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# IMPACT REPORT 2017/18



**ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**

discovering voices | changing lives | 1918-2018



# Making a difference where it matters most



Welcome to our latest Impact Report. 2018 is a very special year for the English-Speaking Union as it marks our centenary. In 1918, in the aftermath of the Great War, Sir Evelyn Wrench founded the ESU on the principle that more effective communication between nations would lead to improved global understanding. One hundred years later, the ESU strives to realise Sir Evelyn's still-relevant vision through its educational work, which seeks to develop young people as confident communicators, critical thinkers and empowered citizens.

An important feature of our centenary year has been a strengthening of our commitment to working with schools and students in disadvantaged areas. We understand the life-changing benefits that participating in public speaking, debating and cultural exchange activities can bring to young people and by focusing on less advantaged groups, we are playing a part in fostering social mobility in our society.

Central to this has been the free provision of Discover Debating programmes in primary schools in disadvantaged areas across England and Wales. This year-long programme uses a combination of teacher training, mentor-delivered lessons, teacher resources and progress-mapping tools to develop four oracy skill sets: expression and delivery; listening and response; organisation and prioritisation; and reasoning and evidence. You can read more about Discover Debating on pages 6 and 7.

Other manifestations of our commitment to impacting on less-advantaged groups have included the provision of full bursaries to 50 per cent of participants in our Debate Academy summer school, discounted Discover Your Voice workshops for schools in disadvantaged areas, and grants made to international ESUs which demonstrate they are taking action to broaden access to the qualifying rounds of the International Public Speaking Competition. Members around England and Wales are playing an important part in this process by promoting programmes to schools in poorer areas and by carrying out voluntary educational work in such schools.

As the English-Speaking Union enters its next hundred years, we look forward to drawing on our history and expertise to further broaden our reach in England and Wales and internationally, while continuing to focus our work on those who stand to benefit most.

**JANE EASTON | DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

# OUR MISSION

To equip young people with the oracy skills and confidence they need to change their lives and communities for the better.

The English-Speaking Union believes in the power of spoken communication. We help young people to 'discover their voices' – to engage with the world and to talk more confidently, to formulate and organise their ideas more effectively and, just as importantly, to listen.

Founded in 1918 to promote better communication between people of all cultures and countries, the ESU marks its centenary this year and now looks forward to the next 100 years, focusing its efforts on those most in need of oracy skills to ensure young people everywhere have the opportunity to reach their full potential.



*'Ordinary people can be the agents for extraordinary change'*

Tommy Seagull, pupil barrister & ESU Schools Mace winner

## OUR REACH THIS YEAR



**5,620**

young people reached through our UK-based programmes



During this time, we have seen a **38%** increase in our young membership base



The livestream of our 2018 IPSC reached over **21,000** people and elicited over **2,500** comments and reactions



**1,770**

children whose oracy skills and confidence have increased through Discover Debating this year

*'Debating has helped build my confidence and helped me to stand up to people who I don't agree with'*

Rikki, Discover Debating pupil



# EDUCATION

We work to put oracy – speaking and listening skills – at the centre of the school curriculum, and through our debate and public speaking programmes, competitions and cultural exchanges, we ensure that young people have the opportunity to speak up and make their voices heard.

Our focus since April 2017 has been on creating sustainable cultures of debating and public speaking in schools, particularly in areas of high disadvantage. As part of this, we have successfully launched Discover Debating, our first year-long intervention programme in primary schools and have continued to build on our long-term relationships with schools and partners through our annual competitions.

## DISCOVER DEBATING IMPACT

The first year of our primary schools' debating programme has now concluded, with 59 schools taking part for free across the 2017/18 academic year – that's 1,770 children who have increased their skills and confidence in debating, all of whom come from schools with a higher than average proportion of pupils receiving free school meals, and/or for whom English is an additional language. One hundred and seventy-seven teachers were involved in the programme this year and a further 56 schools are signed up to start the three-term programme in September. Find out more overleaf.

