

Talk The Talk

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE



IMPACT REPORT

2022-2023

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A brilliant day - engaging, interactive and great to see the pupils' confidence grow throughout the workshop. Thank you Talk The Talk!

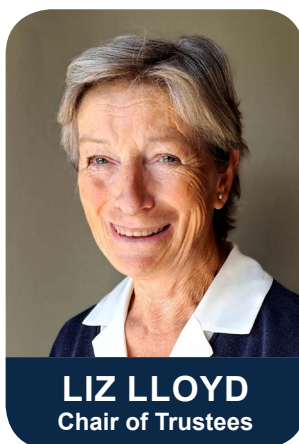
Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi

INTRODUCTION

From modest beginnings, and thanks to the generosity of Four Acre Trust, which founded and initially funded Talk The Talk, we have continued to build on our progress. Throughout the pandemic we kept our staff on and, as soon as were allowed, we recommenced delivering great workshops in schools.

For our ongoing success, I thank our wonderful trainers who come from a wide variety of backgrounds to share their skills and knowledge in supporting young people to become confident speakers. Back-office support provided by a small relentlessly efficient, friendly, and diligent team is a steady reassurance. The teaching professionals who have seen for themselves what can be achieved by our workshops are gratefully acknowledged.

Liz



LIZ LLOYD
Chair of Trustees



MARK FARMER
Director

At the end of 2022-23 I note, and welcome, the increased recognition of the important role oracy has in developing young people into confident and well-rounded young adults with essential life skills. Talk The Talk is playing its part with effective consolidation and a pleasing increase on pre-pandemic levels of oracy workshops being delivered.

With support from the Jack Petchey Foundation, several Uni Connect partners such as DANCOP and Future U, the Ashley Family Foundation, the Welsh Government SEREN programme and HFL Education we have been able to engage 33,787 young people this year. Furthermore, through the delivery of a range of wider income-generating activities, we have maintained our charitable objective to support workshop costs for mainstream education.

Growth in partnerships with multi-academy trusts, government agencies and grant-making trusts will allow us to benefit even more young people and teachers with our inspiring and transformative oracy workshops in 2023-24. We look forward to supporting your learners to become confident communicators for life!

Mark

WHY ORACY?

Oracy is critically important because it is the foundation of a young person's ability to use language and communicate whilst supporting wider social and emotional benefits¹. As young people leave school, progress to higher education and then enter the workplace; developed communication and interpersonal skills become vital to success in the UK workforce².



Businesses have previously reported that oral communication skills are lacking, compared to literacy and numeracy³ and it is clear that in the hyper-communicative world of work, these skills are more important than ever. Young people who are confident to apply developed essential skills, such as oral communication, have also been shown to benefit from improved employment outcomes⁴.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic school leaders felt that oracy skill development should be essential or high priority⁵. Two years later, oracy is high on the agenda for a lot of school leaders as oral communication skills and spoken confidence remain paramount to the recovery and development of their young people.



Providing rich and consistent oracy opportunities for our young people contributes towards improved outcomes in school, employment and life. Through the delivery of our workshop programmes, we continue to provide efficacious, high-impact opportunities and strategies to support schools to engage and develop the oracy skill and confidence of their young people.

The trainers were all absolutely superb. I regularly organise workshops, masterclasses etc for the students, but never have we had a workshop delivered where students are so engaged. Talk The Talk gave our students the confidence and safe space to step out of their comfort zones.

The Nottingham Emmanuel School

OUR APPROACH

Developing the communication confidence and oracy skill of young people is paramount to enable them to secure high-quality social and employability outcomes. Talk The Talk workshop programmes offer key features to deliver maximum impact and effective progression routes for participating learners.

Direct to students and teachers

Talk The Talk delivers engaging oracy training directly to young people through our student workshops and supports teachers to deliver rich oracy opportunities within their pedagogy through our Talk The Talk Teacher CPD.



