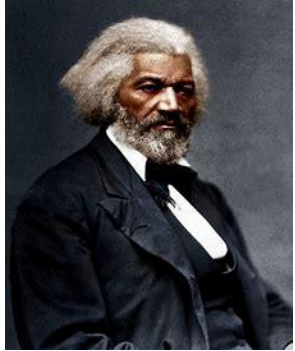


# Overcoming adversity

Assembly delivered by Mr Towill

# What do they have in common?



Frederick Douglass,  
abolitionist



Franklin Roosevelt,  
US president



Sylvester Stallone,  
movie star



Tom Cruise, movie  
star

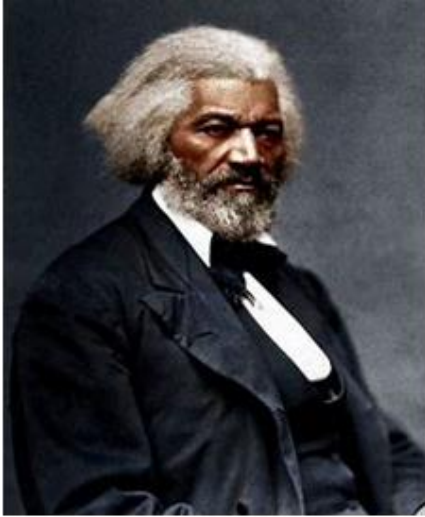


Oprah Winfrey, talk  
show host



Lily Rice, 15 year old  
world champion

# Frederick Douglass



Frederick Douglass,  
abolitionist

## Best known because

- Campaigned against slavery in the US
- Wrote his autobiography *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845) and *My Bondage, My Freedom* (1855)
- First African-American who was nominated to be vice president of the UA

## Also known for

- Being born a slave in 1817 or 1818
- Proving that slaves were just as capable as free people



# Franklin D Roosevelt



Franklin Roosevelt, US president

## Best known as

- US president. Won 4 elections
- Helped USA through the Great Depression in 1930s
- Led USA to victory in World War 2
- Died in office

## Less well known

- Contracted polio before he became president
- Spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair



# Sylvester Stallone



Sylvester Stallone,  
movie star

## **Best known as**

- Actor and film director
- Wrote and starred in Rocky and Rambo movies
- One of American's richest and most successful stars

## **Less well known**

- An accident during birth severed a nerve and caused paralysis in parts of his face.
- Lower left side of his face is paralysed - including parts of his lip, tongue
- Gives him a snarling look and slurred speech

# Tom Cruise



Tom Cruise, movie star

## Best known for

- Films such as Top Gun, Mission Impossible and Maverick
- Nominated for 4 Oscars
- One of the world's richest and most famous film stars

## Less well known

- Grew up in poverty in New York
- Said his father was a bully and a coward
- Attended 15 schools in 14 years
- 5' 7" tall

# Oprah Winfrey

Oprah Winfrey, talk  
show host



## Best known for

- Oprah Winfrey Show – highest rated talk show in history
- First African-American billionaire
- Interviewed Harry and Meghan

## Less well known

- Born into poverty
- Raised by teenage mother
- Victim of racism

# They all overcame adversity

*a difficult or unpleasant situation*



Frederick Douglass – slavery and racism

Franklin Roosevelt – polio and physical disability

Sylvester Stallone – nerve damage and physical disability

Tom Cruise – Unstable family life and perceived short stature

Oprah Winfrey – poverty, racism, challenging family life



# Lily Rice – facing adversity



Lily Rice, 15 year old  
world champion

- Born with paraplegia - muscles of her legs are tight and weak, but her upper body is strong.
- Rice had always been the outdoorsy type, getting around with the help of leg braces and crutches.
- Encouraged by her dad Mark, who's a paramedic and surfer, she climbed trees, rode bikes.
- The condition that affects her lower body worsens over time, and by the age of 10 she was using a wheelchair to make it easier to get around.

# What Lily Rice does: wheel chair motocross (WCMX)



# Is there anyone who doesn't face adversity?

*a difficult or unpleasant situation*

- Which of us has never suffered from
  - Physical adversity?
  - Mental or emotional health difficulties?
  - Difficulties with relationships?
  - Dealing with trauma?
  - Setbacks and disappointments?

# Hard work and CHARACTER values

- Who we are is not defined by the challenges we face
- Who we are is partly defined by hard work
- Hard work runs through three of our CHARACTER values
  - Resilience
  - Ambition
  - Courage

# Our kindness CHARACTER values

Kindness runs through three of our nine CHARACTER values

- Tolerance
- Empathy
- Respect

Kindness makes everyone better and everyone happier. Kindness means:

- Speaking to people nicely and avoiding slurs
- Looking at people kindly and not staring in a nasty way
- Opening doors, giving way to people, not pushing or shoving



# Being safe and kind: a reminder

- You can walk up any A-block stairs before school, before p2, before p4
- Year 7 and 8 now have separate toilets
- Toilets are toilets and are not social spaces – do not go in groups
- Report anything you are concerned about – including any unkindness
  - To a teacher or other member of staff
  - Via [listening@denefield.org.uk](mailto:listening@denefield.org.uk)
  - Using the physical listening box located in student reception
- C202 is available Thursday lunchtimes as a quiet and safe space

**Work hard. Be kind**