



**THE GREAT ORACY
EXHIBITION**

**WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2024
BIRMINGHAM**

How to Cut a Pomegranate

Imtiaz Dharker

Never,' said my father,
'Never cut a pomegranate
through the heart. It will weep blood.
Treat it delicately, with respect.

Just slit the upper skin across four quarters.
This is a magic fruit,
so when you split it open, be prepared
for the jewels of the world to tumble out,
more precious than garnets,
more lustrous than rubies,
lit as if from inside.
Each jewel contains a living seed.
Separate one crystal.
Hold it up to catch the light.
Inside is a whole universe.
No common jewel can give you this.'

Afterwards, I tried to make necklaces
of pomegranate seeds.
The juice spurted out, bright crimson,
and stained my fingers, then my mouth.

I didn't mind. The juice tasted of gardens
I had never seen, voluptuous
with myrtle, lemon, jasmine,
and alive with parrots' wings.

The pomegranate reminded me
that somewhere I had another home.

Competition runs 3rd October 2024 – 4th April 2025

Poetry by Heart is a national poetry speaking competition for schools and colleges in England, open to all pupils in key stages 2 to 5. Taking part in Poetry By Heart is all about developing confidence with poetry in an enjoyable, accessible and engaging way.

Registration, participation and competition entry are free, and the Poetry By Heart website offers a wealth of resources for teachers including a wide range of poems: classic, contemporary and diverse.



Sign up and take part
poetrybyheart.org.uk/register

**POETRY BY
HEART**

Choose a poem

Learn it by heart

Perform it out loud



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PROGRAMME OUTLINE

08.30 - 09.25		
REGISTRATION & WELCOME REFRESHMENTS		
09.25 - 09.55		
MERCIAN	Welcome to GOE 2024! Take part in an immersive oracy assembly, designed to kick start your day with collective conversation. The session will also feature the voices of young people from the West Midlands	
10.00 - 10.35		
MERCIAN	"But where do we begin?": On the road to providing a high-quality oracy education Maria Arnold, Southfields Primary School Melanie Bowman, Hazelbury Primary School	Primary → EMBED
ROOKERIES	Talk for Maths Louise Pennington, OUP Kathleen McBride, Voice 21	Cross-phase → EMBED
INNOVATION	Let's get physical: harness drama for oracy Adam Power-Annand, Speech Bubbles	Cross-phase ↑ ENHANCE
CONNECT 4	Essential Oracy Leader Amy Gaunt, Voice 21	Cross-phase ↗ SCALE
DISCOVER	Cultivating Confident Communicators: Enhancing student participation through Harkness Discussions Libby Ashworth, Bishop Young CoE Academy	Secondary → EMBED

10.40 - 11.15		
MERCIAN	Building a culture of challenging talk Samantha Kelly, Badock's Wood	Primary → EMBED
ROOKERIES	Black British English Oracy: Embracing Linguistic Justice in communication and education Christivie Manga, BLAM UK CIC	Cross-phase ↑ ENHANCE
INNOVATION	From vision to implementation: oracy at a whole trust level Jaz Dhillon, Leigh Trust	Primary ↗ SCALE
CONNECT 4	Anchoring Curriculum in Community: Personalising your oracy provision to your school context Chaitain Rajania, Madani Schools	Secondary ↗ SCALE
DISCOVER	Listening beyond the physical Miriam Fredrickson-Barnaby, Claire Fowler & Caroline Smith, Voice 21	Cross-phase → EMBED
11.15 - 11.35		
MORNING REFRESHMENT BREAK / MEET OUR EXHIBITORS		
11.35 - 12.10		
MERCIAN	Build your own oracy assessment in 30 mins (well, make a good start) Amanda Moorghen, Voice 21	Cross-phase ↑ ENHANCE
ROOKERIES	The 20 minute makeover: Transforming your approach to oracy CPD Sally Edwards, Castle Phoenix Trust	Primary ↗ SCALE
INNOVATION	Oracy and cultural capital: transformation through talk? Dr Rupert Knight, University of Nottingham	Cross-phase ↑ ENHANCE
CONNECT 4	Turn up the volume: how to deliver whole school oracy events Cathy Spence & Nicola Sheen, St Barnabas Primary School	Primary → EMBED
DISCOVER	Reimagining revision: enhancing writing skills through talk Samantha Rasmussen, Ely College	Secondary → EMBED
12.15 - 12.50		
MERCIAN	The Journey to Oracy Excellence Jo Brumby, Voice 21	Cross-phase ↑ ENHANCE
ROOKERIES	Changing talk before talking change - curating spaces for critical conversations Yosh Soliman, Bold Voices	Cross-phase ↑ ENHANCE
INNOVATION	Alternative Voices: how oracy can support literacy learning Sharon Gray & Joe Cook, Coventry ELC	Cross-phase → EMBED
CONNECT 4	What's to discuss? Developing guidelines for your setting Annie Griffiths, Park Hill Junior School	Primary → EMBED
DISCOVER	Oracy across the curriculum Kathy Howell & Becky Clare, Caludon Castle Secondary	Secondary ↗ SCALE

