

DANIELLE BROWN MBE

Archer, a double Paralympic gold medallist and five times World Champion

Danielle Brown is an archer, a double Paralympic gold medallist and five times World Champion. She was World Number 1 for her entire career. She also achieved something exceptionally rare - she successfully transitioned from the paralympic team to the able-bodied team. Danielle wanted to discover what it took to be the best in the world.

She got there. Because she always believed she would.

Danielle is articulate, approachable, open, honest, friendly and with a genuine wish to share her experience and to help others. Refreshingly, in an age of “celebrity”, she is not a “prima donna”. She simply works hard, with focus, to ensure the success of events at which she is invited to speak.

Born in Yorkshire, she shared her parents’ passion for the outdoors and her childhood was filled with sporting activities. But this crashed to a halt as a teenager when she had constant, chronic pain in her feet. Finally diagnosed as Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), it affected all areas of her life. Determined that this life-changing setback would not beat her, she looked for a sport that she *could* do. She took up archery for her fifteenth birthday and began her very rapid rise to Paralympic glory, which would see her dominate her sport for over seven years.

At the same time, fitted in with her training, she studied for a Degree in Law, graduating with First Class Honours.

Winning gold in Beijing was an incredible experience. Hungry for more, she relocated to the Archery Performance Centre at Lilleshall, to train full time. Always striving to improve, she achieved something exceptionally rare: she was selected for the able-bodied team.

In 2010, she became the first disabled athlete to represent England in an able-bodied discipline and won the gold medal in the team event.

London 2012 was her target. Danielle worked incredibly hard, determined to retain her Paralympic title on home soil. The proudest moment of her life was receiving her gold medal in front of the home crowd at London. The support of the entire country was overwhelming. But, on a personal note, it was also the first time that her family and friends had seen her compete internationally, which made standing on the podium a truly special moment.

Danielle was fully committed to making the team for Rio and trying for her third gold medal. But life has a way of throwing setbacks at us when we least expect it. In 2013, the rules of competition were changed. Danielle was told that she *did not classify* under the new rules and could *no longer compete* at Paralympic events.

Danielle had started archery because she was fed up with all the limitations imposed on her life. Archery had helped a disillusioned teenager come to terms with having a disability.

But in one moment, for reasons completely outside her control, everything she had worked so hard for was gone.

Simply because she didn’t “tick a box”.

She helps other people to achieve their ambitions and goals through motivational speaking, sport psychology sessions and working with the education and business sectors to minimise the impact of nerves and stress.

Danielle’s clients include: RBS, Serco, Hermes, National Express, Zen Communications, Peninsula Business Services Ltd, ATL (NEU), Kohler Mira, British Athletics, Broomfield and

Alexander, Made In The Midlands, Mensa, Buy Yorkshire, Shrewsbury Hospital, North Yorkshire County Council, Luton Council of Faiths, HMPS Foston Hall (HM Prison Service), The Business Desk, Harper Adams University, The University of Wolverhampton, The University of Leicester, Queen Mary University, The University of Coventry, The University of Aberdeen, Birmingham Metropolitan College and North Shropshire College, and Wolters Kluwer.
She speaks to many schools including at Speech Days and a wide range of inclusivity and diversity events.

Awards and Achievements

Awarded an MBE for services to Archery in the New Year Honours List 2015.

Honorary Fellowship from the University of Wolverhampton for services to sport and the work done with students.

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Leicester.

Awarded the Freedom of the City of London and made a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers (2014).

First Class Degree in Law from the University of Leicester. *Alumna of the Year*, University of Leicester, 2012

Books

Danielle's first book "The Boy Over The Road" went straight into re-print.

Her second book "Be Your Best Self – Life Skills for Unstoppable Kids" was shortlisted for the Telegraph's "Sports Book of the Year 2020".

"Run Like A Girl" (for children aged 7-12) was published in September 2021.

Danielle was chosen to curate the special book "One Hundred Steps" about the incredible Captain Sir Tom Moore (September 2021).

"All over the world, female athletes are breaking barriers, pushing limits and achieving amazing things. Where did their journeys begin? What challenges did they have to overcome to get where they are today? This book is a collection of fascinating biographical stories by 50 highly successful sportswomen, from boxing superstar Nicola Adams to record-breaking yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur and fearless mountain biker Rachel Atherton. With an insight into their influences, motivations and achievements, each story reminds us that failing can teach us just as much as winning; success isn't limited to the sports field and 'running like a girl' can lead you all the way to the top."

Sporting Honours and Titles

2014 2nd at the UK National Series Event (2014).

2013 Paralympic World Championships, Bangkok: silver medals in individual and mixed team events.

World Championships, Turkey: 4th place in the women's compound team in Danielle's first able-bodied Championships.

2012 London Paralympic Games: gold in the open women's event.

World Cup Finals, Tokyo: silver medal in the able-bodied women's event

First place at the Nimes Indoor World Cup stage (able-bodied).

2011 Paralympic World Championships, Turin: gold in individual event: 2 silver medals in the team and mixed team.

2010 Commonwealth Games, Delhi: gold team medal: Danielle was the first disabled competitor to represent England in an able-bodied discipline.

European Championships, Vichy: 2 gold medals for individual and mixed team events: silver in the women's team.

2009 Paralympic World Championships, Czech Republic: 2 gold medals for individual and team events.

2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: gold in the open women's event.

