



Sport?
February
i75

M. February i75

I like to watch sport and there are some that I really love to watch. I love the selfless, bravery and team work and reliance on others in rugby. Again, in the ability to endure physical and mental suffering and the unrelenting effort in favour of one leader, very few sports can top pro-cycling.

I love the Olympics. Many of the sports in the winter games epitomise the Olympic spirit of higher, stronger and faster; speed skating, downhill slalom, big air snowboarding, cross country skiing but I have never really got curling. Higher? Stronger? Faster? I mean, **it's not a sport is it?** To be fair though, I have since looked into it a bit more.

There is a deftness of touch, a skill in judgement and an ability to place the 'stones' strategically; to place stones close to the target using friction to speed up and direct the stone but always aware that the power of the last stone has the potential to change the game completely. There is a real level of challenge to curling.

During the last half term we, like very many secondary schools, have been severely challenged. We have had to maintain an eye on the day job but have had to always be conscious that events outside of our control might overtake us.

Since we returned on January 4th we have had hundreds of cases of COVID amongst students and dozens amongst staff. Our attendance, despite all this, has been, week on week, higher than both national and local figures.

The leadership team meets weekly to consider all elements of continuing to improve our school.

Indeed, this week every student has attended assemblies to remind students about our best standards. We have done this every mid-year since 2017. Best standards amplified in ARC. Attend and Be on time, so that we maximise learning time. Ready and Equipped for Learning, so that every child has the right uniform and equipment to support learning and Community Conduct, so that every child is in the right frame of mind for learning including minimising distractions such as those posed by mobile phones. James Tucker has posted a separate video explaining, in detail, our policy.

Be assured that we always make decisions based upon what's best for the staff and students of the school. In the face of on-going challenge, we have had to make decisions very quickly indeed.

Like curling we have tried to keep our strategic shots between the 'hog line' and the 'back line'.

Have we sometimes overshot? Probably. Have we occasionally fallen short? Possibly.

Have we tried our best amidst all this challenge? Certainly.

Like the curlers we practice and we reflect on our shortcomings.

Like curling; leading a school is a challenge; and like curling it's DEFINITELY not a sport.

Once again, your very many positive messages of support are extremely well-received. Thank you.

God Bless
JohnR

Video version below;
https://youtu.be/efUjlqX_wXY