

Issue No 6: Summer 2024

Abbey Multi Academy Trust Oracy Newsletter



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

Welcome

As we head towards the end of another academic year, we continue to celebrate Oracy from across the Trust.

Last week, oracy leads from our eight schools were able to come together to share the findings from their Trust-wide research project, exploring whether structured exploratory talk can lead to greater ownership of tier 2 and 3 vocabulary?

Each oracy lead implemented the Harkness debate model as an intervention with some compelling findings, namely that Harkness has a strong positive impact upon developing the social, emotional and cognitive strand of the oracy framework. Where Harkness did lead to greater vocabulary mastery amongst students- it was when deliberate pre-teach of vocabulary had taken place firstly. Again, highlighting the importance of teaching disciplinary vocabulary using oracy strategies. It is exciting that our primary schools have launched the Primary 100 tier 2 words strategy. This alongside talk tactics are our Trust's shared strategies to ensure our young people develop their talk.

In other news, Abbey Grange and Bishop Young celebrated the voices of students through their annual oracy days and Lightcliffe Primary's Dragon's Den presentations allowed the young people to showcase their presentational talk. You can read all about this in this newsletter.

Our Trust also eagerly awaits the publication of the National Oracy Education Commission's report, due in September, which our Trust contributed towards. Finally, we are pleased to share that Christ Church Upper Armley and Abbey Grange will be rejoining their partnership with Voice 21 next academic year with the aim of working towards accreditation as oracy centres of excellence - securing our Trust's national position as a beacon of oracy excellence.



Recommended Read this Month

Speaking with purpose: Douglas Barnes and oracy as 'acting on the world'

Spotlight: Celebrating the voices of Abbey Grange

School of Sanctuary

A group of 12 students, part of our 'Welcomers Team', were invited to speak at the School of Sanctuary award ceremony held at Leeds Civic Hall in front of Lord Mayor Cllr Abigail Marshall-Kaung and Cllr Fiona Venner, other schools and guests from Leeds Church Institute. Students were from year 7, year 9 and year 11. They wrote and then presented an overview of the ways in which Abbey Grange is a welcoming community, particularly to those seeking sanctuary. This included personal testimony from students and vibrant detail of examples from Abbey Grange community life.



Humanities Scholars

Year 12 students from the Scholars' programme who are interested in humanities subjects are meeting fortnightly to improve oracy skills in anticipation of university interviews, particularly for Oxbridge entrants. This includes presentation of and discussion of UCAS personal statements, current affairs, and EPQ topics. The aim is to improve confidence in discussing topics of interest prior to interview.

Talking Point

Talk point: 'What could the new government do to ensure all young people develop their oracy skills?'

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.

Lessons from Auschwitz

Six Year 12 students have taken part in the Holocaust Education Trust program called 'Lessons from Auschwitz'. This included seminars, workshops and a day in Poland visiting Auschwitz and Auschwitz Birkenau. They have then taken this learning into year 9 RS classrooms using their amazing oracy skills. They have prepared and presented some thoughtful reflections on their visit, answering questions from year 9 students and tackling misconceptions.



Bishop Young: #Speak Out

This summer has seen a wide range of oracy opportunities within Bishop Young Academy. Firstly, Pariza Bin T Faisal was put through to the #Speak Out Regional Finals where she came runner up! This is an amazing achievement, and we are #proud!

We have also launched our first ever 'Great Oracy Exhibition' where all of our students worked together on their oracy skills to present around a variety of different topics from Dragon's Den and a business pitch around multi-sport shoe to a Newsreel based on the impacts of climate change. Our students were amazing, and the day was a huge success!



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Lightcliffe Academy: An ambitious talk-rich curriculum

At Lightcliffe Academy this term, curriculum leaders have reflected upon their intent to ensure that an ambitious talk-rich education is at the heart of it. The academy looks forward to relaunching the talk-tactics alongside a focus on disciplinary vocabulary. The newly planned SHARED curriculum will ensure our pupils learn their character curriculum through talk, and receive high quality feedback on this, using the Voice 21 progression models. We can't wait to see the impact of this in the new year. Newly relaunched Talk Tuesdays will also draw on the talk tactics to allow our pupils to frame their opinions on current affairs and news stories of the week.

Christ Church Upper Armley: 100 words!

The Abbey Primary 100 words has been excitedly received here at CCUA.

Children engage enthusiastically with the weekly assemblies where the words of the week are launched. Around school children are repeating these words, with definitions and in some cases managing to use all three words in one sentence!

Competition time!

In review week we have a knockout competition where children spell, give definitions and use words in a sentence.

Children impressing the adults in school with their oracy skills receive our CCUA oracy champion certificate.

Manston St. James: Becoming talk-rich

Manston St James are excited to be joining the 100 Tier Two words initiative. We are focusing on a whole school approach and launching it to all staff, through CPD at the start of the academic year. We have already selected Oracy champions, in both KS1 and KS2, who are keen to use the talk tactics in their classes. This will enable them to feed back to staff during the CPD and hopefully showcase the impact from this trial. From September, all classes will have listening ladders, appropriate for their key stage and will embed the whole school approach, whilst ensuring high expectation from all learners. We will also be asking staff to include at least one lesson every week using teacher/student talk tactics, that will be planned for and recorded on weekly planning. We are very excited to start our Oracy journey.

Holy Trinity: Using Harkness in the classroom

At Holy Trinity we have continued to refine our use of the Harkness model as a means to support vocabulary development. This work successfully began in Y2 before being introduced across school. Our support staff will also be using this as one tool within their interventions with pupils to enable all pupils to flourish.

St Chad's: Confident speakers!

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This term at St Chad's we have been further embedding our listening ladders to ensure that all children are aware on how to be effective and active listeners. As well as this, we have been celebrating those children who have been using the Primary 100 words and it's been great to see some of this come up in the children's writing, too. We have also celebrated many productions, with our Year 6s putting on an excellent performance of Wizard of Oz and even our very youngest - the nursery and Reception children - have hosted their own end of year performances to their parents. We are so proud of how confident our children are to speak in front of audiences.



Lightcliffe Primary: Welcome to Dragon's Den...

Over the last few weeks, our Year 6 children became young entrepreneurs in Lightcliffe's Dragons' Den project. Children created, designed and pitched new products to a team of 'dragons' from various industry backgrounds.

The winning team consisted of a group of Year 6 pupils, who pitched an idea in front of the 'dragons' for 'Safety 4 you' – a silver bracelet, similar to a Pandora bracelet, that has thumb recognition and enables you to phone an emergency contact. It was a celebration of our pupils presentational talk and confidence to use their voices persuasively.



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