Topical Topics: Roamer® Olympics

In this issue of GO we revive the popular Topical Topics. We plan to make this a feature of future G0 issues. Where, better to start than with a topic based on one of the great International events, the 2012 London Olympic Games due to start in July. In fact Kate is one of the many Olympic volunteers and with the Olympic torch due to pass within half a mile of our London office, our interest has been gradually building.

To master anything takes time. Most of the athletes in this summer's extravaganza will have undoubted talent. But, they have also spent hours and hours practicing and maximising their innate ability. One of Roamer's assets is its ability to engage students. Finding new and imaginative ways of keeping students interested in something prosaic, like basic arithmetic, is a teaching challenge. This topic presents a situation where students can practice some of their basic mathematical skills in a motivational way.

You can access the topic in the Activity Library by doing a detailed search on Roamer Olympics. It is a minor project that you can run over several days. The first few activities set the scene. Students work in groups (teams). They will develop their team identity. You then set up a series of Roamer games. The teams practice the games and choose one of their members to compete in the event. All team members must compete in at least one event. Finally, you host Olympic day. The teams compete against each other for medals. The team who tops the medal table wins the day!

The Library contains two versions of the Activity: one for students aged 5 to 7 and the other for those aged between 7 and 11. There is a great deal of flexibility about the way you run the event; you can choose activities to suit the specific learning requirements of your students. So for example if their estimation skills are weak you can choose games that involve that topic.   Or perhaps you want to recap a lot of recent work. The Olympic Topic offers you an enjoyable way of approaching this type of work.

Activity Library

Note: over the next few months we will be adding activities to the library. Some of these will be reworked versions of the topical topics.