



VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Secondary 15



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

A big thank you to **St Wilfrid's
C of E Academy** for
suggesting this VoteTopic!



On 3rd December, it is **International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPD)**.

This year, the focus for **IDPD** is all about **improving accessibility and inclusion** in today's world.



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That's why this week, we are looking at the **progress** being made in **British Sign Language (BSL)** in the UK: how could this help achieve the **wider goal** of improving **accessibility and inclusion**?

Did you know?

Figures from the Royal National Institute for the Deaf show that there are 12 million adults in the UK living with hearing loss.

1 Why are we talking about this?



It's **important** to remember that for many people in the **Deaf or hard of hearing** community, they do not see themselves as having a **disability**.

However, under the **Equality Act 2010**, there are laws and other measures in place to make sure **their rights** are **protected**.



2 The pursuit of progress



The Equality Act 2010 protects people from **discrimination**.

People must be treated fairly in all areas of life. Adjustments sometimes need to be made.



If you're Deaf or hard of hearing, you may need **adjustments** made at work, school, or when you **move** house.

There are **900** registered **BSL interpreters** in the UK. Progress takes time and a lot of effort.

Hearing Loops and **microphones** can be very useful. For some Deaf people, **British Sign Language** is vital for accessibility.

Individual reflection (2-3 mins)
Is using **British Sign Language** a difficult adjustment to make?

2 The pursuit of progress

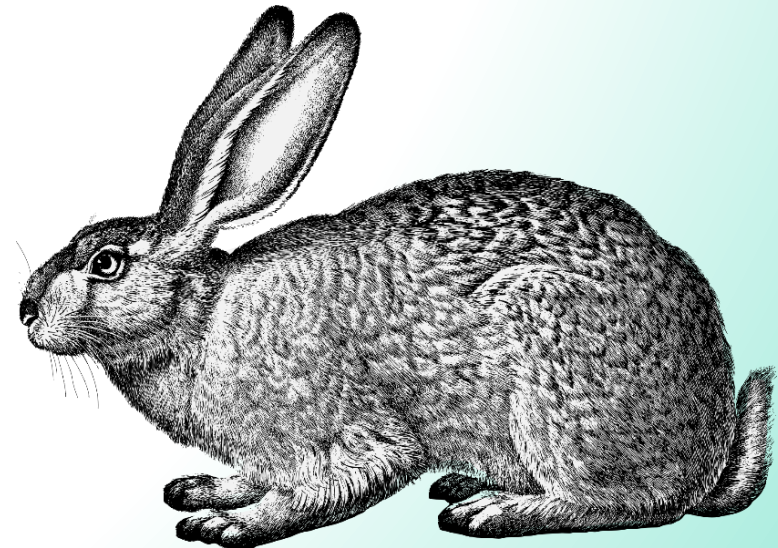
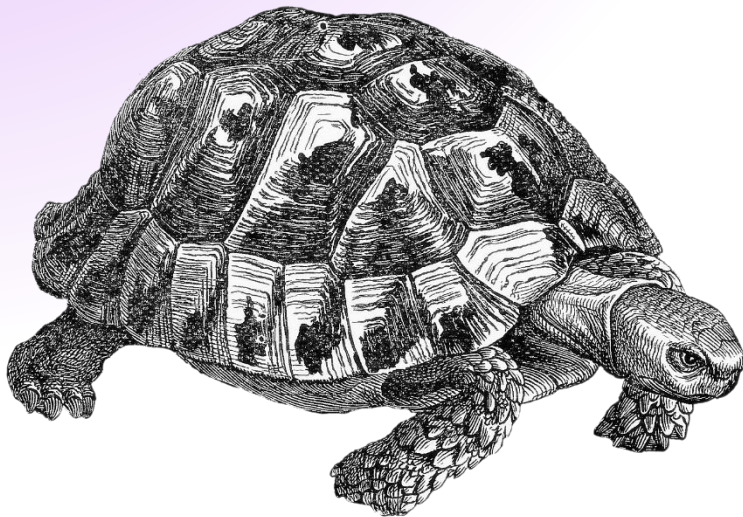


Individual reflection (2-3 mins)

As today's question is all about progress, what does progress mean to you? Click to see two opinions, then move around the room to show where you stand.



