

# TalkTheTalk

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE

# IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026



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“ The greatest impact of the Talk The Talk workshop was the boost in student confidence. In just one hour, I saw students become noticeably more comfortable speaking about themselves and expressing their ideas. The workshop created a safe space for self-reflection and communication, helping students develop essential interview and public speaking skills that will benefit them far beyond the classroom.

Riverside School

# INTRODUCTION



**STEVE PHILLIPS**  
Chair of Trustees

Oracy - the ability to speak and listen with confidence and clarity - remains as urgent as ever in a world where the loudest voice too often crowds out the most thoughtful one. Our mission, to equip young people for further study, the workplace, and a life of genuine contribution, has only sharpened in focus this year. I have had the privilege of seeing this impact first hand, visiting Talk The Talk workshops in schools and watching pupils who arrived hesitant leave the room standing taller, speaking with a confidence they didn't have an hour before. It is remarkable to see a young person find their voice in real time.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their guidance, judgement and unwavering commitment to Talk The Talk's mission over the past year; their stewardship has been instrumental in the progress we report here, and I am delighted to welcome several new trustees to the Board this year, whose fresh perspectives and expertise will help shape our next chapter. Looking ahead, with oracy now firmly on the national agenda our ambitions match the scale of what's ahead, and the case for Oracy we've made so effectively at home can now take root in schools further afield.

*Steve*

The continued growth in the number of workshops delivered and the number of students benefitting from high-quality oracy training is very satisfying. All of us at Talk The Talk are so proud of our trainers who work in mainstream and specialist schools across the country with such passion. With nearly 50,000 young people trained in 2025-26 across over 2,000 workshops in nearly 500 different schools we are well positioned to work with schools to develop workshops in line with curriculum changes. Our amazing sales and office team are up for the challenge of doubling the number of workshops delivered.

Chair Steve Phillips and I have developed a strong vision whilst remaining focussed on the here and now. Our relationship with major funding partner The Jack Petchey Foundation goes from strength to strength and good inroads are being made to develop similar partnerships outside of London and Essex. We are excited about funding developments for 2026-27 and looking forward to rolling those offers out to schools. Student and teacher testimony elsewhere in this report together with the extremely positive student impact data highlight the incredible impact of our efforts. We are proud to introduce our 2025-26 Impact Report. Happy reading!

*Mark*



**MARK FARMER**  
Director

# ENGAGEMENT



Young people  
inspired

**48,457**

**485**

Schools  
worked with



Oracy workshops  
delivered

**2,015**

**1,392**

Training days  
provided

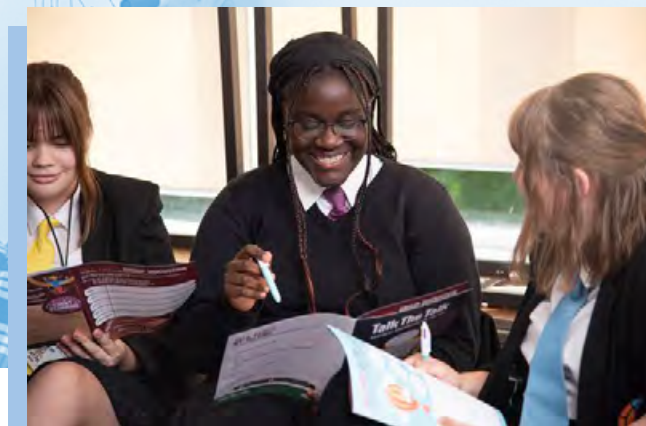


Teachers  
engaged

**6,907**

**6,844**

Confidence building  
hours



We are thrilled to have supported 48,457 young people in 2025-26, building on the success of previous years to make this our highest-ever level of engagement since we started delivering our workshops in 2013.

This year also marks the first year we have delivered more than 2,000 oracy workshops for young people and teachers, engaging communities across 120 local authorities in England and Wales.

We're incredibly proud to have reached so many young people and teachers and to be delivering oracy impact at this scale. Read on to discover more about the impact of our programmes.

# IMPACT

We are delighted to share the impact that our workshops delivered for young people in 2025-26. We have highlighted some of the key outcomes from across our programmes.

