

# ORACY NEWSLETTER

Issue 11: Spring Term 2026



Belonging to a talk-rich Trust: **empowering voices and shaping futures.** We believe that every young person deserves the **opportunity to find, develop and use their voice.**



In Partnership to **Educate, Nurture & Empower**



# WELCOME TO our spring edition of the oracy newsletter

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It has been an incredibly exciting and productive Spring term for oracy across our Trust. We have seen a significant strengthening of our collective commitment to amplifying oracy teaching and learning, both within our schools and increasingly across the wider Trust and regional landscape. This growing momentum reflects not only the quality of practice in our classrooms, but also the shared belief that high-quality talk is central to pupils' learning, confidence and future success.

We are particularly proud that our Trust has representation on the Advisory Panel established by Voice 21. This opportunity brings together experienced and passionate oracy leaders to help shape national thinking and decision-making. It is a testament to the strength of our partnership and the impact of the work taking place across our schools.

Our work has also gained national recognition. At the recent speaking summit in London, attended by MPs, Ministers and His Majesty's

Chief Inspector, Sir Martyn Oliver, there was explicit reference to the leadership at Bishop Young Academy and the tangible difference it has made in a school he knows particularly well. This acknowledgment highlights the real and lasting impact of our oracy-led approach. We have also written a case study for the RISE project on oracy as a strategy to narrow the attainment gap for White British boys, in collaboration with the Bradford research school.



**Recommended read:** Oracy in Maths: More or Less Talk

**Talk point:** Reading floats on a sea of talk – Discuss

We are equally delighted to see the long-term influence of this work through our pupils. Tia Sutherland, a former student of Bishop Young, will be appearing on the Word of Mouth this May, where she will speak about the transformative role a rich oracy education has played in her life. Do 'listen' out for her!

Alongside these developments, our Trust-wide research project continues to deepen our understanding of how oracy can be embedded through the curriculum. This work focuses on carefully sequencing the component knowledge of talk to enable pupils to achieve high-quality spoken outcomes. We look forward to sharing this work across the Trust next half term.

Opportunities for pupils to apply and showcase their oracy skills also continue to grow. From presentational talk to debate, it has been fantastic to see increasing participation across phases. Do read about Abbey Grange Academy's success in Articulate and we are excited that two of our primary schools will take part in the Leeds-wide debating programme, marking a first for our primary phase.

There is much to celebrate. Read on to discover more about the excellent oracy work taking place across our Trust this term.

**Hear Tia Sutherland Talk:**  
**Word of Mouth Show,**  
**Radio 4, May 14th.**

## CONFERENCE 2026

### EVERY VOICE HEARD:

#### Inclusive Oracy, Transformative Learning

This inspiring CPD event brings together educators from across the UK to explore how oracy can be planned, taught and embedded to improve outcomes for all learners.

**FIND OUT MORE  
& BOOK**

 **Thursday 25th June**  
 **Leeds, West Yorkshire**



# Oracy at the Centre of All We Do!

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**It has been an incredibly exciting and eventful term at CCUA! Alongside our Trust Review and SIAMS inspection, we were thrilled to welcome visitors from The Barbara Taylor Bradford Trust.**

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As many will know, CCUA was Barbara’s own primary school, and with the rerelease of her iconic novel *A Woman of Substance*, there has been a wonderful buzz around Armley. Some of our pupils even made their television debut as part of the celebrations!

Throughout every visit, oracy shone brightly. Visitors repeatedly commented on the confidence, clarity, and articulate way our pupils spoke. Across the school, from Reception right through to Year 6, our class greeters proudly welcomed guests, explained their learning with enthusiasm, and answered questions with maturity and poise.

Our Christchurch Cares group (the Care Bears) took on the special role of



tour guides, leading visitors through the school, highlighting areas of interest, and sharing what makes CCUA such a warm and vibrant place to learn.

## SIAMS Inspection

During our SIAMS inspection, the inspector observed a wide range of oracy strategies being used effectively throughout lessons. He was particularly impressed by the Harkness model in Year 6—so much so that he said he “wanted to stay for the whole lesson.” In Year 4, concept



**Watch the video**

cartoons supported rich dialogue, while in Year 2 pupils confidently used talk tactics to deepen their discussions.

Across all visits, a variety of pupil voice groups were involved, giving children the opportunity to express their thoughts, share their experiences, and speak passionately about their school community.

This term has truly highlighted the strength of our pupils' voices—and we couldn't be prouder!



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## LIGHTCLIFFE ACADEMY:

# Oracy in Action at Lightcliffe Academy



Building confidence, audience awareness and purposeful communication across our community.

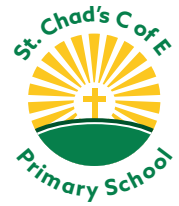


Whilst working towards accreditation with Voice 21, we have strengthened presentational talk through our SHARED curriculum with Year 7, while Year 8 pupils are preparing First Give

campaign speeches to be delivered to local charities in HT5, building confidence, audience awareness and purposeful communication across our community.