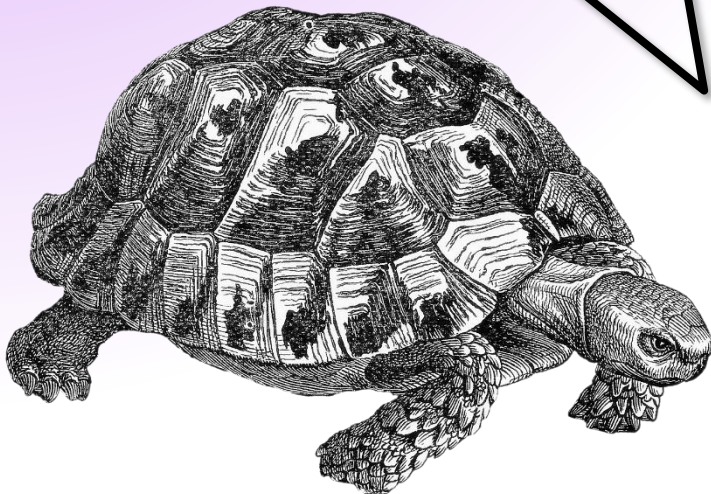
Across the Curriculum – English Language:
How is metaphor being used to support the discussion here?



2 The pursuit of progress

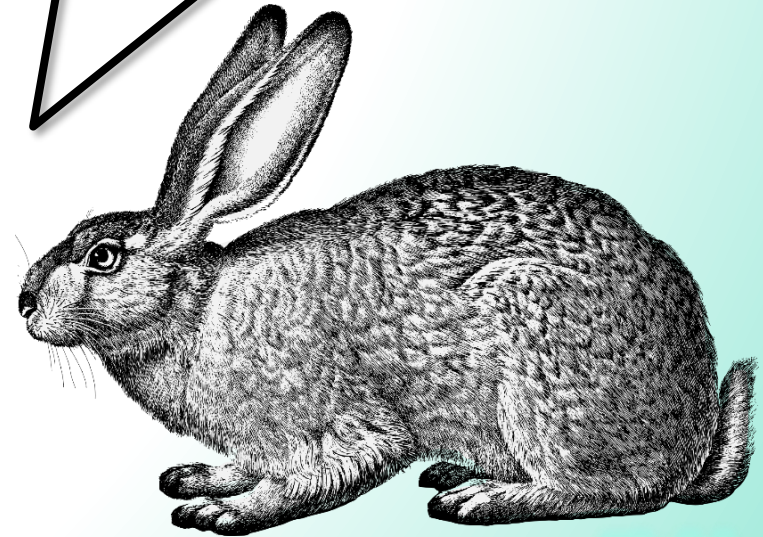


“Progress happens slowly but surely. It makes sure that success will come eventually, even if it takes a while.”



Left

“Progress happens quickly and for all to see. Change is not guaranteed to last, but it definitely gets people’s attention.”



Right

**Pair activity (3-5 mins)**

On the next slide, you are going to see some headlines from the history of British Sign Language. Read each one, and then match them to the year in which you think they happened.

Challenge:

What progress does each of these events show?





**DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION
ACT PASSED**

**First School for Deaf Children
opened in Edinburgh**

**First World Games for the
Deaf held in Paris**

**BSL officially recognised as a
language by UK Government**

**FIRST RECORDED USE OF
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE**

1576

1760

1924

1995

2003





**FIRST RECORDED USE OF BRITISH SIGN
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EQUALITY DISCRIMINATION ACT PASSED

