

Connecting Classrooms

Project template: Olympic Dreams (all ages; good for mixed ages)

Summary	Olympic Dreams takes you and your partner school on a shared journey from now to 2012, bringing the stories of Olympic and Paralympic athletes into your classrooms and drawing inspiration from the efforts they make to achieve their dreams.
Prepare	Select an athlete or athletes to follow with your partner school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an aspiring Olympian or Paralympian in your or your partner school's region? • Is your school or your partner school near a sports centre, or a pre-Games training camp? • Is there an Olympic or Paralympic sport at which one school excels?
First activity	Ask the pupils to research your athlete's story: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is our athlete's life story? • Where did our athlete go to school? (see resources for help) • What is our athlete's sport story? • What has our athlete overcome? How does that compare with challenges faced by the pupils? • What challenges does our athlete face between now and 2012? What is ahead for our schools and pupils?
Exchange	Swap the research with your partner school and find common themes or a theme you would like to use to develop a curriculum topic - healthy eating, personal development or geography for example.
Share	Read and sort the stories from both schools, finding the best bits to pull together and write out for display. You could use a timeline or even cartoon characters to show the journey.
Extension activities	Keep the momentum going in your school with World Class monthly video assembly kits
Useful resources	BBC World Class website www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/olympic_games/world_olympic_dreams http://cc.britishcouncil.org/dreams for a project space