

# ORACY NEWSLETTER

**Issue 10:** Autumn Term 2025



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 Autumn edition of the oracy newsletter

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As we approach the festive season, classrooms often buzz with excitement, creativity and collaboration. But how often do we pause to consider the role of oracy in these moments?

Oracy is not just about speaking well, it's about thinking well, listening deeply and engaging meaningfully.

As a Trust, we are proud to be at the forefront of pioneering oracy education. This term, we hosted a visit from an established Trust in Liverpool, sharing best practices and showcasing how oracy is embedded across our schools. In addition, Bishop Young Academy welcomed educators from across the country for a

Voice 21 Open Day, providing a platform to demonstrate innovative approaches and inspire others in the oracy movement.

Our commitment goes beyond classroom practice. In this year's research project, we are actively engaging with curriculum to ensure oracy is not just an add-on but a core component of teaching and learning. By aligning oracy with curriculum design and assessment frameworks, we aim

to create a culture where communication skills are valued and measured alongside academic achievement. Read on to hear about some of the oracy work happening across our schools.

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**Recommended read:** Oracy and Speech, Language and Communication Needs - ORACY CAMBRIDGE

**Talk point:** "If oracy is the foundation of thinking and learning, how can we ensure every classroom conversation becomes a catalyst for deeper understanding?"

## ABBEY GRANGE:

# Celebrating Oracy



Abbey Grange proudly hosted its annual Oracy Day, reinforcing our commitment to oracy in teaching and learning. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 began each lesson with focused activities on different frameworks and strategies, building confidence and practical skills. The day concluded with reflective

feedback sessions using Talk Tactics, emphasising purposeful dialogue.

Staff CPD spotlighted the Listening Ladder, a tool for promoting positive behaviour and enriching classroom discussions. By modelling excellent listening habits, we continue to foster a respectful and engaging learning environment.

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## Sixth Form Team Triumphs at the Royal Armouries Debate Competition

Click here to read the full **Yorkshire Evening Post** article



Talented Abbey Grange students, Ruth R, Charlie H, Nathan P and Reuben M, showcased exceptional debating and oracy skills, competing against sixth formers from other schools on challenging and thought-provoking topics, at the annual Royal Armouries Museum Sixth Form Debating Competition.

## LIGHTCLIFFE ACADEMY:

# Showcasing Skills



In October, students represented Lightcliffe Academy at the Great Oracy Exhibition in Birmingham, impressing delegates with their communication skills. In lessons,

bullseye tasks have helped students master tier 3 subject-specific vocabulary. Looking ahead, next term will focus on the Harkness method, encouraging discussion and debate.

## CHRIST CHURCH UPPER ARMLEY:

# Oracy October Success!



CCUA embraced Oracy October by incorporating diverse strategies such as concept cartoons, consensus circles and Harkness discussions. The term culminated in a 'No Pen Day,' where Year 6 explored Macbeth's

motives through Conscious Alley and Year 5 debated Coraline's choices using Harkness. These activities showcased creativity and critical thinking, making the day an outstanding success.



## BISHOP YOUNG ACADEMY:

# Champions of Oracy



At BYA, student Oracy Champions led anti-bullying assemblies for Years 7 and 8, promoting kindness and reinforcing the school's zero-tolerance policy. Additionally, KS4 students participated in the Bar Mock Trial competition at Leeds Magistrates Court, earning praise from judges and peers for their professionalism and communication skills.

