

# AMAZING PEOPLE SCHOOLS

## TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



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## WELCOME

We're thrilled to welcome you to the Amazing People Schools pilot website. We hope that you and your students find it educational, inspirational, fun and easy to use.

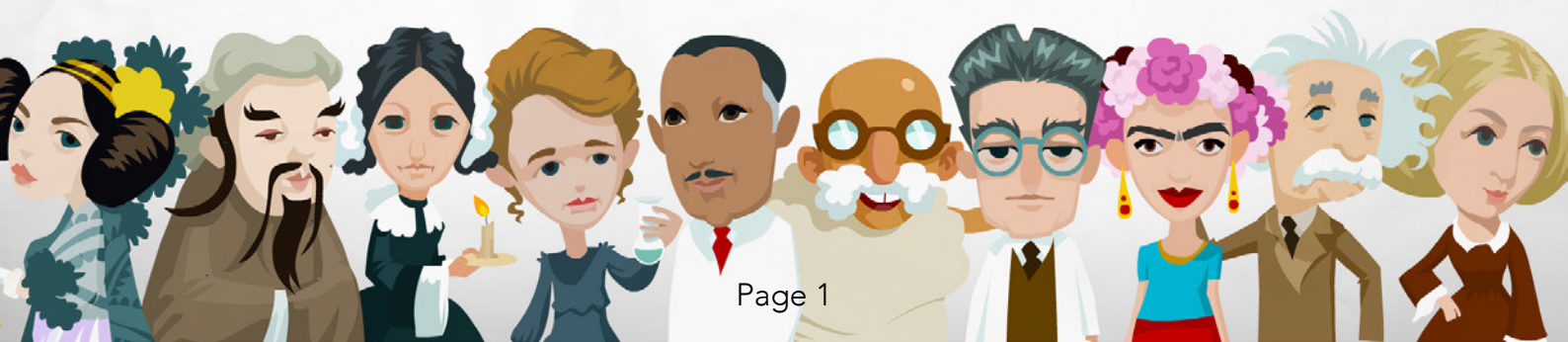
Teachers have told us that our resources can be an invaluable support for the effective development and delivery of Character Education, alongside subject-linked learning, across the curriculum. Of course, measure of impact is vital. So it's good to know that you can easily link our programme to any Information Management System, where positive outcomes can be tracked and rewarded.

We'd love to know what you think. Share your feedback or feel free to ask any questions at [education@amazingpeopleworldwide.com](mailto:education@amazingpeopleworldwide.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

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*The Amazing People Schools Team*

*"We know what we are, but know not what we may be."*

**– William Shakespeare**





## **Foreword by Dr Charles Margerison**

### **Educational Psychologist and founder of Amazing People Schools**

Hello, and welcome to Amazing People Schools.

Do you do your job because you have to, or because you want to? Steve Jobs, reflecting on his work at the Apple computer company, said: 'The journey is the reward'.

Through a variety of experiences, he discovered a way of working that suited his preferences. As a result, work became enjoyable. His work journey was exciting, as new ideas became reality. Jobs said that, for him, work involved doing something incredible day-in day-out.

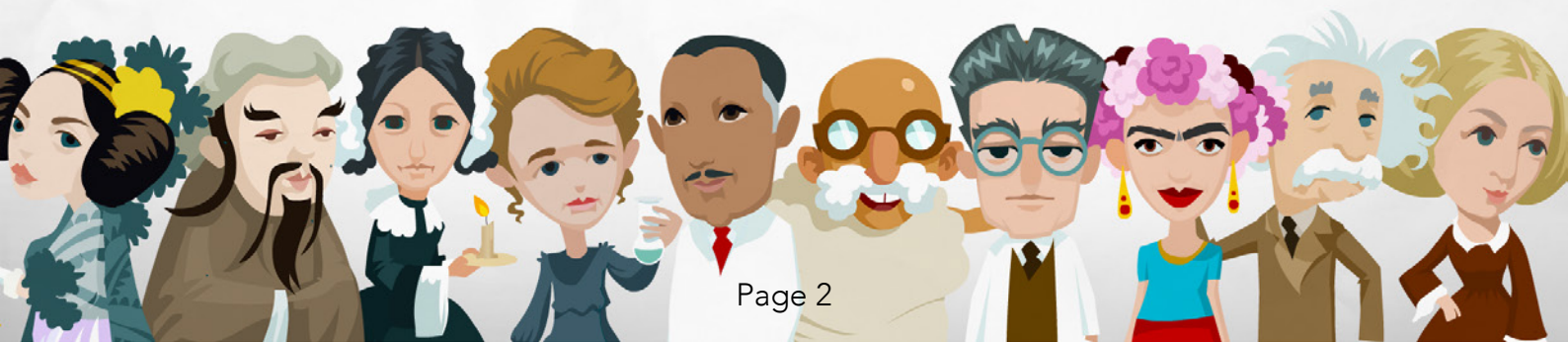
I have studied the lives of more than 500 Amazing People, including Michelangelo, Dr Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Dr Elizabeth Blackwell and other outstanding achievers. No doubt they would agree with Steve Jobs. For them, time would fly. Absorbed in their work, they would continue on, regardless of meal times or other activities that they needed to do or that other people wanted them to do.