Expert trainers

All our workshops are delivered in person, by our professional team of 40 highly experienced trainers and at no more than a 1:30 trainer to student ratio to enable high-impact, personalised learning and exceptional progress.

Full year group

We can work with your full year group on one day by delivering multiple workshops at the same time. Full year group delivery drives engagement and will kick-start your oracy strategy or provide continued impact.



Progressive workshops, whole school approach

With multiple workshop programmes, we can work with all year groups in school to provide a progressive, longer term oracy strategy that supports your students as they move through their school life. This approach will support schools to embed oracy benefits and deliver cultural change.

This is vital, engaging training that is ideally suited for young people at this stage in their education. Excellent all round! Talk The Talk is always superb, the progress I saw was exceptional.

St Bernard's Catholic High School

OUR PROGRAMMES

We deliver four proprietary student workshop programmes addressing the oracy needs of young people aged 9 to 19 and in the primary and secondary phases of education. All of the workshops focus on delivering both oracy skill development and communication confidence growth in contexts that are specific to each age group.

Additionally, we deliver our Talk The Talk Teacher CPD to support staff to deliver impactful oracy opportunities in their teaching. Furthermore, we can offer bespoke workshops, working with students and young adults in schools, alternative and higher education settings.



We have carefully scaffolded our workshop programmes to offer schools and organisations the opportunity to deliver a truly progressive, whole school programme of oracy development for their young people. Our two most popular student workshops are **Talk About Communication** and **Talk About The Future**.

Talk About Transition Years 5 - 7

Engages students with oracy-based activities and strategies to develop greater self-confidence and resilience and support a successful transition to secondary school

A high-impact and engaging confident communication workshop that develops students' individual oracy skills and spoken confidence

Talk About Communication Years 5 - 13

Talk About Communication Plus Years 8 - 13

Builds upon Talk About Communication to develop students' skill and abilities to communicate confidently, constructively and cooperatively in group talk situations

Guides students to identify their unique personal skill set and then communicate it effectively using developed oracy strategies, skills and confidence

Talk About The Future Years 11 - 13

Talk The Talk Teacher CPD Staff

Supports teachers to embed rich oracy opportunities in their pedagogy and embed a wider, consistent approach to oracy across the school

ENGAGEMENT 2022-23

Engagement levels this year have been outstanding and we have worked with our highest number of schools since we first began delivering our inspiring oracy workshops back in 2013!