80%

of students agreed or strongly agreed that they knew more about the skills needed to communicate effectively in front of other people after Talk About Communication

79%

of students agreed or strongly agreed that they knew more about the skills needed to communicate effectively within groups after Talk About Communication Plus

86%

of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident about job interviews after Talk About The Future



*Amazing how some students who never speak in front of class gained the confidence to get up and give it a go. Really impressed with the gradual build up to individual speeches.*

**The Market  
Weighton School**

72%

of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more excited about trying new opportunities at secondary school after Talk About Transition

82%

of students agreed or strongly agreed that they have better skills for preparation and doing well in an interview after Talk About The Future

83%

of students agreed or strongly agreed that what they had learnt in the workshop would help them in their lives after our workshop for specialist and alternative education settings



*I feel that the training received today has helped to build confidence and working in groups promoted independence. All students seemed to interact really well and enjoy the experience.*

**Bristnall Hall  
Academy**



## Measuring Impact

- At the end of each Talk The Talk workshop, our trainers ask participating students to rate the extent to which they agree or disagree with a number of impact statements. The impact statements reflect the specific outcomes of each workshop.
- Students select from the following responses: Strongly agree; Agree; Neither agree nor disagree; Disagree; or Strongly disagree.
- For each impact statement, our key measure is the combined percentage of students who select either 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree'

# SHOWCASE



The workshop really helped me build confidence. Now I feel more comfortable talking to big groups.

Year 6 student  
Talk  
About  
Transition

I've learnt to be more confident and believe in myself. How important eye contact, posture, and facial expressions are.

Year 9 student

Talk  
About  
Communication



I've learnt how to use techniques, like vocal/visual [skills]. I also feel more confident speaking in front of people. This supports my dream for the future!

Year 8 student  
Talk About Communication



This experience has definitely improved my oracy and confidence in speaking to others in environments such as interviews. It has helped me a lot.

Year 12 student  
Talk About Future



The workshop has given me more confidence when I speak to other people.

Year 7 student  
Talk About Transition



I have learnt to be a lot more confident in front of groups and work with people I don't know very well.

Year 10 student  
Talk About  
Communication Plus



# ORACY IN 2025-26

Being able to communicate with confidence is one of the most important skills a young person can develop. Through the power of oracy, young people learn to express their ideas clearly, listen actively and engage in meaningful discussion with others about the world around them. Well-developed oracy skills support their academic achievement, strengthen their wellbeing and prepare young people to participate fully in education, employment and life beyond.

The weight of evidence for prioritising oracy for young people continues to grow year on year. Research from National Literacy Trust found that while the majority of young people felt confident asking questions, far fewer felt comfortable speaking up in class or delivering presentations. Confidence also declines during the transition to secondary school, with notable differences linked to gender and socioeconomic disadvantage. At the same time, research from Skills Builder continues to show that communication is among the skills most valued by employers, reinforcing the importance of providing young people with rich opportunities to develop and apply these skills.

Since our last Impact Report, momentum behind oracy in education has continued to accelerate. The independent Curriculum and Assessment Review final report recommended the introduction of a national oracy framework to complement existing reading and writing frameworks, recognising the importance of spoken language in improving educational outcomes and supporting social mobility.



The subsequent Schools White Paper, Every Child Achieving and Thriving, also highlighted oracy alongside financial and digital literacy as essential skills for success in a rapidly evolving labour market. Together, these developments, along with many others, represent an important step towards ensuring that every young person has access to high-quality oracy education.

At Talk The Talk, we welcome this growing recognition of the foundational role of oracy, both in education and more widely in the lives of young people. Through our workshop programmes, we see first-hand the transformative impact that developing oracy skills and spoken confidence can have on young people, supporting them not only in the classroom, but taking them forward into interviews, workplaces and the wider world.

# OUR APPROACH

We provide a range of high-impact oracy workshop programmes to support young people in schools and wider educational establishments to become confident communicators for life.

## Delivered directly to students and teachers

At Talk The Talk, we deliver engaging oracy training directly to young people through our student workshops, while supporting teachers to embed rich oracy opportunities into their teaching practice through our Talk The Talk Teacher CPD.