2007 Paralympic World Championships, Korea: 2 gold medals for both the individual and team events.

What people say about Danielle Brown as a speaker:

“Danielle is a true inspiration! She spoke at the first RBS *UN Day of Persons with A Disability* event, highlighting the spectrum of disability. Every part of her presentation was a reminder that ‘*you can*’ achieve anything you want to set out to do, even if barriers are put in your way. The post-event comments really highlighted how inspiring Danielle is and also the excitement of seeing two gold medals. Danielle is a true professional and we would certainly love to work with her, in future events across RBS”.

Marc Reece-Coles, RBS Inclusion Manager

“We engaged Danielle to inspire a group of our senior leaders on how to perform under pressure. What are the tips and techniques business leaders require to raise their game at work? Listening to Danielle’s personal journey is, of course, inspiration enough. What she also does, however, is weave in her knowledge of sport and business psychology. This blend is powerful content — as is the opportunity actually touch and see two gold medals. Attendees were both thrilled and excited to meet and listen to Danielle.” **Stuart Thomas, Masgroves**

“I’ve been inspired by many speakers in my life. *But I’ve never been as inspired as I have today, hearing you.*”

St Mark’s Catholic Primary School

“Danielle Brown was superb. A truly inspiring speaker. We received excellent service from DBA Speakers”

Hymers College

“Just to say thank you so much for today. The school is absolutely ‘buzzing’ from your inspirational speech this morning, both staff and students alike. It was absolutely brilliant with a really strong message. Thanks again!” **Wilton School**

“Danielle excelled all our expectations massively. 5-star all the way through.” **University of Leicester**

“I chose Danielle as our speaker having heard about her from my son’s school. She was excellent, and DBA Speakers’ response and support was professional and helpful throughout.”

School Governor, Focus School, Newtown Campus

“It was an absolute honour and privilege to hear your inspirational story. I hadn’t quite appreciated the magnitude of your achievements and likewise, the journey you had to get to where you are today. Your session was extremely well articulated, natural, highly motivational and left people

with the feeling that anything was possible if you really put your mind to it. *I was in two minds about attending the event, but am now extremely grateful that I did!*"

Hardeep Rai, CEO of Kaleidoscope Investments

"I contacted Danielle to provide an alternative view of leadership, teamwork and planning success which were relevant to the wider group following a recent reorganisation of the Ops Team. Danielle delivered a captivating presentation using her experiences of preparing for competition, both mentally and in her competitive performance. She blended those with references to Serco's journey, introducing key points along the way. Danielle was on topic throughout and the audience were eager to ask questions and share in her successes, particularly when the medals were circulated! Danielle was a pleasure to meet and work with: she is a very professional speaker."

Calum Mitchell, Risk Director at Serco

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you! Your talk about self-development really helped me over the last 2 years in the completion of my A levels. I went from a boy full of anxiety and struggling through exams, to being fully confident, even when my results would determine the rest of my life. When times got really tough, you taught me to believe in myself. Now I am off to University to follow my dream career path. Couldn't have done it without you; your 2 hours was genuinely the turning point in my life." **J Atkinson, student**

"Very inspiring. Lots of learning points and ready to implement these into my life both inside and outside of work." **Peninsula Business Services Limited**

"Danielle Brown spoke at our high-profile launch event. She absolutely stole the show. A consummate professional throughout the pre-event run-up, her delivery was flawless and – as expected – left the audience utterly inspired and enthused. I've simply loved working with her and am actively looking for opportunities to repeat the process soon – whether that's through her brilliant public speaking or her bespoke mental coaching."

Felicity Wingrove, Zen Communications

"Danielle's presentation was uplifting, motivational and highly inspiring. Her delivery was first class and equipped our members with a number of strategies to resolve stress and workload issues, giving them the confidence and self-belief to inspire those around them. The ATL Midlands team have thoroughly enjoyed working with Danielle, over the last year, and we are looking forward to working with her again in the very near future."

Rebecca Poorhardy, ATL

"I would like to express my gratitude for the motivational talk you gave to our Commonwealth Games England Athletics Team in Manchester. Your delivery to our Team of 100 athletes, coaches, physios and doctors was extremely well received. Your presentation was informative, provocative and inspirational, and the content and the length of delivery were perfect. You engendered a genuine engagement from the athletes and the support team and some were visibly moved by your story." **Peter Stanley, Head of Coaching and Development, British Athletics**

"Danielle spoke to sport and exercise psychology undergraduate students and provided a unique insight into the world of elite sports performance. Her talk was honest, critically reflective and thought provoking. On the basis of staff and student feedback, we hope to have Danielle return to the university on an annual basis so that future students may also benefit from her experiences."

Dr Tracey Devonport, University of Wolverhampton

"Danielle spoke to our managers about leading under pressure and ensuring that we all have ways of dealing with stressful situations such as Ofsted inspections! We were all impressed with her

messages and the tools she taught us to cope with stress, and we have already put them into action. It's important for us to be able to deal with difficult situations and ensure we take our staff with us in a calm and steady way and we are now better equipped to do this. Danielle gave us a truly inspirational talk and we were moved by her story. We will ask Danielle to return, to talk to our students so that they can learn the invaluable ways of giving your all, no matter what.”
Birmingham Metropolitan College.

**To check Danielle's availability, call Diana Boulter
on 07554 440537 email diana@dbaspeakers.com**

DBA Speakers