304

Schools
worked with

1407

High-impact
workshops
delivered

33,787

Young people
inspired

5608

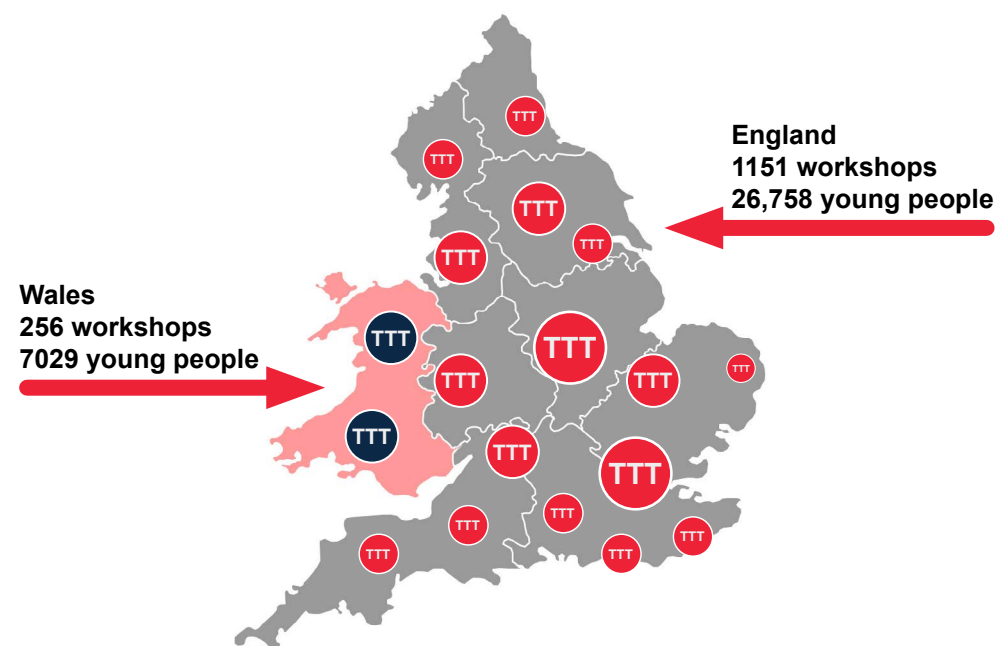
Confidence
building hours

4454

Teachers
engaged

We have delivered our 1407 workshops all over England and Wales encompassing 99 Local Authorities.

Talk The Talk Engagement - England and Wales



Excellent! Not enough focus is placed on oracy and communication skills so it was great for these students to have intensive support with this. The training was thoroughly engaging and delivered in such a way that the students really understood the value of it. I am sure this will be of huge benefit to them in the future. Thank you!

Richard Hale School

IMPACT 2022-23

We're really pleased to share the strong progress and resulting impact outcomes that our workshop programmes delivered for students in 2022-23. We have highlighted key impact outcomes from across our three core programmes based on 16,262 responses.

Talk About Communication

After the workshop, students had progressed to be...

52% more confident speaking in front of other people

59% more aware of the oracy skills needed to communicate effectively

...on average, based on 10,857 responses

Progress

Measuring Impact

We assess impact by asking students to record how they feel about a core competency area that a specific workshop seeks to address, for example 'confidence speaking in front of other people'.

Using a pre/post approach, students self-assess from 1 to 10 at the start of the workshop and again at the end. From this we determine the progress made against this competency and express it as a percentage. For example a student moving from a 4 out of 10 to a 6, demonstrates a 50% increase.

Talk About Communication Plus

After the workshop, students had progressed to be...

34% more aware of the skills needed to talk persuasively and get their opinions across in group talk situations

...on average, based on 1071 responses

Progress

Super! Our students really progressed over the workshop. Very impressive training!

The Broxbourne School



Engaging, motivating and confident feeling! The workshop has provided the pupils with an array of strategies to improve their oracy skills.

Gwernyfed High School

Talk About The Future

After the workshop, students had progressed to be...

30% more confident talking about their skills, strengths and experiences in an interview

...on average, based on 4334 responses

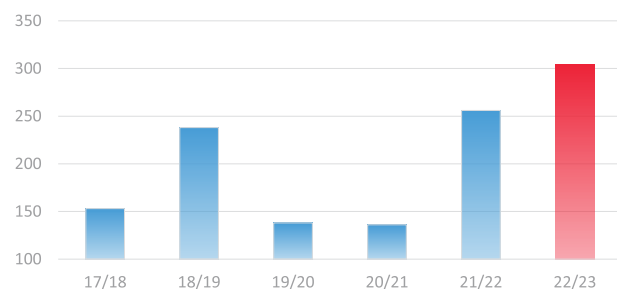
Progress

PANDEMIC RESILIENCE

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the most significant disruption to education in the UK in recent history. Young people were home learning and deprived of the 'normal' developmental benefits of social contact as they progressed through two highly disrupted academic years and instead experienced what became the 'new normal'.

At Talk The Talk we responded by providing alternative delivery methods and formats to ensure opportunities for oracy impact were still safely available to schools. We provided online workshops, homeworking oracy resources and offered in person delivery whenever it was safe to do so. As a result we were able to provide good engagement and impact for schools and young people during this challenging time and maintain the viability of Talk The Talk to continue to offer our programmes after the pandemic.