Some of us are lucky and align our work with our interests from the start. Others get there through coaching sessions and a career change.

Now, this process can start with students. Thanks to the Amazing People Schools programme, students have the opportunity to recognize early in their lives where to focus their talent. For example, it is unlikely that Shakespeare would have made a brilliant musician. Likewise, it's doubtful that Mozart would have become a world famous writer. However, by choosing areas of work that suited their preferences, they excelled.

The Amazing People Schools website brings the life stories of some of the world's most outstanding achievers into your classroom. We focus on character education, rather than just curriculum content. The result is that students have the opportunity to engage with the lives of amazing people and develop confidence and commitment to high achievement in whatever area they choose.

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## About Dr Charles Margerison

Dr Charles Margerison is a Chartered Educational Psychologist. As well as working in educational institutions for many years, he has consulted widely for major corporates in the fields of organisational and educational psychology. He was previously Professor of Management at Cranfield University, UK, and the University of Queensland, Australia. In addition, he co-founded Emerald Insights, and Team Management Systems. The author of numerous books, Dr Margerison is a member of the Royal Institution and the Royal Society of Literature.

## HOW OUR AMAZING JOURNEY BEGAN

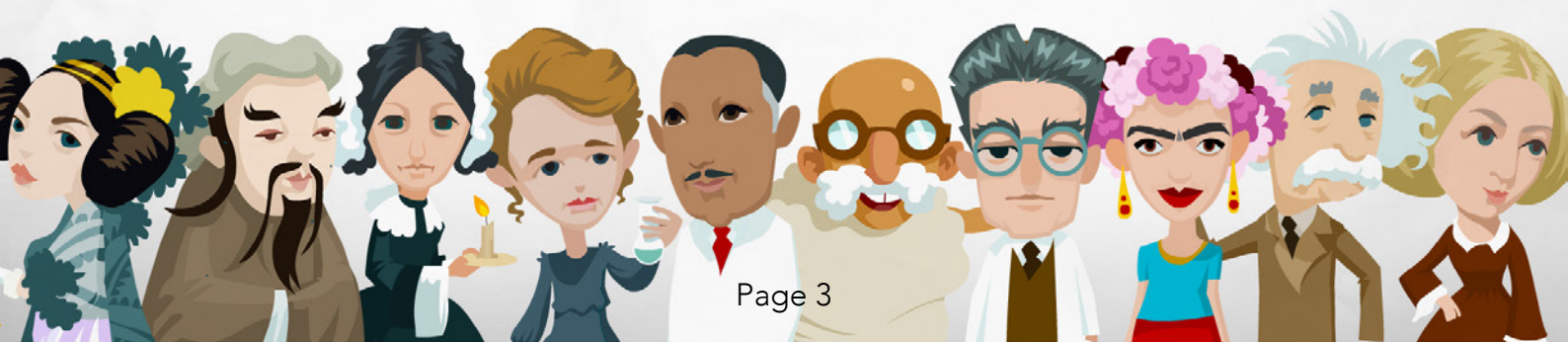
In 2006, Dr Margerison paid a visit to Stratford-upon-Avon. As he stood in Shakespeare's birthplace, a thought struck him: what would Shakespeare say if he was interviewed about his life achievements?