12.55 - 1.40		
MERCIAN	VoiceBox Stage Witness a high quality oracy education in action as five Voice 21 Oracy School students from across the country take to the stage to deliver speeches on topics they feel passionately about. A diverse set of topics are set to be included ranging from the uniqueness of humans and scale of the universe to the greater need for arts provision in schools	
1.40 - 2.20		
LUNCH BREAK / MEET OUR EXHIBITORS		
2.20 - 2.45		
MERCIAN	Towards an oracy entitlement for every child: findings from the Oracy Education Commission Geoff Barton, Chair, Oracy Education Commission Professor Stephen Coleman, University of Leeds Sonia Thompson, St Matthew's C of E Primary School	
2.45 - 2.55		
MERCIAN	DOUGLAS BARNES AWARD CEREMONY	
3.00 - 3.35		
MERCIAN	Providing platforms for talk: a whole school approach to speech-making Emily Thomas & Hannah Munroe, Pinner Wood Primary School	Primary → EMBED
ROOKERIES	Help Me Find My Voice Jason Buckley, The Philosophy Man	Cross-phase ↑ ENHANCE
INNOVATION	Lessons in linguistic diversity Kathleen McBride, Voice 21	Cross-phase ↑ ENHANCE
CONNECT 4	Speaking Through Art Amy Howe, Voice 21	Cross-phase → EMBED
DISCOVER	English as an Additional Language: using oracy to create an inclusive classroom Karen Warwick, The Bell Foundation	Cross-phase ↑ ENHANCE
3.35 - 3.45		
MERCIAN	GOE CLOSING CEREMONY	

Talk for Maths Benchmarks



Discover, discuss and develop the role of oracy in the maths classroom

Oracy is a key area of the **Oxford Mastery Framework**. Together with Voice 21, drawing upon their extensive research and experience of working with hundreds of educators, Oxford has been exploring oracy education and how that relates to maths. This led us to create the **Talk for Maths Benchmarks**.

Our shared ambition is that these will:

- encourage reflection, conversation and exploration of oracy in maths
- support schools in creating talk-rich maths lessons
- help learners to grow in confidence and deepen their understanding.

The benchmarks aim to define excellent practice for oracy in the maths classroom, and offer a practical framework for establishing a shared understanding for oracy and maths.

Download the benchmarks and tell us what you think at <https://oxford.ly/MathsOracy>



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD



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"The children are grasping it quickly and ...really enjoyed the opportunity to use manipulatives, be creative, and build their vocabulary."

O.Williams, Deputy Head Teacher



SESSION DETAILS

10.00 - 10.35 AM

“But where do we begin?”:

On the road to providing a high-quality oracy education

Discover how two primary schools, Hazelbury and Southfields, have placed oracy at the heart of their schools and delve into their dynamic journeys of implementation. The schools will share insights into their strategic approaches, filled with practical takeaways to support you to make informed choices on how best to implement a high-quality oracy education that works for your staff and students. Join us as we navigate the roadmap for empowering young voices and nurturing confident communicators in any primary setting.

Talk for Maths

This practical, hands-on workshop will look at:

- What should exploratory talk look like in maths and how can it deepen understanding?
- How can manipulatives be used as a tool for talk?
- How and when to teach precise vocabulary?
- How can oracy help combat maths anxiety and help student's confidence grow?

Let's get physical: harness drama for oracy

In this session led by Adam Power-Annand from Speech Bubbles, you'll experience practical drama activities that are designed to value every child's voice and build the confidence of students who struggle to communicate effectively in the school environment. The session will introduce theories that support drama for communication practice and will explore the role of adults in creating a positive environment where students can develop their confidence as creative communicators.

Essential Oracy Leader

At Voice 21, we believe that every school should have an Oracy Leader. Our research shows that the more confident Oracy Leaders feel in their role, the more progress their schools make towards embedding a sustained, high-quality oracy education. In this practical session, Amy Gaunt will outline findings from our research into oracy leadership which shows what are the most effective actions Oracy Leaders can take. An essential session for any current or aspiring Oracy Leaders.