## Whole school approach

Through our range of workshop programmes, we can work with every year group in your school to deliver a progressive, long-term oracy strategy that supports students throughout their educational journey. This approach helps schools embed the benefits of oracy, drive cultural change, and create a lasting impact across the school community.

## Full year group

We can work with your full year group in a single day by delivering multiple workshops simultaneously or through bespoke delivery formats tailored to your needs. Whole-year group delivery drives engagement, helping to launch your oracy strategy or build on existing practice for continued impact.



## Professional trainers

All of our standard workshops are delivered in person by our team of 40 highly experienced professional trainers, with a maximum trainer-to-student ratio of 1:30. This enables high-impact, personalised learning that supports strong progress and meaningful outcomes for every student.

“The students felt safe, confident and comfortable taking part and speaking publicly in front of their peers. Even students who usually find oracy and verbal communication a challenge made great strides in taking part and exhibited visible pride having contributed and pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone. It was really uplifting to see the positive impact the session had on them. Thank you for an amazing day!

Swanlea School

# OUR PROGRAMMES

We deliver four student workshop programmes supporting the oracy needs of young people aged 9-19. All of our workshops focus on delivering both oracy skill development and communication confidence growth in contexts that are specific to each age group. We also offer bespoke workshops tailored to the needs of students and young adults across schools, alternative education settings, and higher education environments.



High-quality talk is central to effective learning. Our Teacher CPD equips staff to embed oracy across the curriculum, increasing student engagement, enriching classroom discussion, and strengthening learning outcomes.

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.

## 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

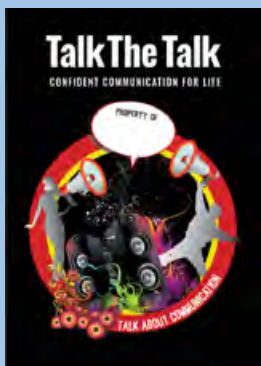
Years 11 - 13

## TALK THE TALK TEACHER CPD

Staff

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

# TALK ABOUT COMMUNICATION



This is our core oracy and confident communication workshop, designed to support young people to step outside their comfort zone and become confident communicators. Young people will explore visual, vocal and verbal communication skills, apply effective structuring to their talk, and bring it all together in a final showcase.

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

## Talk About Communication - Engagement

**310** workshops | **7,238** young people | **1,550** delivery hours



*“A brilliant day for staff and pupils. It was positive to see the pupils step out of their comfort zones and gain confidence.”*

**The Hyndburn Academy**

## Talk About Communication - Impact

After the workshop:



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident speaking in front of other people



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they knew more about the skills needed to communicate effectively in front of other people



of students agreed or strongly agreed that the skills and experience they gained in the workshop would help them achieve more academically



of students agreed or strongly agreed that the skills and experience they gained in the workshop would help them in their future job or career



of students agreed or strongly agreed that what they had learnt in the workshop would help them to be more successful in their lives

... on average, based on 6,792 responses

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



*Students were very engaged. The activities planned challenged them to expand upon their oracy skills and bond with peers they had not done so with before. They learnt lots of useful communication tips and had fun whilst doing so.*

**Burnham Grammar School**

# TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE



Talk About The Future supports young people with their oracy and confidence in an employability context. This workshop will enable young people to identify their unique experiences, skills and strengths, and then communicate them effectively in interview situations using key oracy strategies.

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

## Talk About The Future - Engagement

**365** workshops | **8,766** young people | **1,825** delivery hours

“The workshop had a remarkable impact on the students. Many began the session feeling nervous about speaking in front of others, but by the end their confidence had grown significantly. One student, who was initially hesitant to contribute, found her voice and spoke confidently in front of her peers for the first time. Overall, the workshop empowered them to express themselves with greater assurance and enthusiasm.

**Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School**

## Talk About The Future - Impact

After the workshop:



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident about job interviews



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they can talk more easily about the skills they can offer an employer



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they have better skills for preparation and doing well in a job interview



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident about their next steps as they prepare to leave school



of students agreed or strongly agreed that what they had learnt in the workshop would help them to be more successful in their lives

... on average, based on 8,160 responses

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



It was great to see how the students gained confidence and eloquence in their public speaking and presentation skills over the course of the day - there was remarkable progress.

