

October 2025

Dear families

### **Stretch - Cycle 1**

#### **What is Stretch and why do we complete Stretch projects at DMP?**

As part of the English curriculum, the students take part in a 'Stretch' project. Students complete an independent project and explore questions related to a chosen subject. Stretch projects prepare students for tasks at secondary school, research in further education and to develop essential independent learning skills to help them climb their mountain to university. Students benefit by developing their communication skills, both speaking and listening, as well as building their confidence when presenting in front of their peers.

Within school, students complete their Stretch project during Stretch afternoons which involves them researching and writing their speech. The speeches should be approximately 2- 3 minutes in length. Students are expected to aim to learn their speech off by heart, using notecards as prompts. They will then present their project to their class, where two winners per class will be selected based on a scoring system. The two finalists from each class will then take part in the Stretch Key Stage Finals where overall winners and runners-up are chosen and prizes awarded.

#### **Stretch Posters**

At home, students will be required to develop a poster which will support their presentation in the finals. Students will plan the poster in school and then have the option of either completing a paper-based poster to support their speech or creating a PowerPoint presentation using computers. PowerPoint presentations should be sent to individual class email addresses, for example: [huddersfield@dixonsmp.com](mailto:huddersfield@dixonsmp.com) or [nottingham@dixonsmp.com](mailto:nottingham@dixonsmp.com). In the 'Subject' box of your email, please state: 'Stretch Presentation' and student initials.

Please note that a paper based poster or a PowerPoint are equally acceptable and A3 paper will be provided by class teachers, if requested. Posters should only include key information, pictures, be bold and colourful in order to support the speech.

#### **Cycle 1 Stretch topics**

##### **Year 2 – Write a fact file about a famous person from Bradford**

Question 1. Who is the famous person from Bradford?

Question 2. Why are they famous?

##### **Year 3 - Should we protect animals?**

Question 1. Why did dinosaurs become extinct?

Question 2. What animals/species are endangered now?

##### **Year 4 - How have the Romans impacted life in Yorkshire?**

Question 1. What impact did the Romans have on developing industry within Britain?

Question 2. What architectural features have we inherited from the Romans?



### **Year 5 - How has food in Europe been influenced by Africa?**

Question 1. What foods were available in Europe before trade with Africa was established?

Question 2. Which foods are sourced from Africa today?

### **Year 6 - The Industrial Revolution - what have we learnt from it?**

Question 1. What were the positive and negative effects of the Industrial Revolution on people's lives?

Question 2. What key things did we learn as a society from the Industrial Revolution?

The booklets that your child/children use in class for research and to draft and write their speeches will be sent home. Lessons 1-5 will be completed in school; launch lesson, the research for the topic, planning the speech and writing the first draft of the speech.

The rest of the booklet can be completed at home including, writing further drafts of the speech and planning the poster/PowerPoint Presentation. This is so children can be independent in completing more research at home and refining their speech in preparation for the finals.

Booklets need to be brought back to school when stretch projects are handed. The deadline for this is the week beginning **24.11.25** for in class finals and Key Stage finals will be held on **1.12.25**.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Keenan**

**Year 4 Teacher and Stretch Lead**

