



## Jess Hiles Special Olympics Gold Medallist

Jess is 33, she has both learning and physical disabilities, but she has never let this stop her doing anything and this is what she tells pupils when she visits schools and colleges:

**"However small your dream is go for it and never give up!"**

Jess has been a member of the Redditch Special Olympics for about 14 years and absolutely loves it, not just for the sport but also being in part of a team.

In 2013 she attended the National Special Olympics in Bath and won a silver medal for throwing the soft ball and gold for standing long jump! The 2017 games was her goal, but Jess had some ongoing joint problems and was finding some sports difficult.

In 2015 she went through eye surgery which unfortunately resulted in her becoming partially sighted, losing the sight in her right eye. But Jess being who she is bounced back and when someone dropped out of the West Midlands Boccia team, Jess stepped in not having played for about 18 months. The coach was very impressed with her, not having seen her play and said "Gold medal potential!" No pressure then!

In August last year she attended the National Games in Sheffield and got a gold medal! Following that she has been asked to play for the team again in the 40th Anniversary Games this year in Stirling. So watch this space!