Amazing People Education was born that day. The premise has remained the same: inspirational stories told by the people themselves - and our story library has grown to include over 500 amazing achievers.

What makes the Amazing People programme so unique and engaging for both teachers and students? Dr Margerison uses his knowledge and training to focus on the psychological issues associated with the personalities of the amazing people that we feature, as well as how they used their time and talents to achieve something truly extraordinary.

Dr Margerison is supported by a dedicated editorial team who share his love of the stories of these inspirational people. Each story is meticulously researched and based on historical facts. Amazing People stories are now enjoyed by students and lifelong learners all around the world.





*"The Amazing People we feature were experts in self-development and in the process, they developed strong characteristics, which enabled them to adapt to the ever-changing social, economic and political circumstances of their life. They triumphed through hard work and persistence, often in the face of overwhelming odds. Students can learn how to improve their levels of achievement by understanding the attitudes, ambitions, abilities and applications as exemplified by Amazing People."*

**– Dr Charles Margerison**

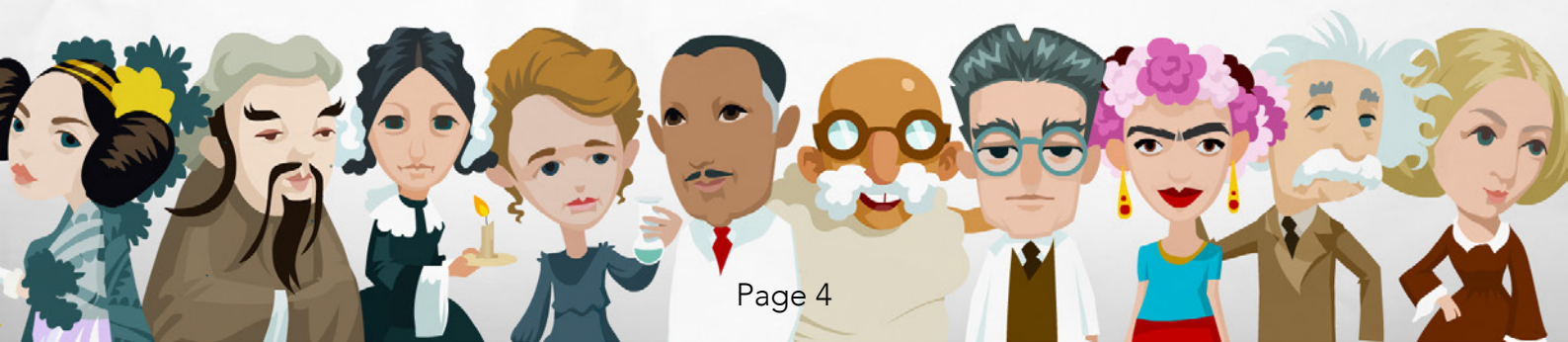
## **ABOUT AMAZING PEOPLE SCHOOLS**

For the past five years, we have been sharing the stories of Amazing People with schools around the world and supporting inspirational learning with the amazing people of tomorrow in as many ways as we can.

Amazing People such as Charles Dickens, Marie Curie, Michelangelo, Gandhi and Harriett Tubman. People who shaped our world and often did so despite adversity.



It's been an amazing journey! We have seen first-hand how the sharing of stories about real people in schools can inspire students to develop their communication, discussion, writing and reading skills as well as becoming more fluent in the reading, creation and sharing of stories.



By getting to know Amazing People, students can gain insights into the kinds of characteristics that helped these people achieve brilliance. We're here to inspire students to think about what they are good at, the kinds of people they want to be and what they might want to do when they leave school.



**MOTIVATION**



**INNOVATION**



**CREATIVITY**



**PERSEVERANCE**



**FOCUS**



**EFFORT**

*"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."*

**– Albert Einstein**

The stories of amazing writers, scientists, artists, explorers, politicians, inventors can link to curriculum in a more personal way, too. Amazing People stories offer a great segue into a topic or a lesson across curriculum. We are passionate about how the stories of Amazing People can link into and support Character Education.