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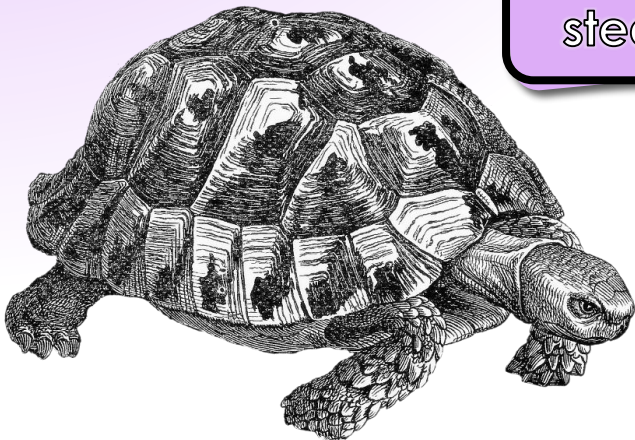


Now let's consider some **recent history** with some **key stories** linked to this topic from the **last 12 months**.

You are also going to be **revisiting** your **definition of progress** in this activity!

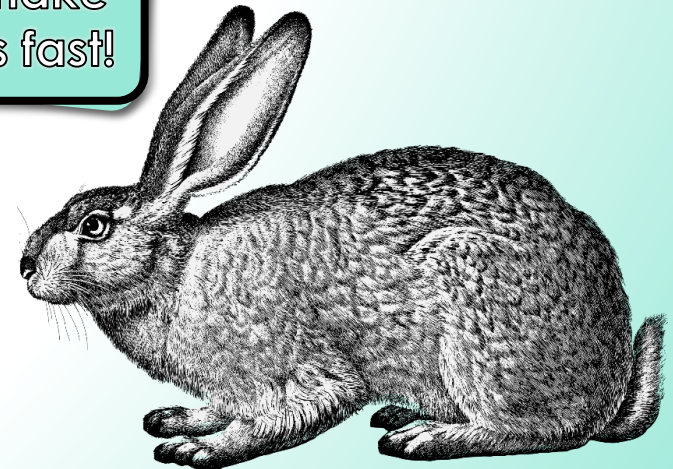
Pair activity (5-7 mins)

As you read each example, your job is to consider whether it is evidence of Tortoise-like progress, or if it's more Hare-style. If you're Team Tortoise, stay seated. If you're on Hare's Team, stand up.



Slow and steady...

Let's make moves fast!



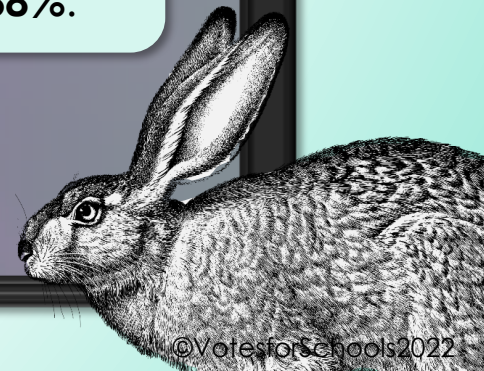
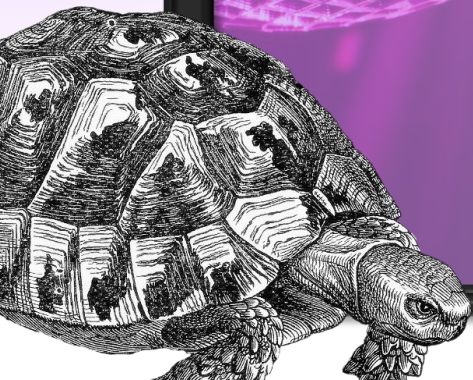


Rose Ayling-Ellis lifts the glitterball

Eastenders star **Rose Ayling-Ellis** made **history** in 2021 by becoming the **first Deaf** person to take part in **Strictly Come Dancing**. She then went on to **win** the series!

One of her **routines** included her dancing in **silence**. Following this, **Google searches** for learning BSL rose by **488%**.

What kind of progress does this show?



