

Olympics 2012

Getting ready for the Olympics in Church schools

There is an amazing amount of material available for all schools to help them engage with the 2012 London Olympics. This brief paper looks at what might be useful in terms of the distinctiveness of the church school but also for all schools in relation to assemblies, ethos and RE.

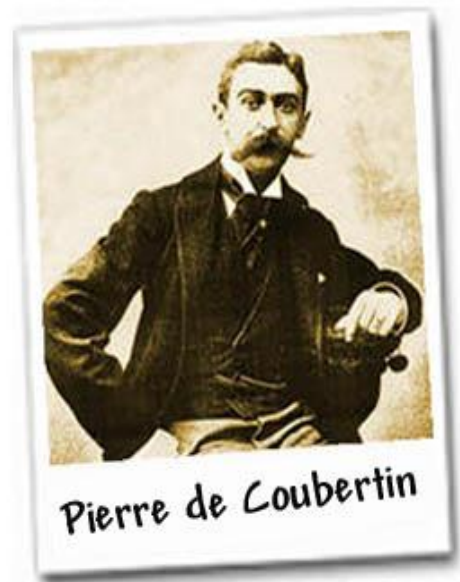


The key website, home of the official London 2012 education programme, is: <http://getset.london2012.com/en/home>. The site offers inspirational videos, Get Set 'heroes', and a whole host of good resources for teachers and students. There are a number of assemblies for children of different ages and although they do not offer a religious or reflective element, this could be added.

Promoting Olympic and Paralympic Values

Get Set is built around the seven Olympic and Paralympic Values, and the **Get Set network** programme provides young people with a chance to prove that they too can reflect these Values in their lives, places of learning and local communities.

The site reminds us that the Olympic and Paralympic Games are about much more than sporting excellence. Underpinning the Games is the philosophy of Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the Modern Olympic Movement. He saw in the Games an ideal opportunity to develop a set of universal principles – or Values – that could be applied to education and to society as a whole, as well as to sport itself.



The Olympic Values are:

- **respect** – fair play; knowing one's own limits; and taking care of one's health and the environment
- **excellence** – how to give the best of oneself, on the field of play or in life; taking part; and progressing according to one's own objectives
- **friendship** – how, through sport, to understand each other despite differences

The Paralympic Values are:

- **courage**
- **determination**
- **inspiration**
- **equality.**

You can download [a video about the Olympic and Paralympic Values](#) on the website.

In research carried out in May /June 2010, **69%** of respondents said their students were inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic Values and **45%** agreed that focusing on the Olympic and Paralympic Values has had a significant impact on the school.

“Values have been a huge hook for us to hang everything on, a whole school enrichment programme, the whole school having to follow, the students are passionate about it. Seeing what the Values have brought out of them, the journey, it’s awesome to see, it’s opened their eyes” (Teacher)

Both church and community schools work hard on developing and embedding their ethos and values. Materials like the Gloucester ‘Values for Life’ programme and the National Society’s ‘Christian Values for Schools’ website are well-used especially in church schools; their approaches connects well with the concern of the Olympic authorities to encourage particular values and to ensure there is a real legacy for the local and international community as a result of each Games. Teachers should be able to draw connections between Olympic values and those the school supports right through the year.

EXAMPLE of values being promoted to schools:

National Sport Week - 27 June- 1 July 2011

Core to the entire week are the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Whether on the sports field or in class, pupils consider the Values and commit to demonstrate them through their behaviour and interaction with others.

The National School Sport Week Planning Pack provides guidance on how to incorporate the values into school activities and help pupils prove that they too can reflect the values in their lives - at school, at home and in the local community. They give examples of how the Values have been used by schools:

Olympic Values

Excellence

One school allocated each department an Olympic Games Host City card e.g. RE got Beijing; Maths got Sydney. Cards were awarded for excellent work and students rewarded for collecting as many as possible.

Friendship

The John Cabot and Bristol Brunel Academy Federation, Bristol, ran a virtual 100m challenge between South Africa and Bristol with video conference links to partner schools in South Africa.



Respect

During PE, Lumley Infant/ Nursery school noted when children showed enthusiasm, helped others and worked as a team and gave special achievement awards.

