

A really special moment in sport this week

I felt strongly that I needed to record details of something marvellous that I witnessed on Wednesday this week. It is currently time for the annual inter-house cross country sessions. This is loved by some, dreaded by many, yet fiercely contested between our four houses.

Each time I addressed a year group I explained that every runner counts, especially the last runner for the House because that is the runner that can change the overall result for the team. Often my words fall on deaf ears but not on Wednesday. At the end of a gruelling 1600m run when many of the fastest runners had crossed the line and were standing catching their breath and recovering, I noticed a sprinting duel between two Year 5 girls. Despite being near the back of the field they were exerting every bit of energy, pushing themselves on over the last 100m to reach the finish before the other. The determination in their eyes and their straining muscles could have been that seen by crowds of spectators in a major running event around England such as The London Marathon. As they reached the line one girl narrowly stretched ahead and emerged the clear winner of the duel. Both girls seemed pleased with their hard work and relieved to have finished. For the girl who was narrowly beaten her efforts were appreciated but her loss did not affect the House result and her House finished in first place. However the girl who managed to win the duel turned out to be pivotal to her House which snatched 3rd place by only 1 point.

Latham finished with 101 points and Newton finished with 102.

In this case Latham's result really was affected by their last runner. In my opinion, the stand out performance of the day was from the girl who exemplified outstanding learning habits and proved that effort will be rewarded and contribution to a team event is valued.

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