there is an African proverb that states ‘it takes each and every feather of the eagle to help it soar’. This year, thanks to all our members, partners, volunteers and staff, the English-Speaking Union has reached over one million children around the world in our quest to give them the speaking and listening skills they need to thrive. A large percentage of this number is due to our International Public Speaking Competition and its continued expansion in China, but we have made some significant gains at home too, improving the oracy skills of over 10,000 young people in England and Wales.

As set out in our Education Strategy, many of these young people are in areas of disadvantage, from backgrounds where discussion and critical thinking are not necessarily encouraged at home, and where an inability to express themselves well can all too often become a limiting factor in their lives. This was touched on by Jyothi, the England and Wales representative at the International Public Speaking Competition 2019 and one of the speakers at our summer reception on 4 July, as a preface to her impassioned speech on the environment. She said:

‘In my hometown of Grimsby people love to talk, but they don’t really have much to say (I’m allowed to say that, I’m from there…) and when they do say something, something important, they are often told to be quiet.’

Lord Paul Boateng, Chairman

‘the ESU has reached over one million children around the world in our quest to give them the speaking and listening skills they need to thrive’
COMMUNICATING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

OUR MISSION To give young people the speaking and listening skills and the cross-cultural understanding they need to thrive.

OUR VISION We believe in the global exchange of ideas; that the better we can communicate and understand each other, the easier it is to resolve differences and work together towards common goals.
We believe that all young people should have the chance to learn how to express themselves effectively. We believe in the global exchange of ideas; that the better we understand each other, the easier it is to resolve differences and work together towards common goals.

As communities become ever more diverse, and society more polarised, there has never been a greater need to understand different perspectives and opinions and our speech and debate programmes and cultural exchanges help young people to do just that. They also improve young people’s ability to think, reason and communicate effectively with others, which both increases employability and academic achievement as well as boosting social mobility, emotional intelligence and self-confidence.

Our approach chimes with the growing amount of research pointing to the importance of education in instilling interpersonal skills and character traits such as resilience, drive, tenacity and self-confidence.

Our AIMS & IMPACT

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Making a Difference

**The Need**
Disadvantaged children are 2.3 times more likely to be identified as having speech, language and communication needs than those in more affluent areas (The Communication Trust)

Young people who cannot express themselves verbally may suffer from behavioural problems, emotional and psychological difficulties and, in some cases, may descend into criminality (Owen)

High-quality spoken dialogue in primary classrooms can significantly improve children’s educational attainment, from improving SAT results in maths and science to improving reading, writing and reasoning skills (The Communication Trust)

97% of teachers, 94% of employers and 88% of young people believe that life skills such as confidence, motivation, resilience and communication are as or more important than academic qualifications (Sutton Trust)

**Our Work in 2018/19**
82 schools took part in our Discover Debating programme aimed at schools with over 20 per cent of students qualifying for FSM or with EAL

We directly improved the oracy skills of 10,190 children in England and Wales

We worked with 4,143 primary school children to improve their speaking and listening skills

Our programmes and competitions build teamwork, leadership, organisation, resilience and communication skills

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**Making a Difference**

**Speaking & Listening Skills**

1,027,747 young people worldwide were involved in our competitions

2,832 students took part in a Discover Your Voice workshop

2,446 pupils were involved in our competitions for secondary schools in England & Wales

2,027 pupils participated in our regional public speaking competitions for primary schools

1,968 primary school students took part in our Discover Debating programme

366 teachers trained to better teach oracy

235 students from 47 state secondary schools completed the London Debate Challenge

168 young people were involved in eight talking days as preparation for the House of Lords Chamber Debate

150 primary school students from deprived areas in Doncaster attended debating workshops as part of The Big Debate Day, held in conjunction with The Week Junior

**Cultural Exchange**

1,000 young people reached by ESU oracy coaches on international tours

126 students attended Debate Academy of whom 26 were from overseas

51 countries took part in the International Public Speaking Competition, with winners from 47 nations and regions at the grand final in London

20 Romanian students spent three days at Dartmouth House on an intensive course in debating and public speaking skills

13 professional scholarships awarded

10 students travelled to Bangkok, Thailand, as part of Teams England and Wales to compete in the World Schools Debating Championships