Schools worked with - 2017-2023

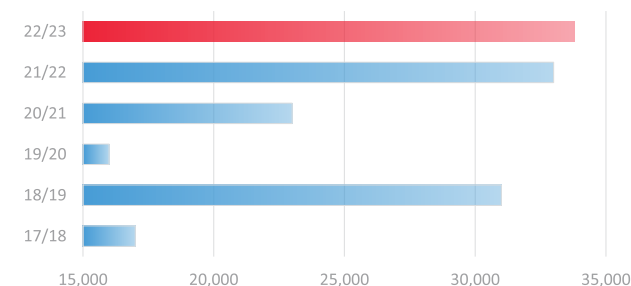


We worked with just under 150 schools in both of the pandemic years and have bounced back to 304 schools in 2022-23.

After a time when these students have lost a lot of confidence due to COVID-19 and being forced to spend a lot of time at home studying alone, this workshop was exactly what they needed.

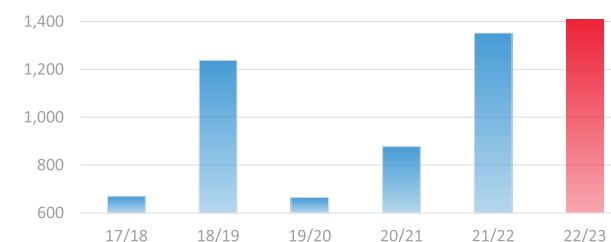
Wixams Academy

Young people engaged - 2017-2023



Our agile approach allowed us to support 39,000 young people over the two pandemic years. We have now engaged 33,787 this year alone.

Workshops delivered - 2017-2023



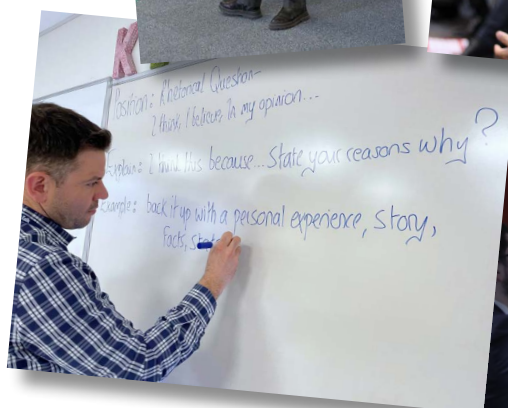
We delivered over 1500 workshops during the pandemic, which were delivered online or safely in person to keep oracy impact available.

We are really pleased to have supported so many young people during the pandemic and, through effective operational management, remained in position to deliver our highest engagement figures ever in 2022-23.

Extremely beneficial for students to work on speaking skills, especially after COVID-19. There was a definite improvement in confidence throughout the day.

Fleetwood High School

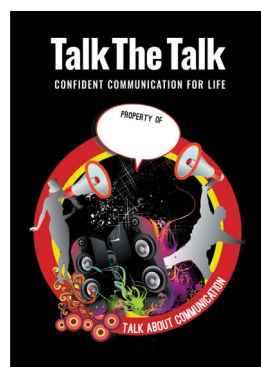
SHOWCASE 2022-23



TALK ABOUT COMMUNICATION

Talk About Communication encourages young people to take a step outside their comfort zone and towards becoming a confident communicator for life. Students explore and apply vocal, verbal and visual skills to get their ideas across.

Each Talk About Communication workshop is delivered over one full day (5 contact hours) to up to 30 students.



Talk About Communication - Engagement

519 | **12,488** | **2595**
workshops | young people | delivery hours

Talk About Communication supported a huge number of students this year and enabled a high level of progress for young people as demonstrated in the impact measures

A brilliant experience for our students. They are more able and talented oracy learners and gained valuable experience and confidence in communication and speaking in front of others.

Ysgol Bro Dinefwr

Talk About Communication - Impact

After the workshop, students had progressed to be...

52 %

More confident speaking in front of other people

59 %

More aware of the oracy skills needed to communicate effectively

42 %

More confident delivering a talk in front of their peers

*... on average, based on **10,857** responses*

How do we measure impact? Find out more about our approach on page 8.