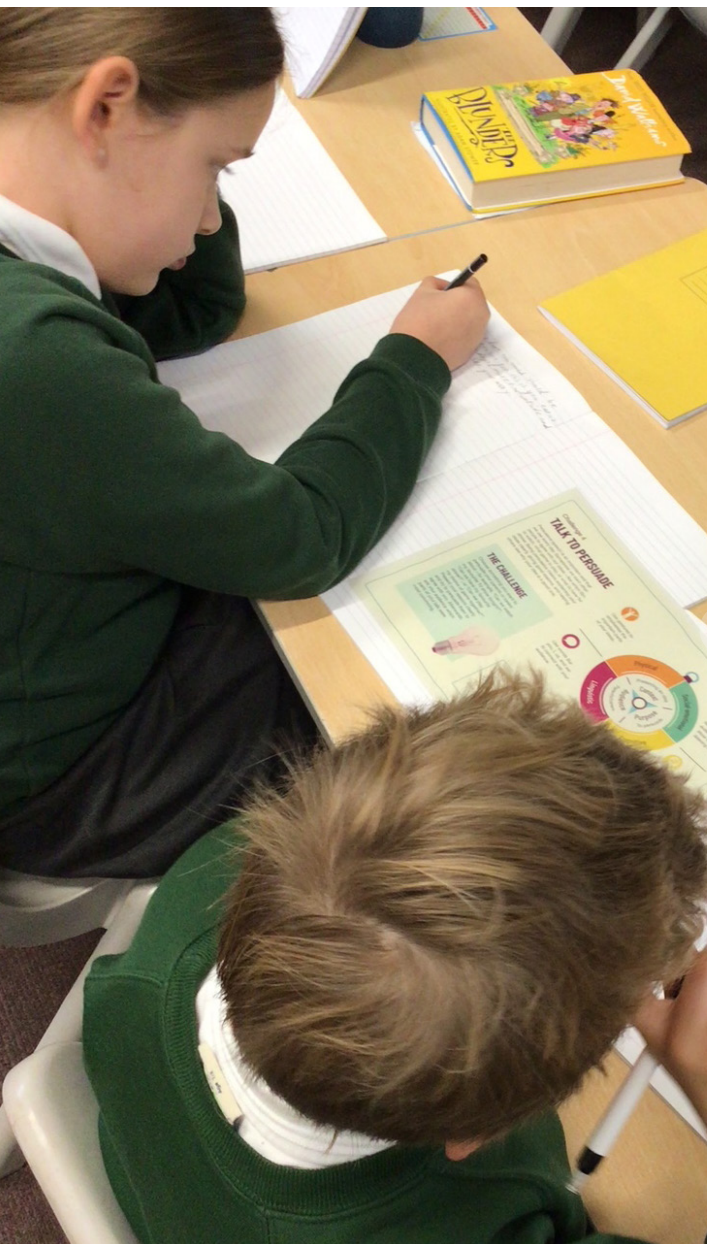
## MANSTON ST. JAMES:

# Reading Breakfast



Manston St. James hosted an Autumn Reading Breakfast for parents, where children confidently demonstrated oracy skills during shared reading sessions. They asked thoughtful questions, explained ideas clearly and engaged in meaningful discussions, leaving parents and carers impressed by their ability to express themselves and collaborate.

# Persuasive speaking & Debate!



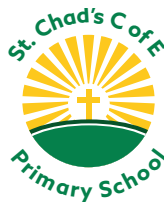
Inspired by Oracy October resources, Year 4 students at LP used persuasive talk scaffolds to plan and deliver speeches linked to their English text, *The King Who Banned the Dark*. They practised structured feedback and held a class debate. Meanwhile, EYFS pupils explored Harkness discussions, learning to track speakers and engage in small-group conversations.

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**ST. CHAD'S:**

# Working in Partnership with Voice 21

At the start of December, we were delighted to welcome Voice 21 to our school for a full day of oracy consultation. Throughout the visit, they spoke with children and joined listening walks across KS1 to UKS2, witnessing our oracy in action. They observed a wide range of talk-rich learning, from enthusiastic partner talk in Year 1, to a thoughtful reading discussion in Year 4 and the confident



The strong culture of listening that underpins our classrooms.

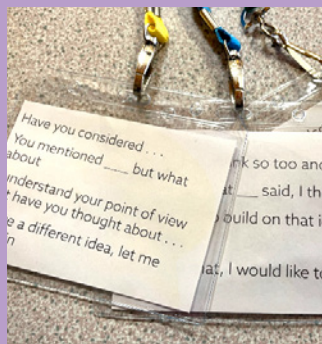
use of the Harkness model in KS2.

Voice 21 were particularly impressed by the inclusive atmosphere across the school and the strong culture of listening that underpins our classrooms. Overall, the day celebrated the richness of talk embedded in our learning community and the positive impact it has on every learner.

**HOLY TRINITY:**

# Oracy October

Our CPD and curriculum development in science this October has had an oracy focus with a range of resources being created to promote discussion and provide opportunities to apply vocabulary. Children are loving the odd one outs and are able to reason and justify with increasing confidence. Our big questions provide an opportunity to draw out pupil understanding and provide discussion points for using our talk tactics.



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