Cultivating Confident Communicators:

Enhancing student participation through Harkness Discussions

Get involved as KS3 students, and teachers, from Bishop Young Church of England Academy facilitate a Harkness discussion amongst delegates. You'll engage in lively discussion facilitated by students and learn how this approach has been built into the curriculum to develop confident communicators that are engaged in societal issues.

SESSION DETAILS

10.40 - 11.15 AM

Building a culture of challenging talk

Learn about Badock's Wood's innovative Talk for Tuesday programme designed to support pupils to navigate their way through challenging topics and to ensure that every voice is heard. Teacher, Samantha Kelly, will share the school's approach to implementing an initiative that links with the personal development & PSHE curriculum, outlining how the skills developed through these lessons play a significant role in supporting behaviour and whole school culture as well as explicitly teaching oracy skills.

Black British English Oracy:

Embracing Linguistic Justice in communication and education

In this interactive workshop, led by BLAM UK, we delve into the unique aspects of Black British English (BBE) and its significance in the educational landscape. Participants will explore the rich linguistic heritage of BBE and its role in fostering a more inclusive and representative learning environment. Through a series of practical exercises, attendees will learn strategies to support students who speak BBE, helping them to confidently express themselves and thrive in both academic and social settings.

The session will cover key theoretical frameworks underpinning the value of linguistic diversity and will offer hands-on activities that celebrate and incorporate BBE into classroom discourse. Educators will gain insights into how to create an affirming space for all voices, recognising the cultural wealth students bring with them and using it to enhance their oracy skills.

By the end of the workshop, participants will be equipped with practical tools to promote effective communication for BBE speakers, ensuring every child's voice is heard and valued in the school community.

From vision to implementation: oracy at a whole trust level

In this session, school and trust leaders from the Leigh Trust, a group of five primary schools in Birmingham, will share their journey towards oracy excellence and the impact they have already seen on children's oracy within 18 months of becoming a Voice 21 Oracy School. You'll gain an insight into how to set a strategic vision for oracy at a trust level, while reflecting each schools' context, motivations and individual priorities, as well as some practical approaches to oracy. Don't miss this if you're interested in learning about the strategic implementation of a high quality oracy education.

Anchoring Curriculum in Community:

Personalising your oracy provision to your school context

Join Chaitan Rajania from Madani Schools to explore how Oracy and Cultural Literacy can address your student community's needs. By integrating these elements, you will begin to anchor your school curriculum in the community, empowering students to transform their world. You'll leave this session with practical takeaways to support you to strategically map opportunities to build cultural literacy and student agency through talk in your setting.

Listening beyond the physical

In this session led by Voice 21 oracy experts, you'll delve into the cognitive skills involved in effective listening with a view to enabling students to become engaged and active listeners in both learning and social situations. You will explore and reflect on what great listeners do and experience a range of practical strategies you can use in the classroom. Join us as we explore how to move beyond nodding and smiling to developing listeners who amplify, energise, and clarify each other's thinking.

SESSION DETAILS

11.35 - 12.10 PM

Build your own oracy assessment in 30 mins (well, make a good start)

Join us for an interactive workshop exploring the challenges and opportunities involved in oracy assessment. Develop your understanding of how to use key assessment design principles to develop practical ways of measuring students' oracy in your context. Bring a smartphone/laptop/tablet and be prepared to do a small amount of typing.

The 20 minute makeover: Transforming your approach to oracy CPD

Hear from Castle Phoenix Trust on how, in just 20 minutes a week, they have transformed their approach to staff CPD in oracy through seamlessly weaving staff development into the fabric of weekly assemblies. This session will explore how schools facing time constraints can strategically utilise assembly time to foster staff development, enhance oracy teaching consistency, and elevate students' oracy skills, hearing about their impact from the perspectives of pupils, staff, and parents. You'll leave with practical steps and actionable strategies to plan and execute effective oracy assemblies.

Oracy and cultural capital: transformation through talk?

Oracy is sometimes associated with developing students' cultural capital. However, there is a danger that this is construed only narrowly as accumulating and adopting the knowledge, skills and behaviours of the powerful. This session invites attendees to consider how oracy might lead to more fundamental personal and societal transformation through developing authentic voice in meaningful contexts. This potential will be illustrated through classroom examples intended to provoke reflection and discussion on attendees' own settings.

