



City of London Culturally Speaking Annual Report 2023/24

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Even our most reluctant students were empowered to deliver a speech at the end of the day and all students were filled with pride following the session..”

St Mary Magdalene CofE School

This report highlights the outcomes of Culturally Speaking in the City of London, which is funded through the Cultural & Creative Learning Fund.

Speakers Trust recruits students aged 13-14 from 20 schools with over 25% Free School Meals within the 12 central boroughs to visit one of the City of London's cultural partners. This visit is led by cultural sector staff, who guide young people to explore the venue and identify the themes of the space relevant to them. Following their visit, participants take part in a full day public speaking workshop delivered at school by Speakers Trust, helping them explore and deliver a speech on one of these themes.

Our training helps everyone who takes part in the project to become better communicators, with a greater awareness of cultural spaces and why they are relevant to them. This improves education and employment prospects and instills the desire to use the power of their voice to bring positive change. Once participants see that they can overcome their fear of public speaking and use their voice to effect change, they are empowered to achieve across a range of areas, with benefits spreading to the school, home and workplace, enabling social mobility.

Culturally Speaking In Numbers

5

Cultural venues

20

Cultural visits

423

**Students
participated**

20

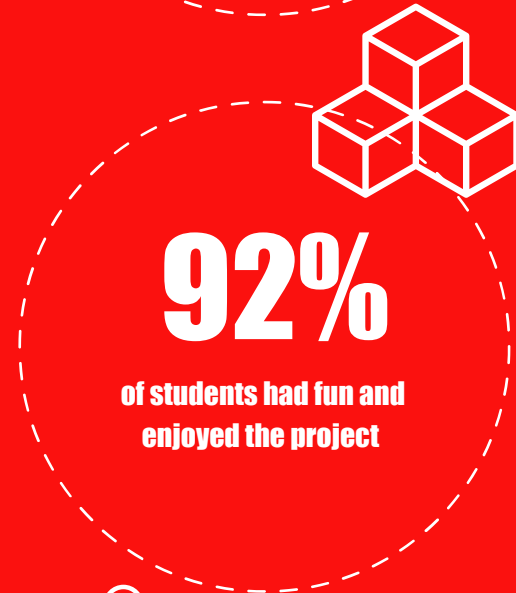
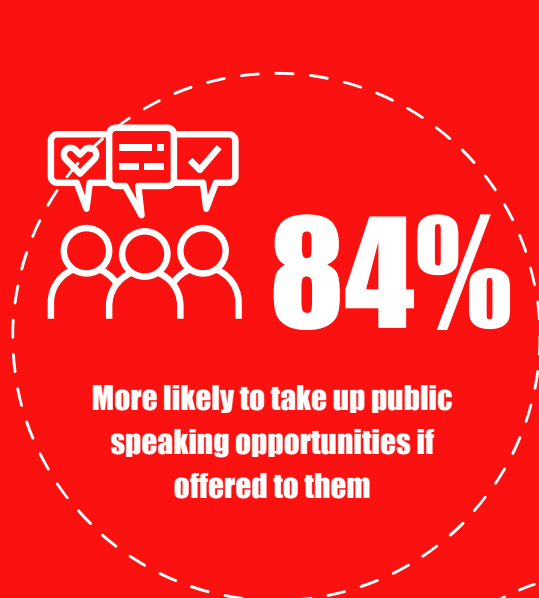
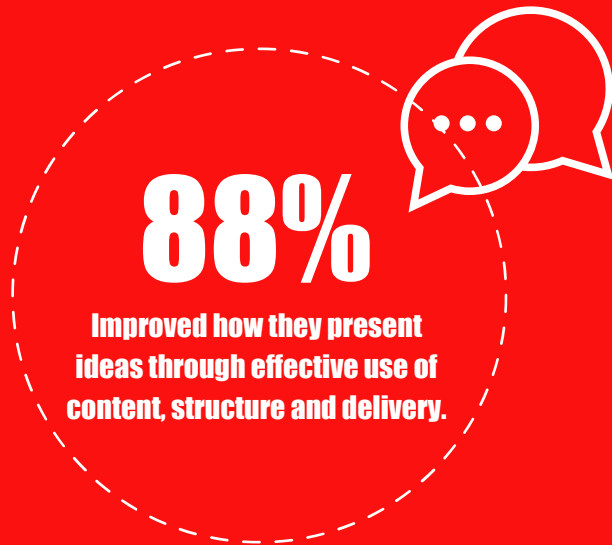
**Workshops
delivered**

20

**Schools
worked with**

Impact and Evaluation

At Speakers Trust, we focus on making a real difference to young people's lives. We gather this by measuring individual impact data daily. By the end of July, we had received data from all 20 workshops of academic year 2023/34. The outcomes we measured at the end of the workshop were exceptional with participants reporting increases in confidence, empathy and connection to culture, that are significantly higher than we record on similar projects in other regions.



