



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

MES Speaks Up! Oracy Month - May 2022

We are delighted to announce that we will be celebrating our first ever MES Speaks Up! Oracy Month in May.

This initiative, designed to promote, celebrate, and showcase oracy across the school, is a key element in our wider 'MES Speaks Up!' strategy to develop students' oracy and communication skills. Research demonstrates strong relationships between oracy, academic attainment, and holistic well-being, in addition to highlighting the importance of excellent communication for access to future destinations and career pathways.

At the start of this academic year, our student voice survey highlighted that students were keen to develop their ability to communicate publicly and to communicate using more formal language in more formal contexts. We have recently held assemblies to launch our 'Guidelines for Great Oracy' to encourage students to uphold a consistently high standard of spoken communication within lessons, namely to:

1. *Project loudly and clearly*
2. *Read and speak with expression and enthusiasm*
3. *Use formal vocabulary*
4. *Use full sentences and avoid fillers (e.g. 'like', 'basically')*
5. *Listen attentively and actively to others*

During Oracy Month, to celebrate the importance of oracy in the curriculum, teachers will be dedicated at least one lesson with each class they teach in Years 7 - 10 and 12 to an oracy-based activity linked to the existing curriculum, designed to develop students' confidence in communicating publicly and more formally. In tutor time, students will also be challenged to discuss and debate a 'Question of the Day' with their peers and tutors.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of extra-curricular House challenges designed to generate excitement around oracy and encourage students to apply their public speaking skills to topics outside the school curriculum:

Year Group	Activity
Year 7	Debate: 'Zoos should be banned'
Year 8	Debate: 'Social media does more harm than good'
Year 9	Debate: 'Everyone should be a vegan'
Year 10	Debate: 'The voting age should be lowered to 16'
Year 12	Debate: 'Nature v. nurture'

More information on how to participate in the debates will be posted on the year group and House Google Classroom pages. The 'Convince Me!' virtual competition will also be running throughout May in which students are invited to record themselves making a 2-minute persuasive speech about an issue they are passionate about and submit it via their House Google Classroom.

Please can I ask for your support in encouraging your child to make the most of these exciting opportunities to develop their oracy skills, whether that be through contributing as much as possible to the oracy activities in lessons or by taking part in one of the many extra-curricular activities on offer.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Yours sincerely



Miss C Bateman
Teacher of History and Religion and Philosophy