*In a world where we are constantly bombarded by the lives of celebrities, the achievements of these historical figures, can offer real and inspiring lessons on life.*

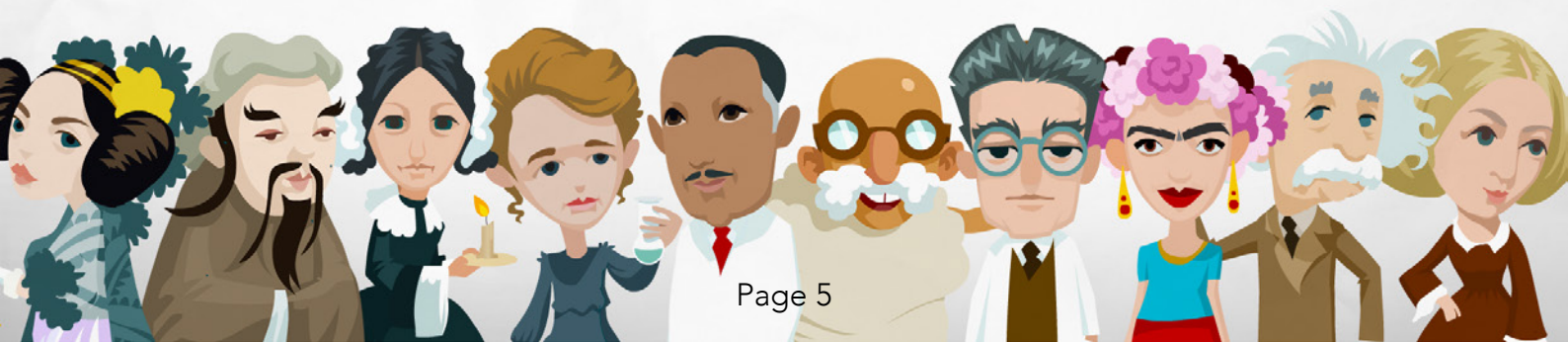
**– Danise Bartlett, Secondary School Teacher, London**

## **An Amazing People Schools success story**

Meridian High School is one of London's fastest improving schools. Together with our education team, they have been developing their own Amazing People Schools Character Education programme.

The deputy head, Liz Bone, has been working with her senior leadership team on this. It was critical the staff felt it was easy to adopt.

The school has focused on a list of key characteristics that they agreed to foster within their school community. Characteristics such as courage, focus and bravery, which are



supportive of their school motto – **Motivation, Honour and Success**. These characteristics are visibly reinforced all over the school and have become part of the school's language, which Liz believes has been essential to the school's *culture shift*.

## A fusion of values, behaviour and characteristics

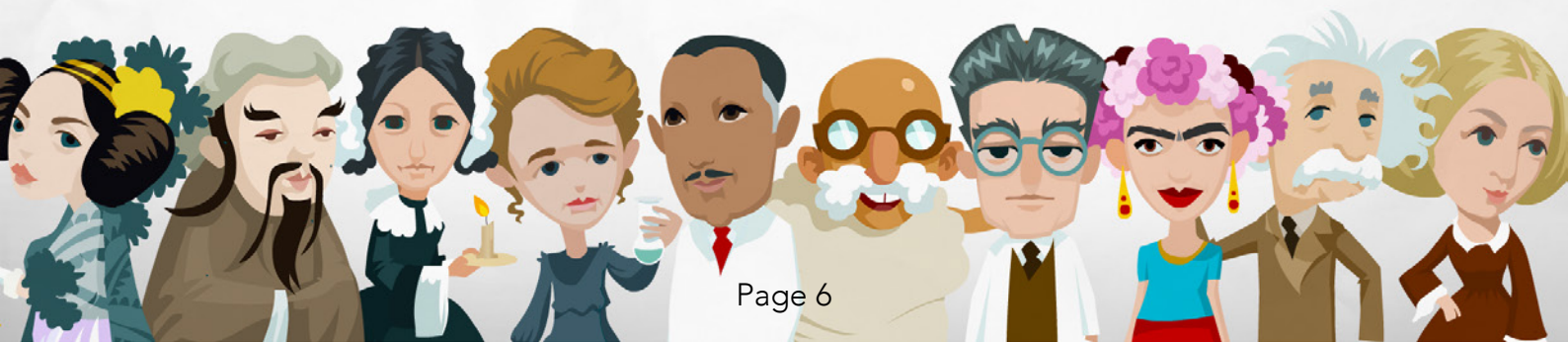
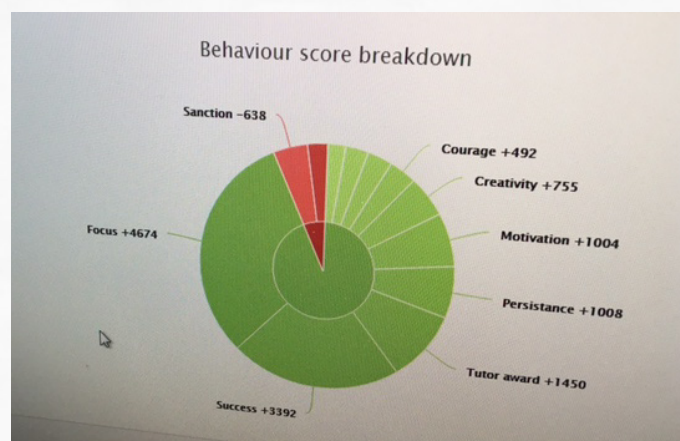
The staff at Meridian aligned their values with the stories of Amazing People, which they then introduced to students through weekly assemblies. They knew that students were much more likely to understand and engage with the school's values when explained in the context of real life stories. The stories got students thinking in a cross-curricular way about the characteristics of amazing people who shaped our world.