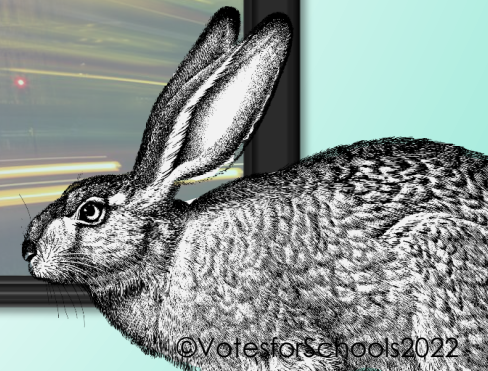


British Sign Language Act passes Parliament

As you saw earlier, BSL has been **recognised as a language** by the Government since **2003**. However, **MP Rosie Cooper** wanted this set out in **law**. And, she **succeeded!**

The **Bill** passed through the **Commons** & the **Lords**. In **England, Wales & Scotland**, BSL now has **full legal recognition**.

What kind of progress does this show?



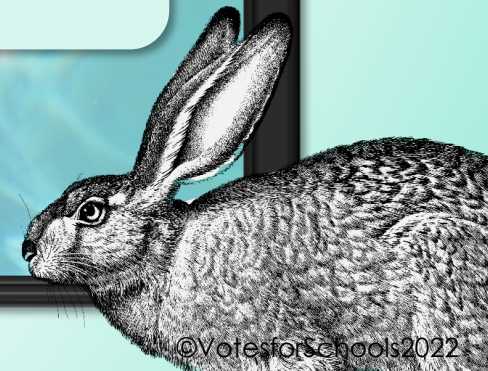
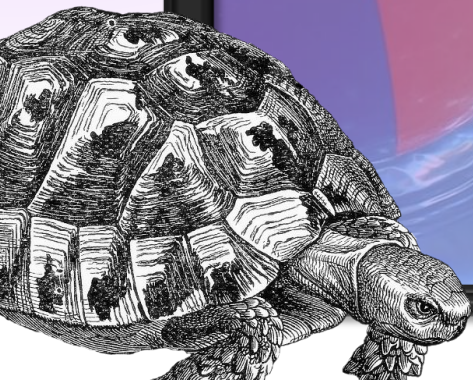


A new role model enters the Villa

In July 2022, **Natasha Ghouri** became the **first Deaf contestant** to appear on **Love Island**. She spoke a lot about her “**superpower**” while on the **show**.

Natasha is also the **first ASOS model** to be pictured wearing a **cochlear implant**. More recently, her **boyfriend** even got a **sign language tattoo**!

What kind of progress does this show?





Vote!



Progress **can only move so quickly**, especially with things like **laws & rights**.

In **popular culture**, there has been a **noticeable shift** towards **recognising BSL**.

Compared to how **slow changes have been in the past**, we are making decent progress.

Is progress around BSL happening quickly enough?

Though there have been some **significant changes**, things could **still move quicker**.

Given the **number of people with hearing loss** in the UK, we are **not doing enough**.

It's 2022. We **should not still have to be fighting for more accessibility** for the Deaf community.

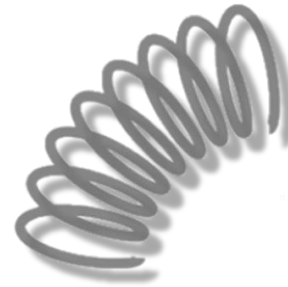
We will be sharing your thoughts on this topic with National Deaf Children's Society, Royal Association for Deaf People, British Deaf Association, Rose Ayling-Ellis & Tasha Ghouri.
Log in to your VotesforSchools account to submit your vote and leave a comment.



Can I improve my speech writing and public speaking?



Confidence



Resilience



public speech

You should structure your speech into these 5 sections:

Two Minute Speech

Introduction:

This needs to establish the point of view you will be arguing, and how passionately you feel about it.

First point:

This should be an idea that supports your viewpoint, with an explanation as to why.

Second point:

This should be a second idea that supports your viewpoint, with an explanation as to why.

Anecdote:

This should be a "real" story, ideally from within your community, which supports your viewpoint.

Conclusion:

This should be a 'call to arms': what do you want your listeners to do, and how should they action this change?

Attitude & Effort To be fully invested:



- I have a positive attitude towards my learning, 100% of the time.
- I have high aspirations for myself.
- I am always resilient in lessons.
- I learn from my mistakes; I understand that they are vital in my progress.
- I always complete work to the highest standard, to the best of my ability, striving to challenge myself every lesson.