**Preston Manor School**



# TALK ABOUT COMMUNICATION PLUS



Talk About Communication Plus takes the next step on from Talk About Communication to support young people to apply individual oracy skills and strategies to cooperative 'group talk' scenarios through a range of engaging negotiating, debating and event planning activities.

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

## Talk About Communication Plus - Engagement

**34** workshops | **663** young people | **170** delivery hours



*“Fun and engaging group work and activities. Will help to improve students' confidence to communicate in groups, present their ideas and debate with confidence.”*

**Temple Moor High School  
& Sixth Form**

## Talk About Communication Plus - Impact

After the workshop:



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident talking about their thoughts and ideas with other people



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they knew more about the skills needed to communicate effectively within groups



of students agreed or strongly agreed that the skills and experience they gained in the workshop would help them achieve more academically



of students agreed or strongly agreed that the skills and experience they gained in the workshop would help them in their future job or career



of students agreed or strongly agreed that what they had learnt in the workshop would help them to be more successful in their lives

... on average, based on 646 responses

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



*Wow! To witness our learners grow in confidence whilst developing and practising their oracy skills has been a joy! Such a safe environment for ALL to flourish. I absolutely loved this workshop; the skills and growth of the learners was actually quite incredible! The trainer was amazing with them. A huge thank you from us...what a difference it has made!*

**Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School**

# TALK ABOUT TRANSITION



Talk About Transition introduces oracy as a key skill to support young people as they transition from primary to secondary school. The workshop develops oracy through fun and engaging activities that build confidence, self-belief and nurtures new relationships.

Each Talk About Transition workshop is delivered over one half day (2 to 2.5 contact hours) to up to 30 students.

## Talk About Transition - Engagement

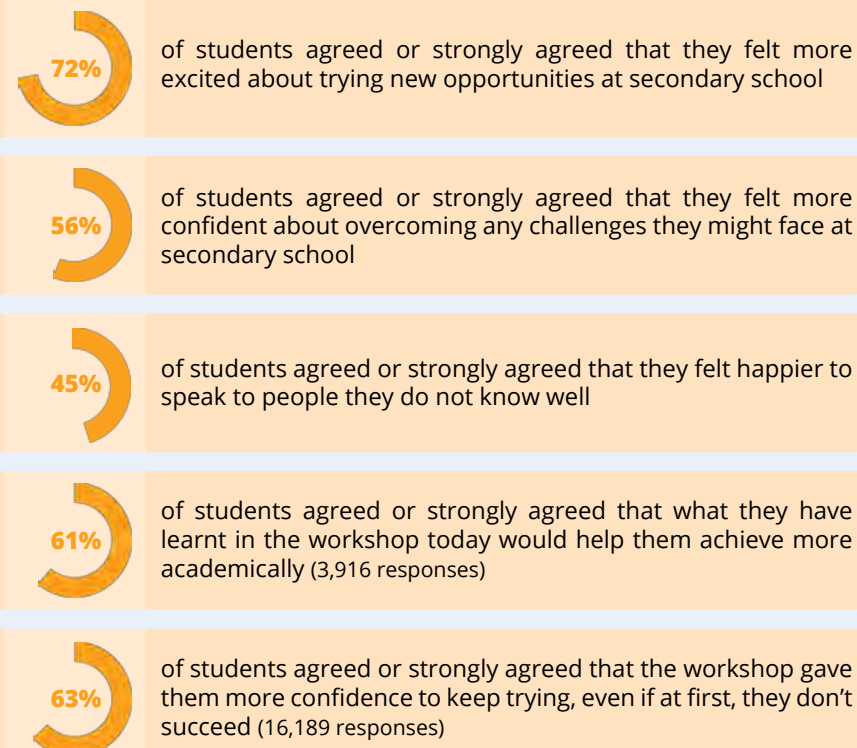
**770** workshops | **20,105** young people | **1,925** delivery hours

“After just one workshop, our Year 7 students have shown truly inspiring progress in their social confidence. Students who were previously quiet or hesitant have begun chatting more openly with others, showing a real willingness to connect and engage. It's been incredible to witness them coming out of their shells so quickly and building new friendships. We're so proud of their growth and excited to see how they continue to flourish.

**Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich**

## Talk About Transition - Impact

After the workshop:



... on average, based on 19,054 responses (unless otherwise stated)  
How do we measure impact? Find out more about our approach on page 8

“We have had Talk The Talk as part of our transition programme for three years now and will be continuing. The work that is done is brilliant and fully supports a successful transition.

**Granville Academy**



# CASE STUDY

## Leeds Trinity University

Our workshops can form a high-impact and progressive addition to wider projects delivered by a range of organisations looking to support young people with their oracy skills.

*“We use Talk The Talk to support our Law Debating Activity. This is a project aimed at borderline GCSE English Language students at schools in Leeds. Talk The Talk's **Talk About Communication** and **Talk About Communication Plus** workshops prepare the students involved in the project; supporting their confidence and ability to develop structured arguments.*

*We know the Talk The Talk workshops have helped the students to perform better on the day, boosting their confidence to stand up in an unfamiliar environment. Working with Talk The Talk has been fantastic. Staff are friendly, easy to deal with and provide valuable information along the way.*

**J. Cooper**

**Schools & Colleges Engagement Officer, Leeds Trinity University**

### Engagement & Impact



**109 young people** across several schools took part this year, participating in two workshops each



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they knew more about the skills needed to communicate effectively in front of other people after the workshop



of students agreed or strongly agreed that the skills and experience they gained in the workshop would help them in their future job or career

# CASE STUDY

## Chace Community School

Many schools use our workshops each year a regular part of their enrichment or careers programmes, providing exciting, consistent and high-quality external provision for their young people.

*“We have been working with Talk The Talk for a number of years, and the relationship is going from strength to strength. Initially, when we introduced the concept of an oracy workshop, students were resistant. However, it is now a highlight of the school calendar. We run several enrichment days each year, and Year 12 students frequently say that Talk The Talk [**Talk About The Future**] is the best session of the year.*

*We were recently externally reviewed, and students testified that it was one of the best enrichment opportunities, as it was fun and engaging but also prepared them well for interviews. Our Year 7 students took part in the **Talk About Transition** workshops this year, and we look forward to making this an annual event in the calendar as well.*

**A. Roper**

**Head of Post 16, Chace Community School, Enfield**

### Engagement & Impact



**175 young people** participated across both our Talk About The Future and Talk About Transition programmes



of year 12 students in Talk About The Future agreed or strongly agreed that they have better skills for preparation and doing well in an interview after the workshop



of year 7 students in Talk About Transition agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more excited about trying new opportunities at secondary school after the workshop

# EXPRESS WORKSHOPS

We offer half-day Express versions of our full-day Talk About Communication, Talk About Communication Plus and Talk About The Future workshops to provide flexibility for schools. Each Express workshop is delivered over one half day (2 to 2.5 contact hours) to up to 30 students.

## Express Workshops - Engagement & Impact

**388** workshops | **9,186** young people | **970** delivery hours



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they knew more about the skills needed to communicate effectively in front of other people after Talk About Communication Express



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they knew more about the skills needed to communicate effectively within groups after Talk About Communication Plus Express



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident about job interviews after Talk About The Future Express



*Students were engaged throughout, enthusiastically joining in and enjoying practising their new skills. They were able to confidently participate and particularly relished the group talk and shared presentation tasks.*

**Richard Lander School**

# SPECIALIST AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

We provide targeted, small group workshops designed for young people at specialist schools, alternative provision or pupil referral units. Our workshops are tailored to suit your requirements and delivered by specialist trainers to provide the best outcomes for your young people.

## Specialist Workshops - Engagement & Impact

**55** workshops | **592** young people | **205** delivery hours



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident about job interviews after the workshop



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they could talk more easily about their skills after the workshop



of students agreed or strongly agreed that what they have learnt in the workshop will help them in their lives



*A fantastic workshop. The trainer's delivery was knowledgeable and clear, catering for all the students' needs and adapting the questions accordingly. Very friendly and approachable. Thank you.*

**The Link School**

# BESPOKE WORKSHOPS

Bespoke workshop formats are a great way to engage specific student groups or support planned school activities, such as large groups in assembly-style workshops, carousel-style workshops for enrichment days or targeted workshops for specific student groups such as Student Leaders or summer schools.