# 97%



*of employers feel life skills such as communication are more important than academic qualifications*

Source: Life Lessons, The Sutton Trust, 2017



**78%** of Discover Debating pupils say it has helped them to think about other people's opinions and ideas



**80%** of Discover Debating pupils say they have learnt new ways to work together in a team



There was a **59%** increase in pupils' observed performance across the four main skill sets taught within Discover Debating



**97%** of Discover Debating teachers think that teaching oracy has improved their students' confidence

*'I think Discover Debating is an excellent programme that has benefits across so many areas of the curriculum but, more importantly, it gives children confidence and improves their ability to develop their thoughts and articulate them clearly'*

Jackie Bridges, teacher, Hunter's Bar Junior School, Sheffield



*'The public voices of women have been systematically stifled for most of human history. Seeing 100 per cent of the brilliant main speakers in the Public Speaking Competition being young women was the revelation of the day. If I live long enough to update my book in three or four decades' time, on this evidence, it will paint a very different picture'*

Sam Leith, author of *You Talkin' To Me?* and one of this year's Public Speaking Competition judges

*'I can find the words I want to say more easily'*

Discover Debating participant Makeda has found that debating has helped with her stammer

## COMPETITIONS

Through our three annual competitions – the Schools' Mace, the ESU-Churchill National Public Speaking Competition for Schools and the ESU Performing Shakespeare Competition – we have reached over 2,000 students in the UK this year. Via a mixture of performance, public speaking and debate, more young people have gained new skills, made new friends and felt the thrill and pride of competing on a national stage.

**55%**  
of schools in the Public Speaking Competition were from the state school sector

**92**  
Schools' Mace judges completed our new online training package

Our mentors and judges delivered: **107** Schools' Mace heats

**10** Performing Shakespeare regional finals

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# THE DISCOVER DEBATING JOURNEY

*Children from socially disadvantaged families are more than twice as likely to be diagnosed with a language problem*

Early Intervention Foundation: Language as a child well-being indicator report (September 2017)

Research shows oracy interventions at younger ages are particularly effective and our new flagship programme, Discover Debating, addresses this. A fun, games-led programme aimed at primary schools, it encourages students to discuss a wide range of topical issues with an open mind and delivers demonstrable progress in literacy and oracy.

It is offered free to state primary schools with a higher than average

proportion of pupils receiving free school meals, and/or for whom English is an additional language, thus helping to bridge the achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

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## The road to success

'Many of our children come from disadvantaged backgrounds and we have a high level of children on free school meals,' says Jan Knight, of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School in London.

'Without obtaining the free place from the ESU we could not have afforded to become part of the Discover Debating Project.'

Here, Jan takes us through their Discover Debating journey...

### 1. TEACHER TRAINING

'My colleague and I received a half day's training at the outset of the project. This was very well run and extremely informative and we had the chance to participate in some of the same activities as the children.'

*'I'm going to use my debate skills to change the world'*

Devron, Discover Debating participant



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### 2. TIME TO DEBATE

'The children have attended a weekly after-school club and it has been a great success. The mentor knew just how to pitch the sessions and made it completely accessible to our pupils without 'dumbing down' the culture of debate. She made it fun – and all the children have increased in eloquence and confidence. It has been amazing for me as a teacher to have the opportunity to observe this.'

70%



of pupils said they feel more confident expressing themselves out loud



74%

of pupils say they can now organise their ideas to make a speech easier for someone else to understand

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### 3. TEACHER TAKEOVER

'My colleague and I will now take on the running of the club using the detailed plans we have been given. The mentor will return twice to see how we are progressing.'

92%



of teachers said they now understood how oracy activities relate to other subjects taught in their school

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### 4. ONGOING SUPPORT

'The ESU offers continuing support and has asked us to assess the progress that the children are making using a simple program that they have devised.'