13 students travelled to America on the Secondary Schools Exchange

*Free School Meals or English as an additional language*
WHERE WE WORK

The English-Speaking Union believes that children everywhere should have access to speaking and listening skills and so we aim to spread our offering as broadly as possible. This is enabled through our team of remote delivery staff, reporting to five regional ambassadors, who deliver workshops, programmes and judge competitions. They are supported by many dedicated members and other volunteers who co-ordinate and run the regional heats and finals of many of our competitions (see page 22), as well as running some regional activities in their entirety (see page 18). We are indebted to all of them.

Some of our programmes, such as Discover Debating, target schools with high levels of students eligible for Free School Meals or who have English as an Additional Language (many of them in the government’s designated Opportunity Areas). Others are open to all, with fee waivers and bursaries available to schools/individuals (for Debate Academy) in financial need.

From September 2018 to August 2019
ESU mentors and judges have delivered:

- 98 Schools’ Mace heats, plus the finals held at Dartmouth House
- 82 Discover Debating school programmes
- 69 Discover Your Voice workshops
- 26 London Debate Challenge borough and regional heats, plus the final held at Dartmouth House
- 19 hub days and a workshop for Public Speaking
- 10 Performing Shakespeare regional finals
- 8 House of Lords talking days including one chamber debate

‘One of the best things about debating is that you get to hear from some of the quieter people in class and you realise they’re really good.’
Ellie, Year 6 Discover Debating participant

PLUS

13 professional scholarships
10 mentors on five international debate tours
13 Secondary School Exchange students
126 Debate Academy students

SCHOOLS REACHED

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<tr>
<th>PSC Public Speaking Competition</th>
<th>SM Schools’ Mace</th>
<th>DD Discover Debating</th>
<th>PS Performing Shakespeare</th>
<th>PSPSC Primary Schools Public Speaking Competition</th>
<th>DYV Discover Your Voice</th>
<th>LDC London Debate Challenge</th>
<th>SSPSW Secondary Schools Public Speaking Workshops</th>
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<td>73</td>
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A YEAR IN PICTURES

We couldn’t possibly capture all the work that goes on across England and Wales in support of our charitable mission, but here are just a few of the highlights of the last academic year.

SEPTEMBER 2018

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP
ESU US President Quinn Peeper holds a centenary celebration breakfast. Pictured with him are Lucia Dumont Renard, VP ESU France (left) and Jane Easton, Director-General.

DONCASTER DEBATES
Joining forces with The Week Junior and children’s author Frank Cottrell Boyce, we hold The Big Debate Day in Doncaster for 150 local primary school children.

OCTOBER

OPEN HOUSE
For the first time in the ESU’s 100-year history, Dartmouth House opens its doors to the public as part of Open House London. Over 400 people visit in a single day.

MAY

GLOBAL GATHERING
Contestants from 47 nations and regions come to London for a week of cultural exchange, contests and workshops at the final of the International Public Speaking Competition.

JUNE

STAGE SUCCESS
Over 600 students from 73 schools (an increase of over 30 per cent) take part in the Performing Shakespeare Competition 2019, culminating with a grand final at Dartmouth House.

JULY

CENTENARY CELEBRATION
We celebrate the end of the ESU’s centenary year with members and supporters including Terence and Anne Mallinson, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and Lord Boateng.

AUGUST 2019

FULL HOUSE
Over 120 students from around the UK and the world attend Debate Academy. ‘I learnt about the world, made new friends and picked up skills I never knew I could,’ says Purba from Essex.

FEBRUARY

SPREADING THE WORD
Our new website goes live, making it easier for teachers to sign up for programmes, and for members and prospective members and donors to better understand what we do.

WOMEN OF THE WORLD
Helping young women achieve their potential is the theme of this year’s House of Lords Chamber Debate, for which we work with 168 pupils from state/maintained schools.

MACE GOES TO MERSEY
Liverpool state school students Patrick (left) and James win the Schools’ Mace 2019. Pictured with The Rt Hon. the Lord Blankett, guest judge, and Barbara Firth, governor.