Paralympic Values

Courage

Ten young people from Wilson Stuart School and Sports College, a special school in Birmingham, held a festival for children in their local mainstream primary school.



Determination

Year 7 / 8 pupils at Mountbatten School devised a 1000m run/relay course with motivational signs about values placed along the course. For example: "If you wish to achieve, determination is the key."

Equality

At Bishop Challoner School, a Disability Sports Day raised awareness for the special skills required in these sports. It was student-led from the ideas to the design.

Inspiration

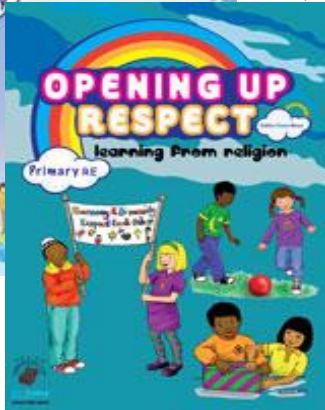
Risca Comprehensive in Caerphilly held a Food and Fitness day. Y9's cycled, played dodge ball and had health checks to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

How people get their values, including religious examples

Many schools take a whole school approach to values development. RE has a key role to play in this by helping children to make the link between what we believe and how we believe. The 'Opening up RE' series is useful in this context. Find it at RE Today Services (<http://shop.retoday.org.uk>)



Values ... Many values originate in the wisdom of faith traditions and the teaching of key religious figures. The book offers reflective exploration of these, the possibility of great spiritual and moral development as well as doing great RE, helping them learn about and from religion.



Respect provides lots of useful activities to encourage thinking about how values are put into action in daily life and relationships.

Some other possible ideas for RE work:

- Ask whether the values are Christian – justify with bible stories or teaching. Are they Muslim or Hindu or secular? Are all the values good ones? Ask if the games should promote other values e.g. hospitality, welcome, justice, service, compassion.
- Design an Olympic torch to cover themes of justice etc – link with symbols in faiths which represent particular values.

- Study Emotions and Values in the Easter Story in the term before the Olympics. Are the values and emotions which run through the Olympics part of the whole tapestry of life? Do they feature in the Easter story? Is there anything here to inspire an athlete?

Ideas for Collective Worship

Schools can use values as a framework for a long or short series of assemblies

1. Use Get set materials but add reflections and prayers to them
[:http://getset.london2012.com/en/resources/5-7/5-7-get-involved/5-7-just-listen-to-this](http://getset.london2012.com/en/resources/5-7/5-7-get-involved/5-7-just-listen-to-this)
2. Use powerpoint presentations of the values on You-tube; obviously teachers have set their creation as homework tasks! Some are good! Make your own.
3. Design awards for particular values Medals with ribbons – write the value along the ribbons, design certificates ... present them in assembly.
4. Collect stories, sporting and otherwise which illustrate the values And base assemblies round them.
5. Use the BBC assemblies -
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/04_03_11_2012_primary.pdf
6. Look at the prayers for the Olympics. Write your own sports prayers. The 2012 prayer is on a new podcast by British 400m Olympic gold medallist Christine Ohurugu MBE.

A Christian prayer in preparation for the 2012 Games

Eternal God,
Giver of joy and source of all strength,
we pray for those
who prepare for the London Olympic and Paralympic games.
For the competitors training for the Games and their loved ones,
For the many thousands who will support them,
And for the Churches and others who are organising special events and
who will welcome many people from many nations.
In a world where many are rejected and abused,
we pray for a spirit of tolerance and acceptance,
of humility and respect
and for the health and safety of all.
May we at the last be led towards the love of Christ
who is more than gold, today and forever. Amen

The 2008 prayer

Everlasting God, giver of joy and source of abundant life,
We pray for all who are involved in the Beijing Olympic Games,
And especially those who represent Great Britain:

For their safe-keeping and well-being;
And as we celebrate the skill and resolve of those who compete
We pray that, throughout the Games, there would be
A striving for excellence, a spirit of humility and fair play,
and a respect for others,
And that all who wait on you may find their strength renewed
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- 7 Focus on Wenlock and Mandeville, official mascots for the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics. Wikipedai will give you the background to them. Note especially that Wenlock has five friendship bracelets on his wrist. Wenlock hopes to make as many friends as possible and always looks on the bright side of life.