Can I improve my speech writing and public speaking?

Here is an example speech, on the Vote Topic: Should animal testing be banned?

Ultimately, animal testing is not just a crime against the natural world – it's a crime against morality. Whenever we support this inhumane practice, we sacrifice the values that make us good and empathetic people.

Firstly, let's remember the following: animals have absolutely no ability to consent to testing. As such, we are subjecting them to evil and cruel treatment and they have no way of communicating the pain or betrayal they feel. Tell me: how is this different to testing cosmetics, and medicines, on a baby?

Secondly, I recognise that many people think we have no alternatives to animal testing that are any more ethical. Quite frankly, I think this is ridiculous. By continuing to place unknown chemicals inside an animal's body, we are teaching young people to place no value on their lives as living creatures. Where does this stop? As we all grow up to play a responsible role within the communities we live in, we need to recognise the importance of every single life.

For instance, Hannah. At 17 she made the decision to only buy products that have not been tested on animals. After leaving Maltby and going on to study at university, she said this one decision transformed the way in which she supported other students on her campus – realising that we don't all have a voice to stand up for ourselves.

So, I implore you: stand up and make a difference! Show these companies that we will not tolerate their barbaric treatment of the animals that live amongst us. Write at least one letter, to either a company or the government, and let's show them that people of this community – a community built on morals, understanding and trust – that we value the lives of all living things.

Thank you.

Introduction

First point

Second point

Anecdote

Conclusion

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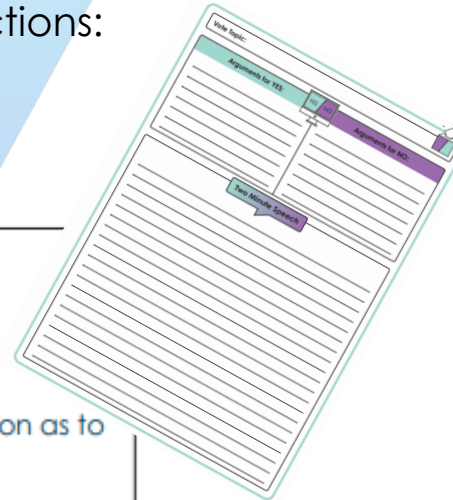
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public speaking

Choose one area of your public speaking to work on this week:

Top Tips – Delivery

Voice - Work on your vocal variety, pace of speaking and use of pauses.

Body language - Check your eye contact, your use of gestures and how you are standing.

Clarity - Are you clear about the purpose of your speech? Does the speech inspire, amuse or inform?

Be yourself - Retain your voice, your passion, your sense of humour and your convictions throughout. Be yourself and be real.

Tone - Consider the way you speak to your audience and how you want to get your message across. Your tone can affect how people perceive you and their willingness to listen.

Projection - Make sure your voice is loud, clear and confident. Don't underestimate the power that projecting your voice has on commanding your audience's attention.

Gestures - Be animated during your speech. Gestures can add a layer of meaning and expression to your ideas, and really emphasise your overall thoughts and feelings.

Pace - The speed at which you speak must be varied. By speaking quickly, you can indicate urgency or danger. By speaking slowly, you can indicate tension, finality or fear.

Eye contact - Eye contact with your audience is of great importance. Your audience should feel like you are speaking directly to them. Your words become more personal and meaningful.

Oracy
To be fully
invested:

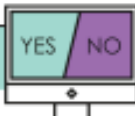


- I articulate myself confidently.
- I actively take on any of the 6 Oracy roles during discussions, debates and when sharing ideas.
- I express my opinions and ideas, without needing the sentence stems provided.
- I work effectively in a variety of different Oracy groupings.
- I always listen carefully to my peers and build on their ideas.
- I apply accurate, subject-specific vocabulary in my contributions.



Can I improve my speech writing and public speaking?

Now, everyone should cast their vote for one side of this week's argument or the other.

Arguments for YES:		Arguments for NO:

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