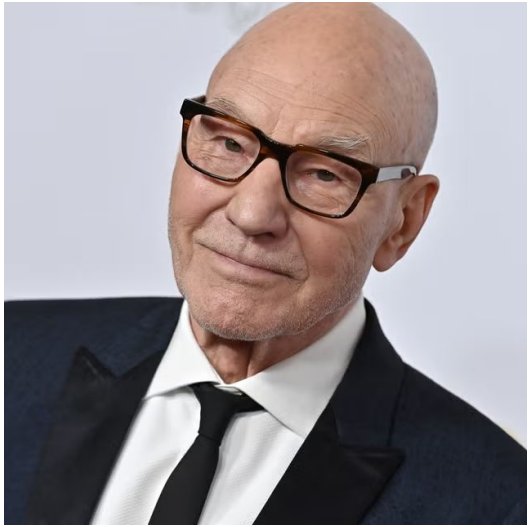
Wednesday 11th November

Sir Patrick Stewart was born in Mirfield, Yorkshire in 1940. His father had served in the army during the WWII and suffered from what would now be recognised as PTSD. Patrick and his brothers grew up witnessing their father's violence towards their mother.

When he was 12 Mr Dormand, his English teacher asked him to read from *The Merchant of Venice*. He loved the way the language sounded, despite not understanding it all. He was encouraged to attend a residential drama course by the same teacher. After school he gained a scholarship to Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and then joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1966.

He was an experienced Shakespearean stage actor, but relatively unknown in America when he was cast as Captain Jean-Luc Picard on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* which began in 1987, a role his friend Ian McKellen advised him not to take. Success in America led him to movies such as the *X-Men* films, alongside McKellen (clip) and he would regularly return to the stage too.

He was a vocal supporter of LGBT rights, and **humanism** and was an ambassador of 'Refuge' a charity that supports abused women. He felt that as old white man people may listen to him. He was married three times and McKellen performed his marriage to his 3rd wife. He died on 28th October at the age of 86.



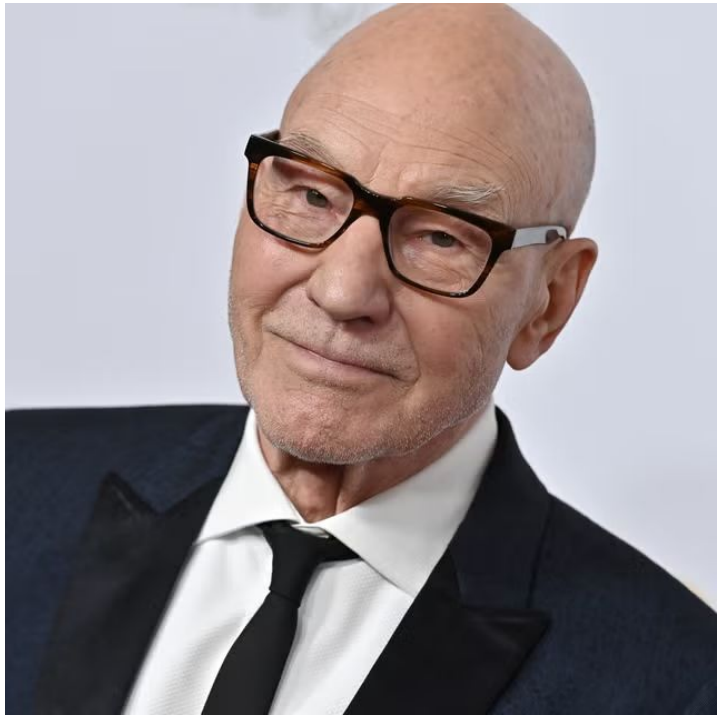
- Has a teacher or adult ever noticed a talent in you? How did you pursue it?
- Why do you think Ian McKellen advised Patrick not to take the role in *Star Trek*?
- Why did he believe he was a powerful voice for Refuge?

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Sir Patrick Stewart was born in Yorkshire in 1940. His father suffered from what would now be recognised as PTSD and he and his brothers grew up witnessing their father's violence towards their mother.

His English teacher encouraged him into acting and a love of Shakespeare when he was 12. After school he gained a scholarship to Theatre School and joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1966.

After 20 years with the RSC he moved to America to be Captain Jean-Luc Picard on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and then movies. He an ambassador of 'Refuge' a charity that supports abused women. He died on 28th October at the age of 86.



- Has a teacher or adult ever noticed a talent in you? How did you pursue it?