Turn up the volume: how to deliver whole school oracy events

Join Cathy Spence and Nicola Sheen from St Barnabas Primary School to hear how they approach oracy events that engage the whole school community. They will touch on the planning and delivery involved as well as how these events can galvanise a school community around your vision for oracy. They'll share insights from poetry slams, author visits, speechmaking events and a county-wide debating competition - plus how to coordinate media coverage and get your events noticed!

Reimagining revision: enhancing writing skills through talk

Step into students' shoes and join this interactive session with teacher Samantha Rasmussen from Ely College as she demonstrates how placing talk at the heart of exam preparation equips students in Key Stages 4 and 5 with the skills they need for successful extended writing. In this session, Samantha will model a range of oracy strategies that support participants to co-construct and refine ideas through talk.

SESSION DETAILS

12.15 - 12.50 PM

The Journey to Oracy Excellence

Learn how the Oracy Benchmarks, Voice 21's nationally recognised standard for oracy education can be used to understand your school's progress towards providing a high-quality oracy education. You'll also hear from current Voice 21 Centres of Excellence who will discuss what it takes to become one and what this has meant to them. A must for any schools considering applying to become a Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence!

Changing talk before talking change – curating spaces for critical conversations

It is no secret that talking about sexual violence is a crucial first step to tackling it – but is it easier said than done? What happens when the harmful gender stereotypes we are trying to address are playing out in front of us in the very way young people are talking. What happens when we can't separate the culture from the conversation?

This session, led by sector experts Bold Voices, will explore and highlight:

- Some of the unique gendered barriers young people face in navigating critical conversations about gender inequality and sexual violence
- Key pitfalls teachers fall into when trying to create spaces for these discussions including reframing 'debates' to 'conversations'
- Essential facilitation-based tools that can be used to better curate spaces for critical and transformative conversations amongst young people

Alternative Voices: how oracy can support literacy learning

Hear Sharon Gray and Danielle Egan from Coventry Extended Learning Centre, an Alternative Provision, talk about their approach to implementation with Voice 21 in their first year and their innovative take on using oracy to develop literacy. Sharon, along with Joe Cook, their music teacher, will talk about their 'Lyricature' programme in particular, where writing and performing rap has been feeding into literacy learning - earning students a chance to perform at the Godiva festival and collaborate with a local theatre on a spoken word production of Romeo and Juliet. Danielle will illustrate how oracy has elevated our students' creative writing to an unprecedented abstract level in their setting.

What's to discuss? Developing guidelines for your setting

Join Annie Griffiths for a live immersive session where you can learn how to design and implement discussion guidelines for your classroom and setting. Learn the impact that involving all staff and students can have in fostering a positive culture for oracy.

Oracy across the curriculum

In this session Kathy Howell and Becky Clare from Caludon Castle will provide examples of how to build a curriculum for oracy across subjects such as maths, social sciences and sport. Learn how they developed subject specific CPD enabling a whole school approach and hear about the impact they have experienced.

SESSION DETAILS

3.00 - 3.35 PM

Providing platforms for talk: a whole-school approach to speech-making

Join Emily Thomas and Hannah Munroe as they share how Pinner Wood School have successfully integrated speech-making into their curriculum, ensuring that all students are supported to participate in progressively challenging talk. In this session, you will hear how they have prioritised speech-making through adapting their curriculum. You will find out how to apply a range of practical strategies to support implementation across a unit of work or whole school initiative. You will also explore the role the wider school community plays in championing oracy education.

Help Me Find My Voice

Some children are playground confident, classroom shy. Outside they'll talk confidently with their peers. Inside, they shut down and their voices are rarely heard. This session, hosted by The Philosophy Man, explores how to bring some of that playground confidence inside and other strategies to overcome "oracy blockers" and help more children find their voices.

Lessons in linguistic diversity

In this session, we will share the lessons learned and insights gained from Voice 21's recent learning community focusing on linguistic diversity. We'll explore: what it is; the connection between language and identity and will share our top five tips for ensuring classrooms are spaces in which every voice is valued.

Speaking Through Art

In a world increasingly saturated with images, it is crucial that we teach our young people how to think and speak critically about the visual world. This session explores the relationship between art and oracy, digging into how art and cultural artefacts can be used as stimuli for exploratory talk to support the teaching of critical thinking. The session will touch on insights from our collaborative pilot project and current research with The National Gallery.