Liz Bone says that the programme has really helped to drive a curiosity to learn across the school, as well as developing each student's sense of the world, their understanding of it and where they could fit into it when they leave school.

*"Students can get to know amazing characters through these stories, whilst developing their own personalities and preparing for life after school."*

**– Liz Bone, Deputy Head**

To bring this full circle, the school has effectively linked their values with their "Meridian Miles" incentive scheme, so that students are rewarded when they are recognised for demonstrating an amazing characteristic. All this data has been recorded so that impact can be measured.





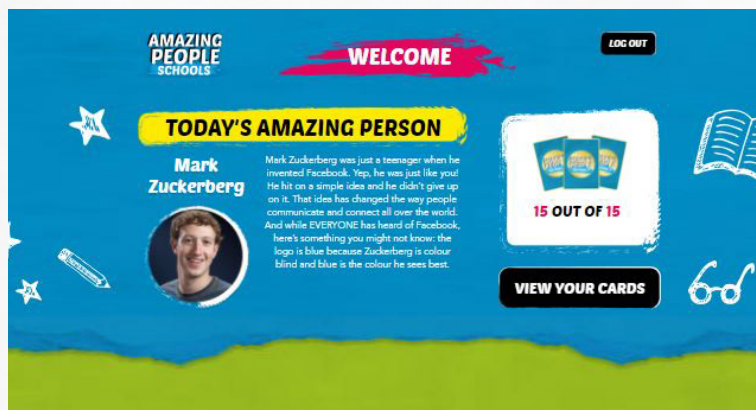
# TAKE A TOUR OF OUR WEBSITE

## Student zone

Students get to explore different story worlds, which have been organised into curriculum-friendly topics.

The stories can be accessed as embedded text or audio. Avatar videos and a timeline are also included. Once a student has engaged with the story, they can test their mettle by taking an Amazing People quiz and claim their Amazing People Card, once they score 4/5 or more (we all know how motivated kids are by collecting things!).

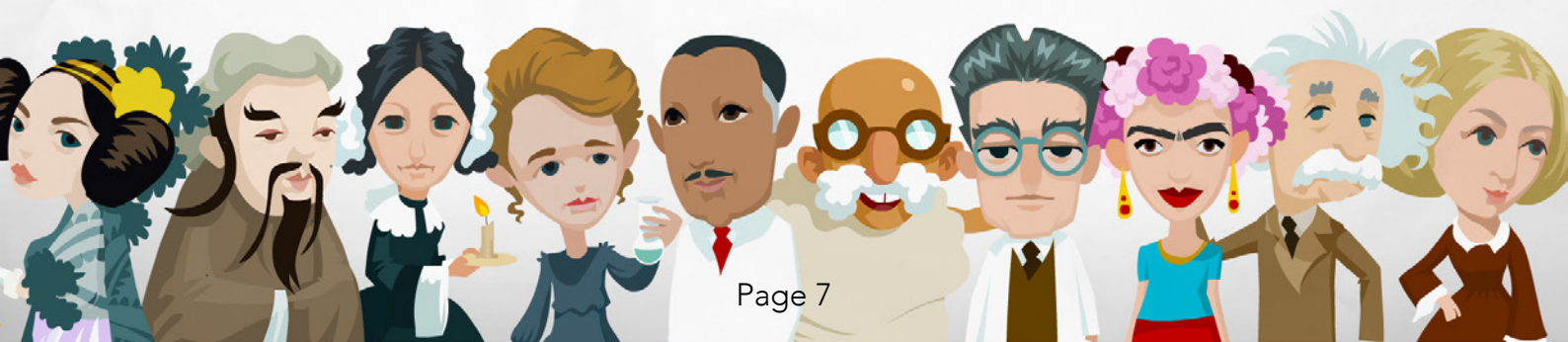
And the great thing about the Amazing People concept is that the potential for learning from these stories is endless...



