

Growth Mindsets

Famous Minds



Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Taliban in 2012 aged just 15. Her crime? Wanting to go to school. Believing every girl had the right to be educated, regardless of their religion or social standing.

Although she may not know it, or define it thus, Malala has a wonderful growth mindset. She possesses a love of learning so fierce, and so characteristic of a growth mindset, that she put her life at risk by attending school every day.



Thomas Edison

Among his inspirational quotations, Thomas Edison claimed that "opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like hard work".

His growth mindset and unstoppable curiosity led him to invent and experiment to the point that he held 1,093 patents. On his path to inventing the light bulb (or the first commercially practical incandescent light) he claimed that "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work".



Michael Jordan

When dropped from the high school varsity team, Michael Jordan's mother told him that he simply had to work harder. He went on to become the greatest basketball player of all time.

How? Was it because his talent was late in manifesting itself? No. He worked hard, harder than the rest of his team, harder than most athletes. He worked his way to greatness with his growth mindset telling him that anything is possible if you try hard enough.



Bethany Hamilton

Just over ten years ago, a 14ft shark bit off 13-year-old Bethany Hamilton's left arm, effectively ending her surfing career before it had really begun.

Not only was she brave enough to get back in the water only one month later, but the following year she won her first national title. She made her improbably comeback against all odds because of her faith, attitude and growth mindset.



J.K. Rowling

In the years before the publication of the Harry Potter series, J.K. Rowling described herself as "the biggest failure I knew". Her book about a young wizard was rejected by 12 publishing houses. Jo's determination, courage, self-belief and growth mindset enabled the creation of the best-selling book series in history, and transformed its creator into perhaps the greatest 'rags to riches' story ever told.



Jack Andraka

Considered to be a classic example of a child prodigy, Jack Andraka is so young to be a cancer researcher that we think he must be born genius. In reality, he spent hours upon hours researching, experimenting and reading science journals. He formed a project and sent it to 200 leading professors, receiving 199 rejections. Instead of giving up in the face of failure, he persevered and achieved sponsorship and world fame along the way.

Place growth mindsets at the heart of your school policies and pedagogical practice with our range of day courses, INSET and Whole School Programme, translating Professor Carol Dweck's internationally acclaimed research into educational practice.

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Malala Yousafzai



*"I will get my education -
if it is in home, school,
or anyplace."*

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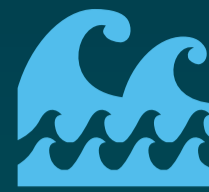
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Bethany Hamilton



"I guess I just like to challenge myself and push myself harder to do things that I don't think I can"

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Thomas Edison



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J.K. Rowling



"I would like to be remembered as someone who did the best she could with the talent she had."

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Michael Jordan



*“Some people want it to happen,
some wish it would happen,
and others make it happen”*

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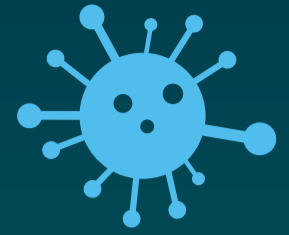
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Jack Andraka



*“Dream big and then
make it happen”*

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