coaches/ team and other parents also offer support in other areas of life and Wades personal development. There are cubs in Huddersfield but feel Quest is and always will be the best for my child so traveling to Penistone is a pleasure. After all the opportunities my son has had and continued to experience I cannot thank Quest Penistone enough. From competing in

Germany, to meeting Olympic medallists, to training with both friends and people we now class as family- what more could we ask for!

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### **Craig N Auds Parsons**

Craig N Auds Parsons My 10 year old son, Keegan has been a member of Quest Taekwondo since he was 4 years old. He has always and only trained with Quest under the guidance of the highly experienced head coach, Mike McKenzie. My wife also trains at Quest and has done for the last 3 years. The club provides many incredible experiences for it's members like competing in competitions, nationwide and internationally. Because of Mike McKenzie's very wide knowledge of the sport and his vast network, he is able to attract the sport's biggest names to do seminars at the club, including, Olympic champions like Jade Jones, other Olympic medal winners, Lutalo Muhammad, Mahama Cho, Olympic coaches like Paul Green and other very experienced and members of the taekwondo community. This has helped establish taekwondo as a very popular sport in our area. When Keegan started started in 2010, it was at the old Penistone Grammar School while the new school was being built. When the new school opened, the club moved into the new sports hall and the club grew and flourished up until today, attracting more and more members. The time has come to expand again. It goes without saying that a move to the club's own premises at Martree Business Park, Oxspring is the next logical and necessary step. It would benefit this community, especially children looking to find a sport for fitness, competition and fun! This is not just a club, it is a community and a family.

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### **Gareth Lindley**

Gareth Lindley My 9 year old son Matthew has been an active member of Quest for approaching 18 months. Quest has given Matthew the opportunity to experience a sport that would otherwise be unavailable in this area. Classes are well structured by highly experienced and well connected instructors allowing Matthew to develop his confidence, skills and fitness in a friendly and diverse environment. A move to a dedicated facility would increase these opportunities to the growing community and further enhance and promote the area through Quests national and international involvement. Quest Penistone is a great asset to the area.

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### **Gillian Peece**

Gillian Peece Both my sons train at Quest Taekwondo Penistone and my eldest has now been going for nearly five years. Quest offers them the chance to learn a sport which not only teaches them fantastic self defence in a controlled manner but also a great and fun martial art along with growing confidence, great fitness and flexibility and respect for others. The environment in which they learn means that they get to mix with both children and adults during training which also helps with their confidence. Since my eldest son started however, the success of Quest has led to a large increase in numbers and as such a dedicated venue would enable its continued growth providing more flexibility for classes at one venue, better dedicated facilities (currently all mats have to be put down and removed after each lesson which is time consuming) and avoiding cancellation of some classes from time to time due to venues commitments to other events. In summary a move to dedicated premises can only bring more positives to an already great club and help it to continue to thrive and offer great opportunities for all its students.

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**Samantha Jane Horn**

Samantha Jane Horn My 6 year old son joined Quest two and half years ago, he absolutely loves training and has never said he didn't want to go. I attribute his good attention in school to training with the Quest team and he has made some great friends along the way.

I also joined Quest a year ago and absolutely love it, the training is fun and challenging and I love that I can train in the same class as my son. Everyone who is a part of Quest, the parents, coaches and members are supportive and friendly, there is a real sense of community.

The coaches are friendly, approachable and really know their stuff! The knowledge and experience in the club is second to none. How many people can say they have had the opportunity to train with Olympic athletes more than once too??

Fantastic!! 😊

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**Dawn Catling-Johnson**

Dawn Catling-Johnson I have known Master Michael McKenzie along time. This made my decision to let Charlie who is 6 years old train with Quest Taekwondo. I also intend to start back after 17 years out of Taekwondo as he is a well respected and brilliant Taekwondo Master. Myself and Charlie would not train with anyone else. The Quest Team are brilliant and know how to fetch the best out in people. Charlie is a reserved little boy with hearing and speech problems but he comes over this when he is training at Quest Taekwondo. For the club to give everyone the stability of regular classes in permanent premises is going to make things better for everyone.

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**Polytimi Papaioannou**

Polytimi Papaioannou My 7 year old son has been attending taekwondo lessons at Quest for 2.5 years. He has been incredibly helped in his self- confidence and sociability. I have also joined Quest a year ago and my 4.5 year old daughter a month ago. The coaches are friendly and my children have made good friends. We all enjoy training with Quest taekwondo.

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**Liz Wills**

Liz Wills Our Son Charlie is 8 and has been training with Quest at Penistone since he was 5. He loves his training sessions and proud of the achievements he has made thanks to the excellent coaching. He has developed in skill, confidence, resilience and perseverance whist under Quest Coaching. Thanks to Mike and the team. Liz and Rick Wills.

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**Angela Webster**

Angela Webster Our son Oliver joined when he was 6. We looked for a martial arts club as at the time Oliver was struggling at school with confidence. Oliver is now 10 and is bursting with confidence and has flourished at school. I do put this down predominately to taekwondo and more so Quest. The opportunities he has had are amazing, travelled to Germany as part of the team and also took part in the British National Championships. At first he trained once a week as was trying other sports, now he is purely focused on taekwondo and trains 3 - 4 timesN permitting busy schedules. He wants to train and I put this down to the club, environment and coaches. We have

another son, Evan, aged 5 who has also joined. Opposite to Oliver, he is very confident and can get distracted, he loves taekwondo and it is definitely helping with attention span and following instructions. My husband has also joined spurred on by the children and comfort in the environment and coaches even at a later stage in life to try something new. Quest is truly a fabulous club for kids and adults of all abilities. Having designated premises will only help bring the club to more people and also allow existing members more flexibility around busy life styles.