**'You learn to sort out life's problems'**

Year 6 Discover Debating participant

# CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The ESU continues to provide numerous opportunities for cultural exchange, whether that be in the form of a gap year or professional development scholarship, as a volunteer on an English language programme for refugees, as a mentor on one of our international debate tours or through our annual International Public Speaking Competition.



**21,613**  
people have seen  
the livestream of  
the 2018 IPSC



We ran debate tours  
with the US, Japan, Italy,  
Denmark and Romania

## THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

In this report period we have hosted two Grand Finals of the ESU International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) – in May 2017 and 2018. All participants are winners of their own national competitions, which are organised by international ESUs and partner organisations around the world. Combined, these competitions reach over 600,000 young people each year.

2017's competition saw 45 participants, aged between 16 and 20, from 42 countries and regions across the globe come together for a week of cultural exchange and competition.

Finalists were asked to speak on the topic 'Peace is not an absence of war', with Luke Macaronas, from Australia, taking home the

*'I think that we have seen some of our future leaders [today] and I'm enormously encouraged by that'*

Alan Johnson, former Home Secretary and Chair of Judges for the International Public Speaking Competition 2018



*'I realised that it's not about being competitive and coming first; it's winning your own battle and fighting your fears that really matters'*

Eliyana Pilitova, 2018 Bulgarian IPSC participant



title for his speech, 'The Inconvenient Truth', an emotive piece on drones and modern warfare. The autumn term saw the start of the 2018 competition, to which we were pleased to welcome three new participating countries – Scotland, Nigeria and Rwanda. 2018's finalists spoke on the theme: 'The best way to predict the future is to invent it.' From an initial 51 participants, Johanne Jazmin Tan Jabines from the Philippines was crowned winner in a close contest.



The ESU awarded  
**34 scholarships**  
across its Secondary School  
Exchange and professional  
development programmes



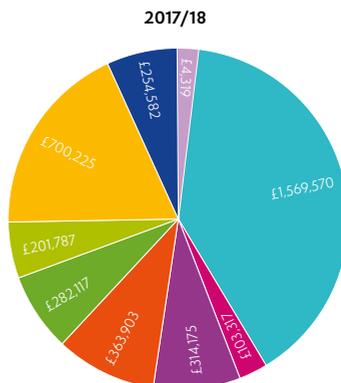
*'The IPSC reminds us of the importance our voices carry'*

Luke Macaronas, Australian participant and winner of the IPSC 2017

# FINANCIALS

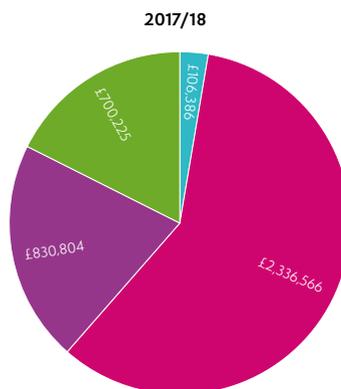
## INCOME

DESCRIPTION	2017/18	2016/17
Investment income - Property	£1,569,570	£1,743,770
Investment income - Funds	£103,317	£106,639
Dartmouth House Ltd. Trading	£314,175	£181,174
Programme & Events	£363,903	£141,700
Branch Events	£282,117	£199,008
Membership Subscriptions	£201,787	£206,826
Educational Facilities	£700,225	£825,809
Donations & Grants	£254,582	£157,397
Legacies	£4,319	£18,069
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£3,793,995</b>	<b>£3,580,392</b>



## EXPENDITURE

DESCRIPTION	2017/18	2016/17
Grants & Awards	£106,386	£72,752
Delivering Charitable Activities	£2,336,566	£1,935,334
Support Costs	£830,804	£807,152
Educational Facilities & Placements	£700,225	£825,809
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£3,973,981</b>	<b>£3,641,047</b>
<b>FINANCIAL RESULT</b>	<b>£-179,986</b>	<b>£-60,655</b>



*'Young people need to be given the opportunity to discuss world affairs. We're the decision-makers of tomorrow'*

Fatima Conteh, Debate Academy attendee





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