The British children's writer Michael Morpurgo wrote the story concept to go with Wenlock and Mandeville and a series of animations tare being produced in the run-up to the games.

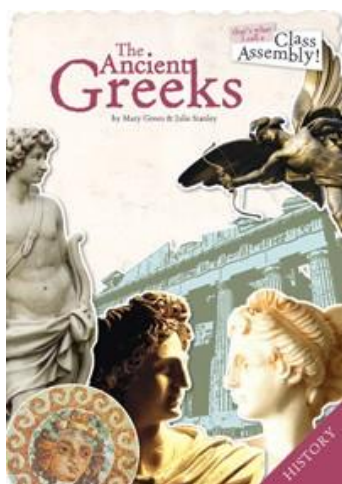
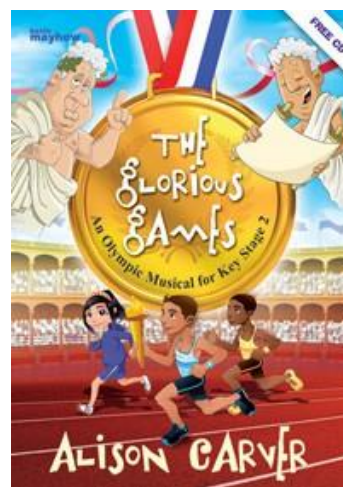
Two musicals which could be used for a school production

The Glorious Games

On your marks. Get set. Go! Join the Spirit of the Games for a fascinating journey through the history of the Olympic Games, from their origins in Ancient Greece, their re-birth in 1896, to the hopes and dreams of today's aspiring young athletes. With a wide range of different options for staging your production, *The Glorious Games* is sure to win a gold medal.

(<http://www.kevinmayhew.com/schools/music/musicals/the-glorious-games.html>)

9781848673502 £14.99



That's What I Call a Class Assembly: The Ancient Greeks (KS2)

It's Greek Day at school and everyone is involved - even Mrs Plato, the dinner lady. With the help of the Ancient Greek Teacher, the children discover ancient myths, legends and fables, take part in the original olympic games, perform Aesop's *The Hare and the Tortoise* and find out how Pheidippedes ran the first marathon.

<http://www.outoftheark.co.uk/the-greeks.html>

Materials for school Christian groups / links with churches

<http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/resource/OutlineArchive/2008/Olympics-RunningTheRace/45476.id>

Powerpoints and group sessions based on the marathon and the idea of running the race. The slides have little in the way of words and could be adapted from their intended upper secondary school use. The resource was put together for Beijing so 'Who wants to be a sweetonaire?' needs some adapting.



The Games: a one-day school-based activity for KS2 that mixes fun and activity with curriculum work. Suitable for schools of all faiths or none. It is run in collaboration with local churches, involves Discovery, Creative and Sports zones with opening and closing ceremonies.

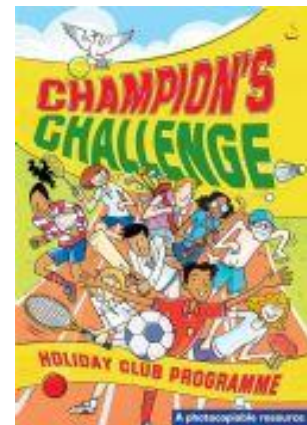
<http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/TheGames/156792.id>

Christian Holiday /after-school club materials:

Materials already published:

Champions Challenge – Scripture Union Holiday club material produced in 2001 for the 2008 Olympics. Still useful. Downloads including a 'Champions' song are freely downloadable at:

<http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/HolidayandMidweekClubs/Downloads/>



Champions (2010, Barnabas) uses the analogy of the Olympic Games to explore how Jesus 'ran the race' for God. It is designed to encourage children also to run that race, running straight towards the goal and finishing the race in order to win the ultimate prize of eternal life. This is the prize that God offers to each one of us through the work of his Son, Christ Jesus

New for 2012

The Sports Academy Holiday Club ~ a Five-day Holiday Club Plan, complete and ready-to-run by John Hardwick and Peter Privett .

<http://www.brfonline.org.uk/sports-academy-holiday-club/>