## Teacher zone

Who better understands how busy teachers are, and what they need, than teachers themselves? That's why we have worked with a core team of teachers (known as our Amazing Teachers) to create materials and Resource Sheets that support the use of Amazing People stories in schools.

The Resource Sheets can be easily incorporated during class, tutor time, assemblies or as a basis for homework or projects.



As you'll discover, we offer an entirely non-prescriptive approach, so our programme can be developed to fit each school's needs and community.

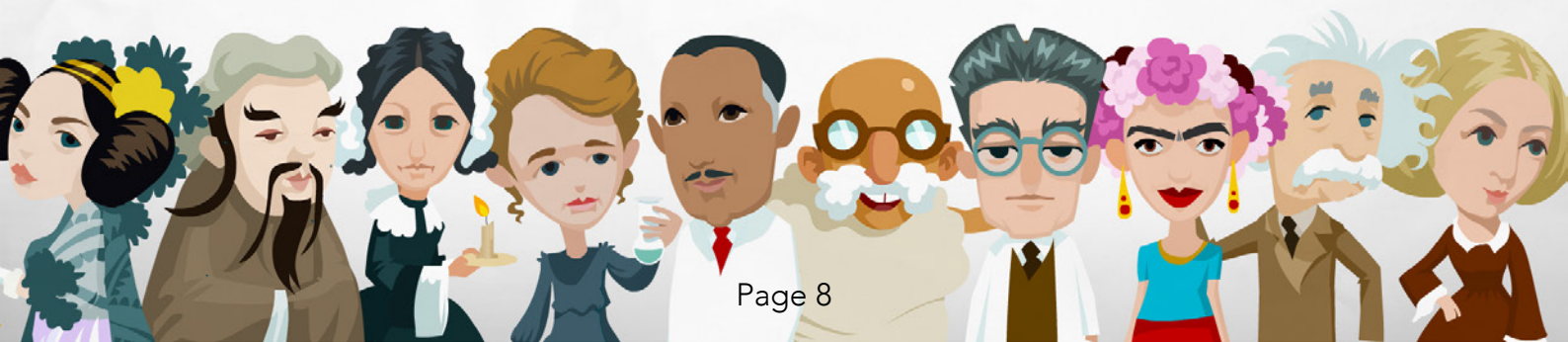
Our mission is to help schools be even more amazing and to encourage students to tap into their own amazing potential. This is an opportunity for a whole school approach to Character Education. (Read our **Amazing People Schools success story** on page 5-6, **and discover** how we've been working with one of London's fastest improving schools.)

Amazing People stories are delivered through a new format of storytelling created by educational psychologist, Dr Charles Margerison. Written from a first-person perspective, they unlock the lives of these brilliant role models and encourage students to develop positive behaviours, characteristics and ambitions, and to think about the amazing things they could do in their own lives.



## Other useful resources: our books

The publishing arm of our organization, Amazing People Worldwide has published an extensive series of book titles and works with a range of global partners. This includes co-published series of 20 ELT books in partnership with HarperCollins, which support people learning English around the world.



