

What are our Olympics Rings?

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Yesterday we heard from the wonderful Mr Wooliams about the positive impact sport can have and I have to say I mostly agree, except that over the weekend I happened to flick onto the football to see Rio Ferdinand hit in the face by a coin thrown from the crowd and then a Manchester City supporter running on and confronting the United player. This sort of behaviour saddens me hugely and it is a terrible example to youngsters. You will all have times when you get frustrated and you must ensure you know how to conduct yourself.

When I get incomplete homework or a silly remark in class I don't run over to the young lad in question f-ing and blinding before emptying the contents of my wallet on his head! We need to learn from other people's errors. However, I do not want to dwell on the negatives today. I want to discuss the positives and I want to bring it back to the Olympics again. It really was incredible.

I am sure many of you know the symbol for the Olympics, the five inter-locking rings of different colours and I am sure you know what it symbolises? The rings represent each of the 5 continents in the games and the colours are chosen as it has the colour of a part of every flag in the world.

What about if we were to pick our 5 rings to symbolise us at RGS. What would typify us?

I asked some of my year 10s this questions yesterday. They found it difficult because they were in the middle of some incredible enjoyable Geography learning. However, they did manage some answers.

Ring 1- Hard work. I am constantly impressed by how hard many of you work. In my role I am often dealing with the negative side of academic progress and it is easy for me to forget how many of you are working incredibly hard and achieving great success. I am not just referring to hard work in classroom but on the sports field, in drama productions, music concerts, public speaking to name but a few. The hard work that goes into all these activities really impresses me.

Ring 2- Caring, as a student body I think you are incredibly caring. I think you are very aware of your fellow students and do your very best to make sure they are doing ok. You're inclusive, you don't isolate and victimise individuals. I see strong academic lads regularly

helping out weaker students. Sixth form tutors can be an inspiration to others. This caring approach would be one of my most pleasing aspects of this school.

Ring 3- Community. This links in a little bit with the point above. I think we are proud to be at the RGS and to feel part of this community. We love to support and celebrate each other's success. You only have to hear the applause for music groups in assembly or hear the chanting on the side of the rugby pitch to realise the camaraderie between the student body. Taking the U15s out at Twickenham I was nearly tearful at the sheer noise that was made when we jogged out.

Ring 4- Expectations. I think you guys set yourself incredibly high standards. The vast majority of you here will want to achieve the very highest level in all that you do. Not only do you have high expectations but so do your staff. They set high expectations of themselves and also of you. Many of them do all that they can to ensure you have a good chance of reaching your potential. To set high expectations you must have a determined spirit in order to try and achieve those goals.

Ring 5- Sense of humour. I think this is perhaps the most important ring. It is imperative to keep things in perspective. Don't take yourself too seriously. I'm regularly laughing at your humour. Laughter is such a wonderful experience that you should strive for it as much as possible every day.

So today think about our RGS rings and enjoy the success you are achieving. Celebrate others success and most importantly, do it with a smile on your face.