IN FOR THE WIN
Pate’s Grammar School in Cheltenham wins best team (above) at the Public Speaking Competition and Lindemann scholar Steven Quinn runs the London Marathon, raising over £2,300 for the ESU.
Discover Debating is a long-term debating programme for primary school children aged 9-11. Through providing lesson plans, mentor support and professional development training for three teachers per school, it creates a sustainable culture of debating and supports oracy (speaking and listening) across the curriculum. In this academic year, our centenary, we provided the programme free to 82 primary schools with high levels of students eligible for Free School Meals or who have English as an Additional Language.

**CASE STUDY**

**St William’s Primary School, Norwich**

When Sarah Shirras, headteacher of St William’s Primary School, Norwich, asked her staff if they could predict which children in Reception would play the main parts in the Year 6 play – and they could – she realised something had to change. An ESU alumna herself, Sarah is well aware of the benefits of oracy skills, and so, when the school was offered the chance to take part in Discover Debating thanks to the generosity of the Norwich Freemen’s Charity, she jumped at it.

David Moreton and Katherine Paul, the Year 6 class teachers, were hesitant to take on extra work but were rapidly won over, thanks to having a mentor deliver the first term’s sessions. ‘After that, we thought “we can do this”,’ says Katherine. ‘Since Christmas we’ve done nearly all Mace debates – the kids love them.’

That much is clear when, having had only 10 minutes to prepare, two teams launch into an energetic debate on the motion ‘This house believes all pupils should have school meals.’ Class participation is actively sought and this, along with a barrage of questions from the floor and some very insightful reflections afterwards are expertly managed by Alice, the chair, and Will, the timekeeper.

As the year has gone on, the children have visibly grown in confidence. ‘Some children who have never contributed before have now taken part in a debate,’ says David. The effects have been felt in other lessons too. ‘I noticed in a history lesson recently that the children who were speaking up and making a point for their groups were not those who I would have expected,’ says Katherine.

David has noted improvements in their vocabulary and their ability to get on with one another, too. ‘The number of “likes”, “nos” and “waits” has reduced; and I often hear them saying, “well I heard what you said, but I think this”. They listen to one another.’

‘I would absolutely recommend Discover Debating,’ says Sarah. ‘I think the children will go to high school better equipped and with changed expectations of their own contributions.’

84% of pupils improved their ability to listen and respond in an argument
77% of pupils have learnt new ways to work together in a team
70% of pupils say debating has helped them to think about other people’s opinions and ideas

**WHAT THEY SAID**

‘Discover Debating makes you think deeply about things. You have to think about everyone involved, not just yourself.’

Ruby

‘I’ve learnt that if what you say isn’t engaging, people aren’t going to listen.’

Tamika

‘I’m really happy our school has done Discover Debating because now I can stand in front of a class and just go for it. This is my point – this is what I want to say – boom!’

Ellie

‘For the school to have been part of Discover Debating has been amazing. It’s given all the children the opportunity to have their voice heard, to be able to speak and to know that they’re going to be listened to. Their passion for speaking has been ignited and it’s given them a whole raft of skills – confidence, resilience, resolution – that they probably don’t even know they have.’

Hilary Anderson, Governor, St. William’s Primary School

1,968 students in 82 primary schools took part in our Discover Debating programme
246 teachers received CPD training as part of the programme
89% of pupils were more able to give coherent, structured arguments
84% of pupils improved their ability to listen and respond in an argument
77% of pupils have learnt new ways to work together in a team
70% of pupils say debating has helped them to think about other people’s opinions and ideas

‘Discover Debating provides a fantastic platform for children to express their thoughts and ideas, and challenges them to think critically and constructively. The programme has been a valuable addition to our school’s curriculum and has had a positive impact on the oracy skills of our pupils.’

Sarah Shirras, Headteacher, St William’s Primary School, Norwich

St William’s Primary School, Norwich
SECONDARY SCHOOL EXCHANGE
(Post Year 13)

The ESU’s Secondary School Exchange offers students the opportunity to spend time at an American high school at the end of Year 13. Feedback is overwhelmingly positive, with students reporting increased confidence, a better understanding of diverse perspectives and the sheer joy of being fully immersed in another culture.