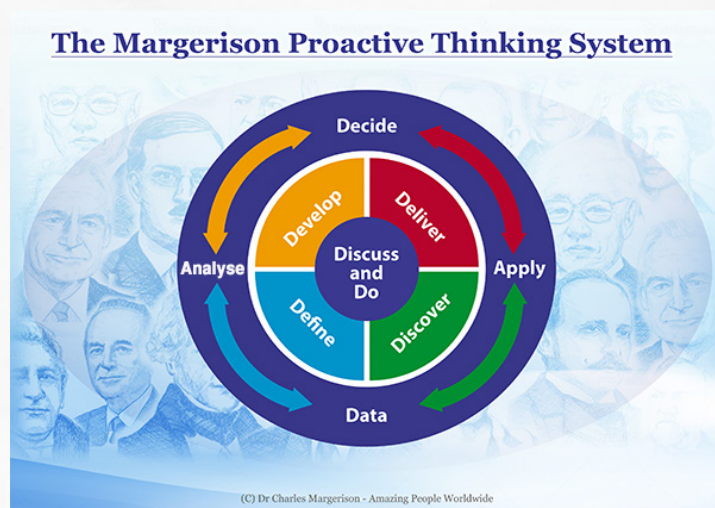


# THE PROACTIVE THINKING SYSTEM AND AMAZING PEOPLE

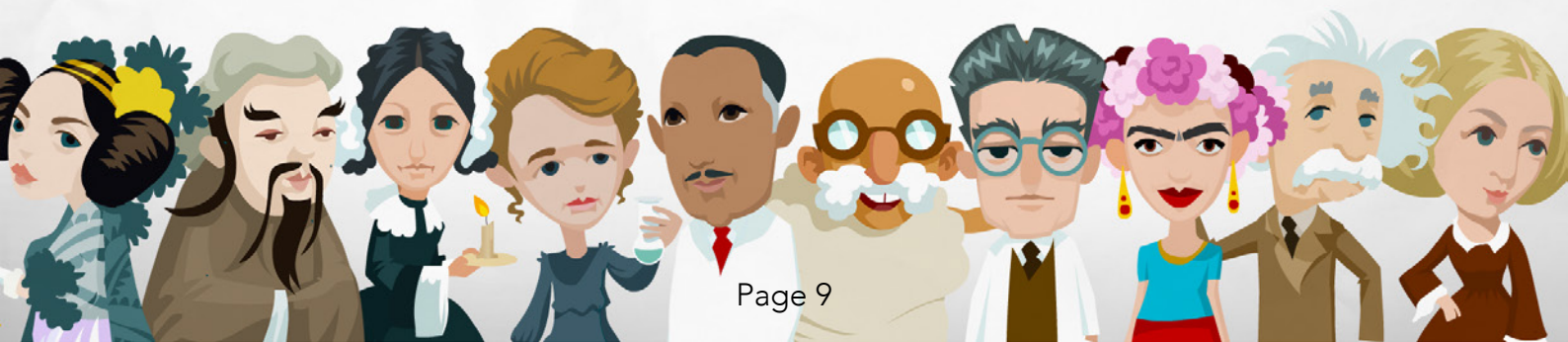
The Margerison Proactive Thinking System® (PTS) has been developed by Dr Charles Margerison and offers a framework that can be used to understand how Amazing People in history achieved success. Crucially, it offers a process that students can adopt to achieve success in their own lives.

Henry Ford, Shakespeare, James Cook, Marie Curie and many others all developed these skills. They thought in distinctive ways about the situation at hand and did something innovative, or proactive, in order to realise their dreams and ambitions. The Margerison Proactive Thinking System provides a model and framework that will enable you to understand:

1. The way that the life and career stories of amazing people can be a focus for issues related to the curriculum
2. How the Amazing People stories provide the context for lessons in science, literature, arts, music, business and other areas of the curriculum, as well as for career development purposes.



To learn more about PTS, visit the CPD section of the website in Teacher Zone.





## Any questions? Ask us!

We are a dedicated team of editors, educators, researchers, developers and designers who are passionate about inspirational learning, people and all things amazing. And we're here to help you.

So if you have any questions, or need any support, please don't hesitate to contact us - [education@amazingpeopleworldwide.com](mailto:education@amazingpeopleworldwide.com)

*"An invaluable stimulus to create lesson content, dialogue and debate in schools."*

**– Dave Jones, Pearson Head Teacher of the North**

*"A powerful teaching tool that introduces students to role models they might not otherwise meet"*

**– Ken Loomis, Tahoma High School, Seattle Washington**

