



Who Are Your Sporting Heroes?

Aim:

To value sportsmanship and the development of virtue through sport.

Preparation and materials:

Picture of the De Coubertin medal

Picture of Eugenio Monti available here: <https://www.olympic.org/news/monti-s-olympic-spirit-rewarded-with-double-gold> [accessed 1.07.2020].

Assembly:

Entry music: Chariots of Fire, Vangelis.

1. Who are your sporting heroes? Encourage children and staff to share their sporting heroes, with reasons.
2. Show children a picture of the De Coubertin medal. In pairs, ask them to discuss: what do you notice about the medal? What do you think it is awarded for?
3. At the Olympic Games, the best athletes in the world compete to win gold, silver and bronze medals in their sports. However, this is a much less common, fourth medal. It is the De Coubertin medal and has only been awarded 22 times in the history of the modern Olympic Games, making it much harder to win than a gold medal! It was described by the founder of the modern games as “one of the noblest honours that can be bestowed upon an Olympic athlete.” It is awarded for showing true sportsmanship in the Olympics.
4. Ask the children what true sportsmanship means to them. Can they think of any examples (either famous or from their own lives) of true sportsmanship?
5. Explain that you are going to tell the story of one of the winners of the De Coubertin medal – Eugenio Monti. Display his picture on the screen.

Eugenio Monti was one of the most successful bobsleigh athletes of all time. During the 1964 Winter Olympics, his Italian team were the favourites to win. The British team had been the fastest on their two initial runs but realised on the third run that a bolt in their sled had shorn off, affecting their performance. They didn't have a spare. Monti heard about their situation and lent them a bolt from his team's sled. The British team claimed the gold medal. Monti's team took the bronze. After the race, Monti said “Nash didn't win the gold medal because I gave him a bolt. He won because he was the fastest.” As a recognition of his actions, Monti was awarded the De Coubertin medal.

6. Why do you think Monti decided to give the team his bolt? How could he have acted differently? What might the consequences of this be? What virtues did he show?

The Character Curriculum

Flourishing for Life



Reflection:

Sport and exercise gives us lots of opportunities to develop our virtues. Which virtues can you show this week when involved in sport or exercise? When you see someone else showing virtue, point it out.

Challenge:

Can you find out about any of the other winners of the De Coubertin medals and share what you find out with your class?

