

Get Set

to make your mascot



Hi, I'm Wenlock, named after Much Wenlock in Shropshire, a town that is at the heart of Olympic history.

In the 19th century, Baron Pierre de Coubertin was invited there to watch the 'Much Wenlock Games' inspired by the Olympic Games of ancient Greece. De Coubertin was inspired by the Wenlock Games too, and went on to found the modern Olympic movement. The Much Wenlock Games are still held annually to this day!

Before you make a start on your new design, it might help you to know a bit more about me.

As the official London 2012 Olympic mascot, I love all the Olympic sports – and can't wait to find out more about them! I've got from now until summer 2012 to learn everything I can – there's almost nothing I like more than discovering new things. The only thing better is making friends and seeing other people make friends.

Life is all about having fun and I always look on the bright side. Why? Because there are so many fantastic people who are positive and upbeat and make me laugh. It's that kind of person who really inspires me to do my personal best.

Someone asked me recently that if I had to choose the three things that mattered most to me, what they would be? It's a tricky question. What would you choose?

In the end I decided that the three Olympic Values pretty much sum up everything I believe in:

- Friendship
- Respect
- Excellence

In a nutshell, I reckon that if everyone extended the hand of friendship to everyone else and respected them for who they actually are – regardless of the colour of their skin, how much money they've got, how clever they are or what they believe – the world would actually be a happier, more peaceful place.

As for excellence, well, what's the point of doing things if you don't do them as well as you can?

So, here's your challenge:

Design a new version of me that shows the world what's special about your community.



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Hi, I'm Mandeville, the official mascot for the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

I'm named after Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire, the birthplace of the Paralympic Games. On the same day as the Opening Ceremony of the London 1948 Olympic Games, Sir Ludwig Guttmann held his own sports competition in Stoke Mandeville for World War II soldiers with spinal injuries. It was no coincidence – Sir Ludwig dreamed of a 'parallel Olympics' for athletes with disabilities. The Stoke Mandeville Games grew and grew until they became the Paralympic Games.

Before you start planning your design, here's a few things you might like to know about me:

I'm a mascot on a mission. On a mission to be the best I can possibly be. Because that's what it's all about, isn't it? There's nothing I like better than having a go at something new – offer me a challenge and I'll take it! And if at first I don't succeed? Well, as they say, I'll try, try and try again.

There are some amazing people around the UK who are inspiring me to push harder than I ever thought I could – even when the going gets tough. And among those amazing people are the Paralympic athletes I'm meeting. Some people call them 'athletes with disabilities'. I'm finding out that's not quite the case – in fact, these are people with an almost superhuman ability. Their courage and determination is awesome – inspirational.

Now, my mission may be a serious one, but I love my job – who wouldn't?

I'm really looking forward to London 2012, especially the Paralympic Games. ParalympicsGB should do really well.

Right, better be off – lots of places to go and people to meet! So, tell me, what is it that makes your community, town, city or region special?

Your challenge is to show that special something in your customised version of me – the mascot for the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

