

## Challenges Assembly

Years 7-10

It was a Friday afternoon in the not too distant past when I packed up my bags for a great challenge. I had packed waterproofs, woolly hats, gloves, walking boots, sun cream and a couple of Geography books for the journey. I met my team Messers Scourfield, Hollyer, Zair, Mead, Greenhough, Durning, Taylor and Copeland. A fine bunch of young men, each with superb individual skills which complemented one another!

I knew this was going to be a tough challenge but nothing had prepared me for the difficulty of Mr Scourfield's 2011 Geography versus History Quiz. The questions were demanding and a little bizarre, such as "I am thinking of a country of the World. Which one?" At one stage we even fell behind history. Naturally, this did not last long and Geography reigned supreme. However, the main challenge for the weekend was of course the three peaks.

You will no doubt hear more about this event in coming weeks during assembly, but the reason I want to discuss it briefly now is because I want to discuss how we face challenges and how we know if we succeed.

Our group completed the challenge of climbing the highest mountains in Scotland, Wales and England in just under the 24 hours being the first group to complete the challenge. Does that mean our group was more successful than the others? When I speak to members of the other groups my answer is of course yes, by miles.

However, that is a total lie. Our group was full of PE teachers or teachers under the age of 30 or teachers with driving skills more dangerous than Lewis Hamilton. This challenge should have been relatively comfortable for us, it was not! Other groups had total mixes of people, retired staff, staff not really too keen on physical activity, people who picked up injuries and yet they all completed the challenge. As we descended to the bottom of Snowdon we passed the final group who were only just about to start it. It must have been very demoralising for them and yet they continued on in horrific conditions to completion some 4 hours later, finishing as a team. So who was the most successful? Perhaps the leaders of each of the groups, Mr Zair, Mr Scoble, Mr Stevens and Mr Rose, who had to look after their team and make sure everyone was safe and sound. Maybe, those who were completely exhausted by the end and had no energy left to give, maybe those who supported friends and encouraged them in times of difficulty, maybe Mrs Whalley who organised all the transport, hotels and meals or perhaps Mr Mead who came up with the idea and worked tirelessly to ensure it was a success?

I ran a marathon two days ago over the hills of Devon and I ran it with my brother. We'd never done one before so on the way we discussed the idea of success and as we got to mile 21 and things were pretty painful, we decided it would just be a success to finish. We kept each other going and were looking to cross the line together, when my younger brother outstretched an arm and punched me in the stomach to ensure he came in 30cm in front of me!

So how do we measure success? I don't think we can measure it by a time or a speed or a grade. Success can only be measured by the individual. He or she is the only person who knows whether they have tried their best. Last week and this week you will have been receiving your exam results,

some of you should be disappointed with a B grade and some of you should be delighted. Everyone has different abilities, whether that is athletic, academic, socially or artistically. It is important to be aware of where you have not been successful, so you can learn from the mistakes, but it is imperative to ensure you celebrate your own individual success as long as you have given of your best.