English as an Additional Language: using oracy to create an inclusive classroom

This workshop will explore simple and practical strategies to further develop social, linguistic and academic inclusion in your classroom so that EAL learners can be fully engaged in curriculum learning and can thrive and achieve their potential. Karen Warwick from The Bell Foundation will explore how an oracy-rich culture will support EAL learners regardless of their proficiency in English, and that this doesn't need to be time consuming for the teachers!

MEET OUR EXHIBITORS

English Speaking Board

English Speaking Board (International) Ltd, the 'Awarding Organisation of the Year 2023' according to FAB, has over 70 years' expertise in awarding Oracy qualifications. Our certificates are known by one headteacher as being 'A golden ticket to social mobility and life-long success'.

Our unique, child-centred, external Oracy assessment model brings professional assessors to schools to facilitate confidence-building speaking and listening assessments, set in supportive group settings and mapped to national curriculum standards. ESB qualifications are available from Early Years to Key Stage 5 – KS5 learners can earn up to 30 UCAS points.



NAHT

NAHT is the definitive voice of school leaders – we are here to support you. Join the UK's number one leadership union and be part of a union that influences government change. With over 49,000 members, we have the ear of government and continue to secure huge changes for today's schools. As an NAHT member, you will unlock access to expert resources and support, access to a 24/7 counselling phone line, free financial consultation, and discounts across an array of high-street retailers.



Oxford University Press

As part of one of the world's great universities, we're driven by a love of learning and a deep conviction that education is a universal good. For us, every child deserves to be taught by brilliantly professional teachers, working in close partnership with engaged parents, using the best and most inspiring learning resources, technology, and teaching methods. To that end, we work with the brightest, most creative educational thinkers to ensure that right across our vast range of products and services, everything comes together coherently to achieve the best possible results, in any real-life learning setting, anywhere in the world.



Pearson

Our Pearson Primary mission is clear: to instill a lifelong love of learning in children and young people. From our Bug Club Family that address the key aspects of the DfE's Reading Framework – phonics to skilled reading – to Power Maths, our whole-class maths mastery programme created in partnership with White Rose Maths, we offer a broad range of primary educational resources that are carefully crafted to meet National Curriculum objectives, enhance engagement and cater to the diverse needs of every learner.

Through our innovative and dedicated approach, Pearson Primary leads the way in educational excellence. We are committed to preparing children and young people for a future filled with success and personal growth, equipping them with the vital knowledge and skills for their ongoing educational journeys.



Poetry by Heart

Now in its twelfth year, Poetry By Heart is the national poetry speaking competition for schools and colleges in England. It is also a website for teaching and learning about poetry – by heart and out loud, and with plenty of choice for young people to explore poems and find the ones they love. Both the website and the competition are completely free to access, and we have a thriving, diverse community of schools we engage with.

The 2024-5 competition opens on National Poetry Day, 3 October 2024. In the competition, young people aged 7 to 18 choose one or two poems that speak to them, learn them by heart, and perform them in school speaking events. School staff select pupils to enter the national round of the competition, submitting videos of their poem performances. The best contestants from each key stage and in every region in England are then invited to perform in front of top UK poets at our all-expenses-paid Grand Finale at Shakespeare's Globe in London. If you're interested in building your culture of oracy through sharing poetry aloud, then find out more at poetrybyheart.org.uk and register poetrybyheart.org.uk/register.



The Philosophy Man

We're the UK's leading independent provider of training in philosophy for children. With 15 years experience of getting children talking about big ideas, we have a wealth of experience to share in critical thinking, metacognition and oracy. Our flagship oracy products are Sticky Questions, a year-round home-school programme in which children take home a question, stuck to their jumper or in a planner, talk about it at home and bring the conversation back into the classroom the next day – all for less than £1.50 per child per year! We're part of a group of companies centred around oracy – www.p4he.org provides online courses in philosophy, improv, debate, Shakespeare and creative writing as well as residentials, and debateplanet.co.uk makes debate fun and accessible for all – instead of creating mini-Boris Johnsons! Our founder Jason Buckley and Lead Trainer Tom Bigglestone are presenting the "Help Me Find My Voice" session – see you there!



Storytelling Schools

Storytelling Schools is led by a passion for Storytelling and for its power to enable children (and teachers) to find their voices.

Our unique method is a dynamic and creative approach to learning. Our main idea is simple: by learning to tell stories and make verbal presentations, children develop great oral communication skills while mastering the language and ideas they need for subsequent writing. This systematic approach is used for both fiction and non-fiction teaching as well as subject specific projects across the curriculum.