Impact on the least confident students

The confidence of the young people starting the programme was incredibly low, with 30% of young people walking in to the first workshop with little to no confidence in speaking in front of a group. Our data management tool allows us to understand the impact we have on different groups of young people and we are thrilled to see that we make the greatest impact on these young people who walk into the workshop the least confident.

30%

of young people rate themselves having little or no confidence speaking in public at the beginning of the project



160%

average increase in confidence of these least confident young people. (2.2/10 to 5.8/10)



Word cloud of student speech topics

Teachers also saw the benefits of the workshop:

We could not deliver our programme without the support of the teachers in each school. We have been delighted with the feedback received from schools about their experience with the training, please see below some of the feedback we collected from teachers.



Success Stories

We asked teachers to share any moments that stood out to them, this is just some of what they shared.

“L is a very quiet student who has been identified as someone who can get easily lost in a busy classroom. She struggles to make friends and finds social situations tricky. During the visit to the gallery she shared her thoughts on a painting and the look on her face when she realised her voice was being heard was a picture in itself! When I shared with staff that she had stood up in front of the group to share her speech they were so pleased for her and her English teacher said she has since put her hand up more in lessons.” - Aimee, City of London Academy Islington

“One student suffers from a lot of anxiety at school. During the workshop, she was upset and did not think she could speak in front of the others. At the end, with Vanessa's praise and interest in what she had to say, gave her speech from her chair in front of the group. A real success story on the day.” - EGA School

“One student who never speaks in class and can hardly say good morning. She begged me (although even that was non-verbal it was just head shaking!) not to speak but she did it under the gentle guidance of the facilitator and Swanlea staff.. We acknowledged what a huge thing this was at an oracy rewards tea party with the headteacher where she recieved an oracy prize. I've since seen a smile that I've never seen before.” - Swanlea School

Every student who completed the workshop showed incredible resilience powering through their anxieties! The workshop really uplifted the students and in the words of one of our students when asked how they found the workshop 'showed them they were capable of whatever they put their minds to'. Cumberland Community School

Success Stories

The project was delivered in partnership with five of the City of London's cultural partners, the Education Strategy Unit and Speakers Trust

"Working with Speakers Trust has been a fantastic experience. Students enjoyed having the freedom to explore Keats House, forming connections with the house and expressing how Keats's story inspired them."

Michaela, Keats House

"It has been wonderful to see how young people have connected with the spaces and seen themselves in the art, exhibitions and history around us. Their speeches have been so moving and insightful."

Russell Findlay, CEO Speakers Trust

"Our staff have used this project as an opportunity to invite new conversations and perspectives surrounding the narratives told by the historic buildings and collections. It has helped us reconsider our interpretation and ways to make the spaces more inviting and relevant to young people."

Amie, Museum of the Order of St John

**KEATS
HOUSE**

**LONDON
MUSEUM**

**THE _____
____ LONDON
ARCHIVES**



**Museum of
THE ORDER OF
ST JOHN**



**CITY
OF
LONDON**

Delivery

Participating Schools

Haberdashers Askes Borough Academy
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School
Saint Mary Magdalene Church of England School
Our Lady's Catholic High School
The John Roan School
William Ellis School
Highbury Fields School
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Secondary School
Regent High School
George Green's School
The Halley Academy
Plumstead Manor School
Central Foundation Girls' School
St Michael's Catholic College
St Aloysius RC College
Westminster Academy
Trinity Academy Brixton
Saint John Bosco College
Burntwood School

Participating cultural partners

Keats House
The London Archives
London Museum Docklands
Guildhall Art Gallery
Museum of the Order of Saint John

Budget

The project spend was as expected, resulting in a total cost per student of £47.

Item	Cost	Unit	Total	Comment
Speakers Trust Workshop Delivery	£ 750.00	20	£15,000.00	All workshops delivered as projected
Work material design and print	£ 1.50	600	£900.00	Workbooks printed within budget
Venue hosting costs	£ 100.00	20	£2,000.00	Venues claimed this amount
School Costs	£ 100.00	20	£2,000.00	Schools claimed this amount to support with any additional costs of running the project (e.g. additional staff time)
Total project spend			£19,900.00	As per project budget

Legacy

Overall the project was a huge success with all anticipated outcomes achieved and witnessed by participating teachers. In addition to the predicted outcomes additional benefits were also reported such as students participating more in class, students having greater connection with their own cultures and teachers learning oracy and facilitation skills they will implement in their own practice moving forward.

We look forward to delivering this project again in the 2024/25 academic year, when the project delivery model will remain the same. However, we will be adding an additional session for all cultural partners before we begin delivery in schools, to ensure everyone is fully briefed and has all the information that they need. We would also like to add an additional introductory teacher session to share advice and experiences, leading to a network of best practice around oracy and cultural capital.

