

ORACY NEWSLETTER

Issue 12: Summer 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 Summer edition of the oracy newsletter

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As we reach the end of another successful year, we are delighted to celebrate the continued growth and impact of oracy across Abbey Multi Academy Trust.

A particular highlight was our first external **Oracy Conference: *Every Voice Heard, Inclusive Oracy, Transformative Learning***. This event brought together educators, leaders and partners committed to strengthening student voice and improving outcomes through high-quality talk. The conference showcased inspiring practice, meaningful collaboration and a shared commitment to ensuring that every young person has the confidence and opportunity to be heard. We are grateful to our speakers, workshop facilitators and delegates whose contributions made the event such a success, **truly and deservedly**. Links to workshop

materials can be found below.

We are also extremely proud to celebrate the accreditation of two further schools within our Trust as Oracy Centres of Excellence, meaning that five of our eight schools have now achieved this exceptional recognition. This milestone reflects the dedication, expertise and sustained commitment of staff and students across our Trust in embedding oracy at the heart of teaching, learning, curriculum and school culture.

This term has also marked the successful completion of our fourth annual Trust-wide oracy research project. The findings demonstrate



Recommended read: Between Worlds: The Function of the Teacher in 'Twilight Role'

Talk point: What would a high-quality response to the curriculum and assessment review include if it were to make impactful change to placing oracy at the heart of curriculum?



that a carefully sequenced curriculum of oracy knowledge and skills significantly strengthens students' ability to articulate and demonstrate disciplinary thinking through talk. The impact has been substantial and we encourage colleagues to read this year's research journal. Building on these encouraging outcomes, the project will be scaled up across the Trust next year, exploring alternative evidence bases for curriculum impact, not always written, but through mapped talk outcomes.

Looking ahead, our focus next year will evolve from developing students' capacity to speak effectively towards strengthening pupil voice, agency

and belonging. We believe that when young people are empowered to contribute, influence and lead, they are better able to flourish both academically and personally.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to this important work. **Together, we are ensuring that every voice is heard.**



Resources



To request Oracy Conference resources or find out more, please email **oracy@abbeytrust.org**

Manston St James :

Proud to Be a Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence



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We would like to celebrate our amazing year 6 children who were part of the 'Every Voice Heard' conference.



They found their courage and their voices when showcasing a history oracy lesson for over 50 delegates at Bishop Young Academy. They modelled talk within their lesson and blew everyone away with how much they have learned through talk within history. Thank you to them all for their hard work all year, we are so proud of all they have achieved – the most wonderful example of how talk can

support and enhance learning. Thank you also to Miss Prest who led the lesson, showed incredible support and scaffolding for the children and braved the large crowds too!

We are also extremely proud to share that we are now an 'Oracy Centre of Excellence' as recognised by Voice 21. Throughout this year, children and staff have shown commitment to oracy education across school,

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implementing oracy outcomes within the curriculum, redesigning the behaviour policy and shining a spotlight on oracy and talk within all lessons. Our children say that oracy has made them feel “brave and heard” not only in school, but at home and within the community, highlighting

why oracy education is so important for now and the future. We are excited to continue our oracy journey next year and we’re proud to be part of a talk-rich trust.

Thank you to everyone at Manston St James for their dedication.

LIGHTCLIFFE PRIMARY:

Year 6 Dragons’ Den Success



Year 6 pupils took part in an exciting week of Dragon’s Den project work.

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They showcased their oracy skills when pitching to classes and then to a panel of experts! We spoke to the winners and asked them to give us a summary: ‘Using amazing oracy skills, we pitched our project ‘Your



Bear’ to the Dragons - a customisable, comforting bear that can cater to all your needs. After much deliberation we were announced the winners and were praised for our professionalism and engaging, clear pitching skills.’

Oracy Flourishes Across the Academy



This academic year has marked a significant step forward in the development of oracy at Lightcliffe Academy. Through our commitment to our SHARED curriculum, oracy is now firmly embedded across SHARED, Form Time, RE, Drama and English, while all other subject areas have continued to strengthen the opportunities they provide for students to develop their speaking and listening skills. This whole-school approach has enabled us to join Voice 21, with the ambition of becoming a Voice 21 Accredited School next

year. Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum through the introduction of a KS3 Oracy Launch Day, weekly Talk Tuesday starter activities in every lesson, and our inaugural Oracy Exhibition in the summer term, celebrating the confidence, communication and critical thinking skills our students have developed. We are incredibly proud of the progress made this year and look forward to further embedding a culture where every student has the confidence and skills to find and use their voice.



HOLY TRINITY:

Speaking, Reasoning, Achieving



At Holy Trinity, we have continued to ensure oracy is at the heart of all curriculum design and review.