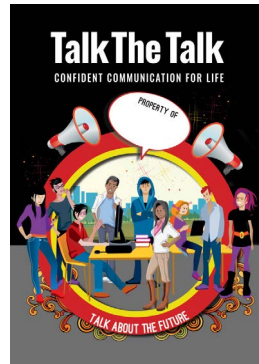
Our students clearly made huge amounts of progress from the starting point in terms of confidence and ability to deliver well planned and convincing arguments. Many students surpassed expectations!

Sandringham School

TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE

Talk About The Future supports young people to identify their unique employability skill set and coaches them to communicate this skill set confidently using key oracy techniques and presentation strategies.

Each Talk About The Future workshop is delivered over one full day (5 contact hours) to up to 30 students.



Talk About The Future - Engagement

268
workshops

5848
young people

1340
delivery hours

Talk About The Future has reached more young people than ever this year; supporting them to identify their strengths and develop their interview confidence and also add personal insight when creating a persuasive CV and personal statement after the workshop.

Fantastic opportunities for students to gain crucial employability skills and develop their social confidence.

Swanlea School

Talk About The Future - Impact

After the workshop, students had progressed to be...

28 %

More self-aware of the skills and experiences they possess that are relevant to the world of work

24 %

More resilient when dealing with challenges, setbacks and failures

30 %

More confident talking about their skills, strengths and experiences in an interview

*... on average, based on **4334** responses*

How do we measure impact? Find out more about our approach on page 8.

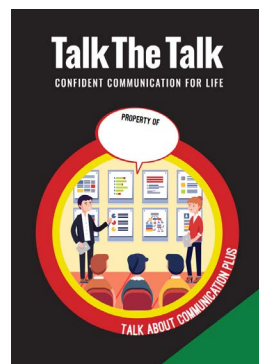
Training was interactive, supportive and relevant to students' age and present experiences such as interviews for university, jobs, apprenticeships - boosting confidence and presentation skills.

St Mary's Church of England High School

TALK ABOUT COMMUNICATION PLUS

Talk About Communication Plus supports students to communicate confidently and cooperatively in 'group talk' scenarios. Students develop and apply effective oracy techniques during debating, negotiating and planning activities.

Each Talk About Communication Plus workshop is delivered over one full day (5 contact hours) to up to 30 students.



Talk About Communication Plus - *Engagement*

52 | **1279** | **260**
workshops | young people | delivery hours

Talk About Communication Plus has provided excellent progression for young people; extending their communication skills into 'real world' group communication opportunities through three challenging group projects.

Our students were enthused and engaged and the workshop was both challenging and thought-provoking. We had students going on a real journey of self-discovery, finding their voice and learning how to use them, with dramatic results. Inspiring stuff!

Llanidloes High School

Talk About Communication Plus - *Impact*

After the workshop, students had progressed to be...

33 %

More confident speaking in front of other people

26 %

More confident persuading others to consider their opinions in a group talk situation

34 %

More aware of the skills needed to talk persuasively and get their opinions across in group talk situations

*... on average, based on **1071** responses*

How do we measure impact? Find out more about our approach on page 8.

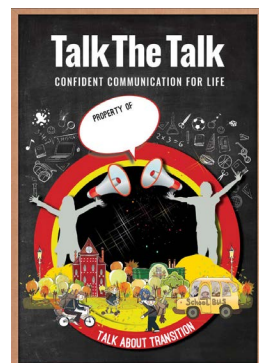
Students were engaged and valued the skills. The workshop allowed team building whilst focusing on the importance of clear communication and persuasion.

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School

TALK ABOUT TRANSITION

Talk About Transition engages students using oracy-based activities and strategies to develop greater self-confidence and resilience to support a successful transition from primary to secondary school.

Each Talk About Transition workshop is delivered over one half day (2.5 contact hours) to up to 30 students.