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### **Rachel Dolby**

Rachel Dolby My daughter Matilda has been training with Quest for 3 years now.

Thanks to the dedication of Mike McKenzie, his wife Karen and the other top class coaches at Quest, she won the silver medal in her second National Championships. It was the proudest and happiest day of her life and now she wants to win gold !

To carry on inspiring both children and adults it is a natural progression for an ever expanding club to move into a full time venue.

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### **Zoe Hall**

Zoe Hall My son Declan and daughter Kianie have both been training at Quest for about one year. The difference this has made to my son's confidence and fitness levels during this time has been unbelievable. All the coaches are excellent and there is a great family feel to the club which creates a safe and supportive environment for my children to learn in. My daughter has improved her fitness and confidence to the point that she has started competing in sparring competitions and has won two of these. There is a great group of parents at the club that all support each others' children and it is a pleasure to be a part of this.

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### **Janine Jones**

Janine Jones Both my boys have trained and competed with Quest Taekwondo. My husband and I trained with them. It was great to enjoy a sporting activity together as a family. We took time away from training due to family commitments but we have always stayed in touch. Even though we were not training we never felt excluded. I am looking forward to starting training again now and introducing my young daughter to Quest Taekwondo 😊

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### **Louise Wood**

Louise Wood My son Gethen has been attending taekwondo lessons at Quest for 2 years now . we are so lucky to have Master Michael McKenzie and his dedicated team of coaches, Gethen has grown in confidence and enjoys training and meeting new friends in this safe and encouraging environment. It would be fantastic for Quest to have its own dedicated premises to build on the continuing success of the club. Thankyou Mike and the team for all you do.

Louise and Gareth

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Lisa Bentley

Lisa Bentley My son Caden is a member of Quest Taekwondo Penistone, after trying several other clubs some of which were closer to home, we found Quest to be the best! Caden has learnt so much since joining the Quest team and has achieved a lot on the competition side, winning National

Champion last year, and winning medals abroad also. Quest is most definitely all about team work and progression with each individual athlete given the chance to fulfill their potential.

Caden is extremely happy at Quest and looks forward very much to his training sessions, the best move we ever made!

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### **Sharron Powell**

Sharron Powell Our daughter Aaliyah Powell is an elite taekwondo player and a member of the Great Britain Junior squad. She has competed in World and European Championships, is a current British Champion and has won several international competitions. All this has been made possible by a decision 2 years ago to join Quest Taekwondo and more specifically Master Mike McKenzie who has been instrumental in Aaliyah's development during this period. The Quest 'family' consisting of Coaches, parents and students have been extremely welcoming and supportive of my daughter and although the initial decision to join Quest Taekwondo was for the opportunity to participate in high performance training, the most pleasing aspect that we have noticed has been the tremendous 'community spirit' that runs throughout the club with participants of all ages, abilities, and nationalities. Quest is an absolute credit to the area of Penistone and plays a crucial part in teaching children and young people key life skills such as self-confidence, perseverance, maintaining a positive attitude and dealing with disappointment. They also learn about the benefits of healthy eating and keeping active. The benefits to my daughter of having access to a full time venue would be immense, the biggest barrier to her further development at the moment is finding space for specialist technical training in a limited timetable, a full time venue would allow Quest to provide this.

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### **Stephanie Jones**

Stephanie Jones My family have been members of Quest for almost 10 years. My son started training at the age of 5 and, coming up to his 16th birthday, he has been a black belt for several years and competes both nationally and internationally. My 8 year old daughter will take her black belt at the end of the year, and both myself and my husband have both started at Quest and gained our black belts. Unlike many clubs, Quest offers something for all ages and abilities. Above all, the opportunity to participate together as a family is a rare thing to find within a sporting club environment.

However, seeing my son grow up whilst a member of the club, I can see that the positive benefits go beyond those related directly to the sport. Focus, self-discipline, and working hard to achieve his goals, has been mirrored throughout his school years and his recent GCSE exams.

Quest Taekwondo is an asset to Penistone and it would be a great loss if the club were forced to relocate to a different area. Choice of sports provision for the children and adults of Penistone is already low compared to other areas, and we are forced to travel many miles to fulfil other sporting needs. The children of the area need more choice than after school football and dancing schools.

We travel nationally and internationally and our small town of Penistone is known as the home of Quest Taekwondo and Master Mike McKenzie. For such a prestigious club and sporting personality to be based here, rather than in a city, is uncommon. We have had visits from 5 British Olympic athletes (e.g. Jade Jones) plus many international sporting legends. This has been inspirational to local children and teenagers, several of whom have now begun to access the GB Olympic pathway for themselves and have competed for Great Britain.

What an honour for Penistone. But the club and these athletes need better facilities. They need a permanent training venue to develop to their full potential, whatever that might be. As a local resident and local business, I hope that we can continue to support Quest Taekwondo.

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