**FACTS ABOUT DEAF CULTURE**

1. It is estimated that there are about **9 million people in the UK who are Deaf** or hard of hearing
2. Deafness is the **third most common disability in the world** but you probably wouldn’t spot a Deaf person in a crowd
3. **Most Deaf people don’t view their Deafness as a disability** or as a problem that should be fixed. For many of them, it’s a natural part of a cultural experience that they share with friends, both Deaf and hearing
4. Most Deaf people who use sign language use **British Sign Language, or BSL**. It’s a rich combination of hand gestures, facial expressions and body language
5. BSL isn’t simply English with hand signs, it is a **different language with its own grammar and sentence construction**. While you would say “what is your name?” in English, a BSL user would sign, “your name, what?”
6. You might assume that sign language across the world is the same – but actually **British Sign Language is totally different to other sign languages**such as American Sign Language or Japanese Sign Language
7. **Even the best lip-readers only catch less than half of the words** **said** to them, natural facial expressions and hand gestures can really help
8. **9 in every ten deaf children are born to hearing parents**, but **only 1 in 10 of those parents will learn sign language**to be able to communicate fully with their son or daughter
9. Deaf people **embrace their Deafness** and are proud of their history. There is a very strong sense of community and culture amongst Deaf people
10. **As a Deaf person you rely on your eyes for clues** to what people are saying or feeling, and you rely on other clues like vibrations in floors to be aware of what is going on around you