Our children are receiving rich opportunities to develop their speaking, listening and reasoning skills across the curriculum as we continue to reflect, improve and learn from our research projects. Through our recent oracy research, we explored how a carefully sequenced curriculum of oracy knowledge and skills can support pupils in demonstrating disciplinary

thinking through talk. The findings highlighted significant improvements in pupils' ability to articulate their understanding, justify their reasoning and engage confidently in subject-specific discussions.

We look forward to building on this success and continuing to develop pupil voice, agency and belonging throughout the school community.

National Success for Talented Year 9 Poet

Congratulations to Year 9 student Meklit T, who achieved first place in the University of Leeds' Myths and Legends Competition.

Meklit impressed the judges with her powerful and beautifully crafted poem, *The Alchemical Soul*, which retells the myth of Cupid and Psyche. Competing against students from schools across the country, Meklit's exceptional creativity, sophisticated use of language and deep understanding of classical mythology secured her the top prize.

We are incredibly proud of Meklit's achievement and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes next. Well done, Meklit!

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THE ALCHEMICAL SOUL

The temple hushed
where mortal
footsteps fell,

For she was grace that
made the altars cold.

The Queen of Beauty
wove a bitter spell,

To see the girl by
wretchedness
controlled.

She sent the Boy, the
Archer of the Veins,

To strike a blow of
venom and of fire,

But Cupid felt the
quickenings of pains -

The hunter caught
within his own desire.

He built a shroud of
velvet, dark and deep,

A palace carved of
silence and of sighs.

He visited while reason
was asleep,

To hide his godhood
from her seeking eyes.

With trembling hand,
she brought the flame
to bed,

The wick ignited with a
hiss of gold;

She saw no beast, but
Divinity instead,

With wings of light too
blinding to behold.

A drop of oil, a searing,
golden tear,

Upon his marble
shoulder found its mark.

He woke to find the face
of sudden fear,

And fled like smoke into
the lonely dark.

Then Venus rose, with
tasks of iron will,

To break the spirit of the
girl she loathed.

"Go sort the grain and
climb the frozen hill,

Until in failure's shroud
your soul is clothed."

Through mountains
of the seed and poppy
grain,

The ants of order
worked beneath the
floor.

She stole the golden
fleece from rams of pain,

Where thickets held the
wealth the creatures
wore.

She trapped the Styx
within a crystal urn,

And braved the mist of
Persephone's box,

Until the Archer saw his
love return,

And broke the chains of
Venus' bitter locks.

He gave her nectar and
a sacred name,

Beyond the reach of
envy or of time.

Refined by grief and
purified by flame,

The mortal soul
achieved the height
sublime.

Two halves of one,
in celestial light they
move,

Where trust and
passion find their final
breath -

The myth of soul, the
majesty of love,

The only flame that
triumphs over death.

Christ Church Upper Armley:

Celebrating a Year of Oracy Success



It has been another exciting year at CCUA, with oracy continuing to grow across the curriculum.

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The year started with our visit to the Great Oracy Exhibition, where we shared our journey with 'Harkness discussions from EYFS to Year 6'. It was great to see so much interest in our approach and to talk to other schools about how we build speaking and listening skills progressively from KS1 through to KS2. A key focus this year has been planning learning around clear oracy outcomes and skills progression. Teachers have been working hard to embed opportunities for purposeful talk across different subjects, and we are starting to see the positive impact this is having on pupils' confidence, communication and learning. One of the highlights of the year was our CCUA Poetry Slam. The children amazed us with their enthusiasm, expression and performance skills. It was wonderful to see so many pupils speaking confidently in front of an audience and enjoying poetry. Next year, we are looking forward to

developing debating across KS2. We plan to introduce a dedicated unit of work that teaches key debating skills and gives pupils opportunities to practise them in meaningful contexts. Alongside this, children will produce a written outcome, helping them make strong links between their spoken and written communication.

We are excited to continue developing our oracy provision and to see our pupils grow as confident and articulate communicators.



BISHOP YOUNG ACADEMY:

Year 8 Students Explore Sustainability



The Year 8 students spent the first part of the day researching different types of pollution, exploring the damage they cause to the environment, wildlife and human health, as well as investigating possible solutions to help tackle these global issues. Working collaboratively in groups, the students then used their findings to design an informative presentation, which they later presented to Miss Kempthorne.

Group 4 demonstrated exceptional confidence and enthusiasm when sharing their research. Their presentation was made even more memorable by Zander and Yusuf, who performed a creative and engaging "Pollution Rap" to highlight key messages about the impact of pollution and the importance of protecting our planet.

Throughout the activity, students drew upon knowledge, ideas and values from a range of curriculum areas including Religious Studies, Science, Geography and PSHE. This cross-curricular approach encouraged them to think critically.

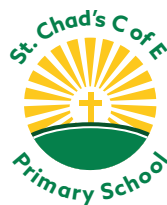
ST. CHAD'S:

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

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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."



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**View past editions of
our newsletter**



Abbey Multi Academy Trust Bishops Way, Leeds LS14 6NU
enquiries@abbeytrust.org www.abbeymat.co.uk

