



24 April 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Years 7-10 and Year 12 - MES Speaks Up! Oracy Month - May 2023

After the fantastic engagement from students last year, we are delighted to announce that we will be celebrating MES Speaks Up! Oracy Month again this 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.

This academic year, we have continued to support students to develop their ability to communicate publicly and to communicate using more formal language. In the last two half terms alone, we have launched our MES Speaks Up! Communication Cards to Year 8, established a KS3 Debating Society, and continued to include a range of activities designed to promote oracy within lessons.

During Oracy Month, to celebrate the importance of oracy in the curriculum, teachers will be dedicating 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 linked to sustainability and the environment.

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: 'Is it morally wrong to have a pet?'
Year 8	Debate: 'Are video games harmful for young people?'
Year 9	Debate: 'Is Artificial Intelligence dangerous?'
Year 10	Debate: 'Has social media ruined society?'
Year 12	Public speaking: 'Should everyone receive a basic income?'
All years	Public speaking: 'Make Me Prime Minister' virtual competition
All years	Public speaking: PE Sports Commentator virtual competition

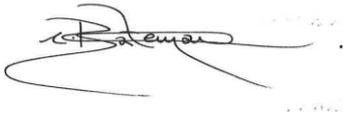
The KS3 Debating Society will also be running a mock trial and the KS5 Debating Society will be debating live during a Senior Leadership meeting and against a local Sixth Form. Please also keep a look out via social media for our 'Why I'm proud to be Maiden Erlegh' campaign designed to promote oracy and share positive news about our school community.

More information on how to participate in the debates and public speaking competitions will be posted on the year group and House Google Classroom pages at the start of May.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Bateman', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Miss C Bateman
Teacher of History