

Issue No 3: Summer 2023

Abbey Multi Academy Trust **Oracy Newsletter**

In partnership to **Educate, Nurture, Empower**



Welcome

Welcome to our final newsletter of this academic year which aims to celebrate our Trust's oracy journey. It's been a very busy and exciting term for all of our schools' oracy work that has included the final evaluation of the Narrowing the Word Gap project and our first inter-Trust debate competition for our three secondary academies. Schools have also had their final action days working in partnership with Voice 21, where their Voice 21 oracy consultant was able to see firsthand the impact that oracy based pedagogy and practice has had on the voices of our young people. In the latest Voice 21 publication, Talking Point, it is commendable to see the inclusion of the research project by Abbey Grange's Matt Shaw included. His piece: The impact of exploratory talk on the attainment of low prior-attaining KS4 science students was recognised through the Douglas Barnes Award scheme.

Finally, it feels like a big moment for oracy on a national level as it becomes centre of political thinking to ensure that young people are taught vital communication skills for the future. In an uncertain world of A.I, the social and emotional strand to oracy is what will equip our young people well for the future. It's impressive that our Trust can be at the forefront of this mission.



Recommended Read this Month

Read Matt Shaw's article in The Talking Point (Summer 2023) by Voice 21.

<https://voice21.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Voice21-Journal-2023-v6-4.pdf>



Inter-Trust Debate Competition

Our first inter-Trust debate marks a significant development for our family of secondary schools. All three academies came together to debate topics varying from the entitlement of online privacy to whether couples should be allowed more than two children in the face of a climate emergency.

Teachers in all three academies had worked alongside pupils to prepare them to showcase their fabulous oracy skills which represented the impact that our journey to becoming a 'Talk-Rich Trust' was having on our young people.

The winning team was Abbey Grange and Best Debater award went to Daisy Arnold. Finlay Massay from Bishop Young and Lilly Sullivan from Lightcliffe were also recognised as best speakers.

Our judging panel consisted of Co-CEO, Miss. Garrett, Executive Principal Mr. Cooper and Trust Strategic Lead for Assessment, Mr. Popper.

Mr. Popper said of the event: *'It was a real privilege to be part of such a worthwhile and enjoyable event.'*

We are really excited for our next Debate Competition which will take place next academic year.



Talking Point

Share this issue's Talk Point across your school, discuss it in the staffroom and go onto the Voice 21 Exchange to engage with other oracy schools.

'There is no point in assessing oracy if it isn't part of exams such as SATs or GCSEs'



Proud of our pupils at Manston St James



We are very pleased at Manston St James to see another successful year of oracy implemented across the school. This year, we have developed our progression of skills document which has enabled staff to feel more comfortable in understanding the fundamental steps in explicitly teaching oracy within the classroom. Throughout our History curriculum drivers, we ensured the word gap project was addressed, thus creating a climate where pupils were exposed to tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary words daily. We have also given pupils many opportunities to talk for a range of purposes and to a range of audiences - we have seen pupils talk like experts and become more confident in presentational and exploratory talk. We are extremely pleased with visitor feedback who each commented on our pupil's confidence, respect and articulation within discussions.

Year 6 Dragons' Den Project: Lightcliffe Primary

Last week, teams of young entrepreneurs pitched their ideas for new and exciting products to a team of 'dragons' from various industry backgrounds. The winning team excellently pitched their idea for a litter picking robot that would clear debris from motorways. Mr Hilton, proudly presented them with prizes of Amazon gift vouchers. It was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to demonstrate their presentational talk!



At CCUA, Conversations Start with Cartoons!

At CCUA we have been implementing different talk activities to ensure our pupils learn through talk. Concept cartoons are a great way to support oracy throughout the curriculum. Here is an example of what we have used for History in KS1. This supports children with different suggestions. It is a useful assessment tool too!



Unleashing the Power of Words at St. Chad's

We're thrilled to celebrate the progress of our oracy curriculum this year. From Nursery to Year 6, every child now enjoys a progressive oracy entitlement, developing essential communication skills. Empowering our children to be Polite, Purposeful, and Proud, our comprehensive program is fostering a culture of effective communication. As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate the impact of implementing a full cycle of this curriculum next year, further empowering our pupils to thrive!

Learning Through Talk at Holy Trinity

Consensus circles, debates, presentations to peers and parents, this summer term has been filled with oracy activities which have deepened our pupils understanding across subjects, supported vocabulary development as well as building experience and confidence with different audiences.

We've also been excited to complete the Voice 21 research project on Comparing Talk and have learnt valuable lessons from this which will support us moving forward next year with oracy.



Trading Talk at Bishop Young

In Geography lessons, year 9 have been deepening their understanding of global trade issues through group oracy tasks. Students have taken part in the 'trading game.' To be successful in this learning activity, they needed to demonstrate active listening skills and be able to discuss and negotiate effectively with their peers. Students are always encouraged in these oracy tasks to focus on the four strands of oracy to help make their talk impactful on their learning. This is just one example of how all students at BYA are given opportunities for 'learning through talk.'

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Abbey Grange: As You Like It

Our Performing Shakespeare actors competed in the ESU's Regional Semi-Final Round of The Performing Shakespeare Competition. In a fierce heat against students from all over the North-East of England, Nola Dover performed the same monologue from As You Like It and Ruby Heward and Lydia Bailey also performed the duologue from the previous round from Twelfth Night. Although unsuccessful in making it through to the Final in London at Shakespeare's Globe theatre, they did the school incredibly proud and benefited from an acting workshop delivered by a professional actor who is associated with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. They were in high spirits with their certificates and performed their own rendition of the Hamilton soundtrack in the back of Mr Murray's car.



We are now bringing you a Public Service Announcement from Lightcliffe Academy

Lightcliffe Academy students were introduced to the oracy framework within Personal Development lessons. Developing exploratory skills across a range of threshold concepts has enabled them to explore oracy within a safe and secure environment, allowing them to express their thoughts with confidence. This has led to impressive presentational talk from our students in years 7-10, who have delivered group Public Service Announcements presentations. These transferable skills are now allowing students to thrive in other curriculum areas.