## Bespoke Workshops - Engagement

**53** workshops | **1,907** young people | **110** delivery hours



“Students were very engaged. The activities challenged them to expand their oracy skills and bond with peers they had not done so with before. They learnt lots of useful communication tips and had fun whilst doing so.

**Burnham Grammar School**

# TEACHER CPD

Oracy is a fundamental component of learning and teaching across all subjects. Rich oracy opportunities and purposeful talk increase student engagement, foster meaningful classroom discussion, and provide teachers with valuable insight into students' understanding and progress.

Talk The Talk Teacher CPD equips staff with the skills and confidence to use oracy as a powerful tool within their teaching practice. Our dedicated CPD trainers will discuss your requirements in advance and deliver a high-impact CPD workshop tailored for your needs. Alongside the impact of our student workshops, we engaged over 6,907 teachers this year.



“The Talk The Talk CPD session was an outstanding success, leaving staff inspired and motivated. The trainer introduced us to practical strategies to use in the classroom, supporting a consistent whole-school approach moving forward. Feedback from colleagues was overwhelmingly positive: “The training was really useful... concrete examples of how to help,” “The trainer was really engaging,” and “That is the best CPD I have had.” Staff valued the opportunity to explore engaging techniques and left with clear, adaptable ideas to embed in their practice, strengthening teaching and learning across the academy.

**Winifred Holtby Academy**

## 2025-26 REFLECTION

Teachers consistently report that the reduced peer interaction and isolation experienced by young people during that period still affects their confidence and essential skills, oracy chief among them - and our trainers expect this to remain the case for several years yet. There are, however, reasons for optimism: efforts to restrict smartphone usage in schools should, over time, create more space for talk and discussion in the school day.

Following the Curriculum and Assessment Review, the Government has committed to introducing a formal oracy framework, sitting alongside the existing frameworks for reading and writing, with ministers now describing oracy as being as foundational to a child's education as literacy and numeracy. What Talk The Talk has championed for years is now being written into the fabric of the national curriculum - a validation of our founding conviction, and a signal that the work ahead matters more, not less.

A new methodology was introduced to evaluate our impact across every workshop programme we deliver. This will give schools and partners more direct, informative reporting on the difference our work makes - sharpening our own understanding of what works best and strengthening the case we can make for oracy's place at the heart of every child's education.



## MOVING INTO 2026-27



Talk The Talk enters 2026-27 with real momentum, and our ambitions for the year ahead match it. We are working to structure and fund our charity to deliver twice as many workshops annually, and to extend more funding into the sectors that need it most - building further on our FSM Impact funding so that no school is priced out of giving its students the gift of oracy.

We will continue to develop and broaden our student workshop offer across all educational settings, widening the range of bespoke formats available and expanding our Teacher CPD options to give key staff the follow-up training they need to develop and embed a genuine oracy strategy across their school.

Alongside this, we are taking our first deliberate steps to extend Talk The Talk's reach beyond the UK. Building on the strength of our domestic programme and the evidence base behind it, we see real opportunity to bring the same transformational workshops and CPD to schools internationally - ensuring that the case for oracy we have made so effectively at home can take root, and thrive, further afield.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As an educational charity dedicated to developing young people's oracy skills, we are incredibly grateful for the support of our funders and partner organisations, whose ongoing engagement enables more young people to benefit from our workshops.



# OUR THANKS

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the 485 schools and organisations who worked with us this year, and, of course, to the 48,457 young people who engaged so enthusiastically with our workshops. Thank you.

The profile and importance of oracy in schools has never been higher, with growing recognition of the crucial role communication skills play in young people's learning, confidence and future prospects. As we look ahead to 2026–27, we are excited to engage and support even more young people through our work.

We deliver our high-impact workshop programmes worldwide, supporting schools, multi-academy trusts and organisations to champion oracy and equip young people with the skills and confidence to communicate effectively.

Get in touch with us today to explore how our programmes can support your students to become confident communicators for life.



# TalkTheTalk

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE

## IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026

Talk The Talk is a Registered Charity in England and Wales  
Charity number: 1161251



Scan our QR code to find out more or get in touch directly:

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