Talk About Transition - Engagement

204 | **5399** | **510**
workshops | young people | delivery hours

Talk About Transition workshops have provided significant engagement and support for schools over summer term induction days, summer school activities and for their new year 7 students in the autumn term. Engaging students with oracy early on, building relationships and growing confidence within these first interactions support a great start for new students.

The pupils' learning was scaffolded very well. I was impressed at the engagement and how their confidence in front of one another improved. A range of activities delivered with an oracy focus.

Ashby School

EXPRESS WORKSHOPS

To offer as much flexibility for schools as possible, we also offer half day Express versions of our full day Talk About Communication, Talk About The Future and Talk About Communication Plus workshops.

Each Express workshop is delivered over one half day (2.5 contact hours) to up to 30 students.

Great workshop that delivered vital techniques to the class which supports them with speaking, confidence and bringing them out of their comfort zone.

King Edward VI High School

Express workshops - Engagement

323 | **7759** | **808**
workshops | young people | delivery hours

Our Express workshops have been invaluable for many schools; enabling them to support their students to develop oracy skills, effectively structure short talks and develop communication confidence in scenarios where time was not available for our full day workshops.

The workshop was engaging and interactive. Positive thoughts and ideas kept flowing as the workshop went on to support our students to develop their oracy skills.

St Mark's Church of England Academy

KEY LEARNING

- Minimal group interaction and the isolation of many young people caused by the pandemic is still affecting confidence and oracy skills. This looks set to continue for several years. Talk The Talk will continue to support the development of oracy skills and self-confidence for schools and young people.
- The demand for our whole school Teacher CPD is high; as more and more schools develop a formal oracy strategy with a named lead teacher. Over 80% of secondary schools that book Talk The Talk CPD also book our student workshops. They value the inspirational day our trainers provide and their ability to deliver a very effective kick-start to any school oracy programme or scheme of work.
- Our charity's financial and operational resilience through the pandemic – continuing to deliver workshops face to face when schools were open – has allowed our impact to bounce back quickly to above pre pandemic levels.



FUTURE OBJECTIVES



- Structure and fund our charity to deliver twice as many workshops annually and deliver more funding to the education sectors that need it most. We will do this by broadening our student workshop and Teacher CPD offer to primary schools, independent schools, international schools, special schools, alternative provision settings and Higher Education.
- Expand our range of Teacher CPD options; supplementing our core workshops and providing follow-up training for key teachers responsible for developing and implementing school oracy strategy to increase our impact for educators and their learners.
- Continue to respond to curriculum changes and the needs of our young people to ensure our range of programmes remains relevant, impactful and efficacious.

Inspiring and informative. The students were engaged and were able to put the skills to use in their practice and understand how they would be useful and important in the future.

Ashlyns School

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all of our funders, supporters and organisations that we have worked with this year.



We would also like to offer a special thank you to the 304 schools that worked with us this year and of course the 33,787 young people that participated in our workshops!

REFERENCES

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2. McDonalds. (2015), The Value of Soft Skills to the UK Economy.
3. Grimes, A. (2019) Education and Learning for the Modern World, CBI/ Pearson Education and Skills Survey report 2019. CBI/Pearson.
4. Skillsbuilder (2021), Better prepared: Essential skills and employment outcomes for young people.
5. CfEY & University of Oxford (2021) Oracy after the Pandemic: What Ofsted, teachers and young people think about oracy, CfEY.

THANK YOU

We have delivered the highest engagement for Talk The Talk since we began back in 2013 which really highlights how vital oracy is and the need to ensure it forms a part of a high-quality and consistent input for young people.

Here at Talk The Talk, we're really excited to move into 2023-24 and intend to engage more young people than ever and raise the profile and culture of oracy even further.

We can deliver our high-impact workshop programmes to drive the oracy agenda at your school, multi-academy trust or organisation. So get in touch with us now to find out how we can support your learners to take a step outside their comfort zones and towards becoming confident communicators for life!



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