Y5/6 Lesson 4 - Resource 1

Agents of change



Alex Scott

Alex was a professional football player, for teams including Arsenal and Birmingham City. She was the first Sky News sports presenter and BBC Men's World Cup presenter in 2018, and the first female host of BBC's 'Football Focus' in 2021. She promotes the visibility of women in sports, and has spoken out about her pride in her working-class background and her accent. She has also written an inspirational memoir about her journey towards resilience, "How (Not) To Be Strong."

Marcus Rashford

Marcus is a professional football player who has faced racism and discrimination himself. He has written a book aimed at children titled 'You Are a Champion: How to be the best you can be'. The book draws on stories from his own life to explore how to handle tough situations, and how positive thinking can help build mental resilience. He challenges gender stereotypes that suggest boys shouldn't cry or talk about emotions. He argues that asking for help is a strength: it doesn't make you weak, it makes you human. He also encourages girls to play football and says that football is for everyone, whatever their gender. He has praised the Lionesses on social media for inspiring so many young girls and boys across the country, and highlighted that girls deserve the same opportunities as boys in sport.

Jack Grealish

Jack doesn't conform to some traditional masculine stereotypes – especially those common for male footballers. He regularly shows his emotions (openly cries after big matches). He shows lots of affection for his family and teammates. He wears his long hair with a headband, and wears bright clothes. He has faced criticism for this, but he has stood up to the bullies and taken a strong public stand on being himself. He has publicly supported children with disabilities. He often speaks about how his sister Hollie (who has cerebral palsy) is his hero and how much she inspires him. He also dedicated a goal celebration to a young fan with cerebral palsy.

Y5/6 Lesson 4 - Resource 1

Agents of change



Phil Roper

Phil is a hockey player for England and Great Britain, earning over 200 international caps, and successfully competing in many tournaments. Phil models a character beyond the 'tough athlete' portrayal. He co-hosts a hockey podcast called 'Let's Stick Together' with his teammates. This show has an open and honest style, and discusses mental health, teamwork, sporting culture, and everyday life, including fatherhood and family life.

Helen Richardson-Walsh

Helen is a hockey player for England & Great Britain with 293 international caps and successfully competing in many tournaments, showing that women can be just as competitive as men, and in a very physical sport. She has also overcome multiple surgeries, injuries, and depression. Alongside her wife and teammate Kate Richardson-Walsh, they won Olympic medals. Helen is an inclusivity champion: openly LGBTQ+, and an advocate for diversity and inclusion in sports. She speaks publicly on breaking down gender barriers in sport, LGBTQ+ awareness, mental wellbeing, and team leadership.

Ross McCartney-Oliphant

Ross actively promotes netball as a game for all, as it has often traditionally been seen as a 'women's sport'. Men who have played have faced stigma and stereotyping. Men's netball is growing in popularity. Ross uses his social media platforms (such as Instagram) to demonstrate the skills that both men and women netball players have. He emphasizes that both men and women, boys and girls, can play netball together and separately, and that this is a sport where everyone should be welcome!

Y5/6 Lesson 4 - Resource 2

Discrimination scenarios



- A. The children want to make a mixed gender football team but some people do not think this is suitable.
- B. All the children are given presents. The girls get make-up sets and hair accessories whilst the boys get balls and puzzles.
- C. The girls are asked to clean and tidy up whilst the boys are told they can watch TV.
- D. In class some of the children get in trouble for playing a silly game but the boys get more told off than the girls, because it is always assumed it is the boys who started the silly game and their behaviour was worse than the girls.
- E. All the science groups are named after famous scientists who are men, but none are named after women scientists.
- F. Even in the summer term when it gets hot, boys have to wear a shirt and tie, but girls can wear a lighter fabric summer dress.
- G. The girls on the music video are all wearing swimsuits and bikinis but the boys are wearing tracksuits.
- H. The boys are given stars as a reward for good work far less often than the girls. It seems as if they have to work far harder to get stars for good work.