## ST. CHAD'S:

# Oracy and Reading, Two Sides of the Same Coin



Whilst celebrating the Year of Reading, St Chads welcomed parents to school for a 'Read it, Say it, Share it' morning. Parents were welcomed in to read a book with their children and encouraged to have a short discussion about the book of their choice.

We then invited parents to give a compliment, shouting out the skills they saw their child presenting - rooted in oracy. We encouraged parents to notice things like "You spoke with confidence in front of others." and "You built on someone else's idea respectfully."

## LIGHTCLIFFE PRIMARY:

# Feedback on talk!

Year 4 pupils delivered an oracy presentation in English using the Voice 21 framework, focusing on clarity, structure, and audience awareness. They practised speaking confidently, using vocabulary and expression. After presenting, they received peer feedback, reflecting on strengths and areas for improvement, helping them develop communication skills and become more effective speakers. We are looking forward to seeing the impact that this activity has on the written work we move on to producing.



# More Articulation Success

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**Leeds Art Gallery hosted the annual Yorkshire and Humber regional heat of the Articulation Prize 2026 on Tuesday 3rd March. The Articulation Prize is a national competition that encourages students' appreciation of the visual arts while developing their public speaking skills.**

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The competition is open to post-16 students from across the country, with finalists selected from ten regional heats after first being chosen through internal competitions held in schools and colleges.

Eshema B (Year 12) represented our school, having secured her place by winning our internal heat against strong competition from her peers. Eshema delivered an excellent presentation on the day and was awarded runner-up in the regional final. Her success reflects both her own commitment and the strength of our Oracy curriculum, which closely aligns with the communication and analytical skills required for

this prestigious competition.

The regional heat was adjudicated by Dr Alice Correia.

Dr Alice Correia is an independent curator and art

historian. Her research examines late twentieth-century British art, with a specific focus on artists of African, Caribbean, and South Asian heritage. She has worked at Government Art Collection, Tate Britain, and Touchstones Rochdale, and the Universities of Sussex, Salford and Manchester.





The adjudicators commented they were particularly impressed with Eshema's presentation that demonstrated a strong depth of scholarship.

Alice Correia thanked all of the presenters for their excellent presentations, noting that the time she and Amanda had taken to deliberate reflected how difficult the decision had been. Alice commented that she had been very impressed by the way each presenter introduced their selected artwork, shared personal reflections, and wove in the artists' biographical context and processes of making. She also congratulated all of the students on how confidently and thoughtfully they responded to questions.

Alice stated that she and Amanda were particularly impressed

with Eshema's presentation. The pacing was excellent and sustained throughout, and Eshema demonstrated a strong depth of scholarship. They appreciated how Eshema discussed the work in relation to the position of the female painter and the significance of depicting another female maker as a woman with agency, challenging traditional allegorical representations of women. They were also very impressed with Eshema's close and detailed reading of the artwork.

### ***Congratulations, Eshema!***

You did yourself and Abbey Grange proud!

**MANSTON ST. JAMES:**

# Debating Competition



Manston St James proudly took part in their very first debating competition, held at Whitkirk Primary School alongside seven other schools from the local area. We entered four teams—twelve pupils in total—from Years 4 to 6, each eager to experience formal debating for the first time. The motion they explored was “School clothes should be optional”, with pupils divided into proposers and opposers before debating

against teams from other schools. Throughout the event, the children showcased their developing oracy skills with confidence, clarity and professionalism. We were delighted that one of our teams won their debate, a fantastic achievement for their first competition. The pupils returned to school full of excitement, enthusiastically sharing what debating involves and inspiring their peers to get involved in future opportunities.

## Oracy Open Morning for Parents

Manston St James recently welcomed parents into school for an Oracy Open Morning, where they had the opportunity to learn more about what Oracy is, our whole-school vision, and the key principles guiding our journey. During the session, we shared our next

steps and how we are continuing to embed high-quality speaking and listening across the curriculum. Parents then visited classrooms to see oracy in action, watching teachers model strategies such as Talk Tactics, purposeful groupings, and the use of sentence stems.

# Oracy Open Morning for Parents



They were also able to take part alongside their children, observing how these approaches were woven into a *No Outsiders* lesson to support confident, respectful and purposeful communication. Feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on how valuable it was

to see oracy strategies being used so effectively in real lessons. Our Chair of Governors also praised the event, noting that it was an effective and meaningful way to ensure the whole community understands what oracy is, why it matters, and how it supports our children's learning and wellbeing.

## BISHOP YOUNG ACADEMY:

# Presentational Talk for Comic Relief



This half term, Bishop Young student oracy champions have been busy delivering assemblies to all year groups and helping to raise money for Comic Relief. Students were able to pay 20p for a vote for their chosen member of staff and three students from Y7 and Y8 won the opportunity to splat our very own Mr Lewis. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm with which



students around the academy embraced the Bishop characteristic of benevolence as they **raised £212** for charity. Our Oracy Champions also took part in an internal review about all things oracy, leading discussions and demonstrating some fantastic oracy skills during a goldfish bowl activity.

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