This year we granted 13 scholarships to students to go to 11 US schools, from Connecticut to Tennessee.

IN NUMBERS

- 126 students in total
- 32% on bursaries
- 69% first time at Debate Academy
- 99% Rated Debate Academy excellent or good
- 91% strongly agreed or agreed that ‘Debate Academy increased my knowledge of the world’

‘Before my SSE year, I was a medium-sized fish in a very small pond, now I realise that the pond is so much bigger, and that I have so much room to grow. There is so much out there, so much diversity, and so much enriching learning to be had. I can’t wait to embrace whatever comes over the horizon next.’

Tom Rattner, SSE student at The Lawrenceville School

DISCOVER YOUR VOICE WORKSHOPS
(Years 5-13)

Discover Your Voice workshops are a great introduction to our work, giving young people a taster of debating and public speaking. Running for half a day or a full day, they can be tailored to a school’s needs, be that general activities to get students used to expressing their opinions, or a more focused workshop brushing up on competition technique.

This year 2,832 pupils from 69 schools took part in a DYV workshop, with well over 900 participating in April alone – a record for the charity. Our thanks go to our branches who often sponsor their local schools enabling them to take part.

IN NUMBERS

- 2,832 DYV participants
- 69 workshops
- 34 of the sessions were subsidised
- Bookings up 93% on 2017/18
- 100% of teachers said students’ speaking contributions are cleaner and easier to follow

IN NUMBERS

- 120 teachers received a standalone CPD session
- 246 teachers received a CPD session as part of the Discover Debating programme
- 100% of CPD sessions delivered in state schools

LINDEMANN FELLOWSHIP

Following a legacy left by Brigadier Charles Lindemann in 1972, the English-Speaking Union offers up to three grants a year, worth $50,000 each, for exceptional postdoctoral scientists of astronomy, biophysics, chemistry, engineering, geology, geophysics, mathematics and physics to carry out their research at a host institution in the USA. We also offer a £1,000 grant to assist with travel costs. This year the fellowships were awarded to Jutta Toscano (PhD Physical Chemistry) from the University of Oxford; Chandrima Ganguly (PhD Cosmology), from the University of Cambridge, and Devesh Mistry (PhD Physics and Astronomy, right) from the University of Leeds.

We have also continued to run outreach events to get more young people interested in and talking about science. This year we held two, at Christ Church, Oxford, for 30 sixth formers from an under-performing school, and at Magdalene College, Cambridge, for 113 primary school children.

IN NUMBERS

- 3 $50,000 fellowships awarded
- 143 children reached through Lindemann outreach events

IN NUMBERS

- 88% strongly agreed or agreed that ‘Debate Academy helped me to build personal relationships’
- 88.5% agreed or strongly agreed that ‘Debate Academy increased how much I value learning about multiple perspectives on a topic’

‘Debate academy has been one of the best experiences of my life. The past five years have been incredible thanks to the people and the mentors.’

Isabella Garnett-Clarke

IN NUMBERS

- 62% of participants came from state schools
- 100% strongly agreed that ‘Debate Academy increased my knowledge about the world around me’
- 90% strongly agreed that ‘the SSE has made me more likely to seek out new opportunities in life’
- 90% strongly agreed that ‘the SSE has increased how I value new perspectives’

‘Debate academy has been one of the best experiences of my life. The past five years have been incredible thanks to the people and the mentors.’

Isabella Garnett-Clarke
The English-Speaking Union’s Schools’ Mace, the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England, honed students’ debate skills in a fun, competitive environment. This year’s competition was won by St Francis Xavier’s College, a state school in Liverpool. The Rt Hon. the Lord Blunkett, guest chair of judges, said, ‘Now more than ever, we need people who are able to listen to each other, who can put a coherent argument and who can understand and combat the other person’s point of view in a reasonable and sensible fashion.’

‘Debating has taught me that there’s always an opposing argument to my own and that it’s a credible argument; it cannot be dismissed too easily.’

Patrick, Schools’ Mace winner 2019

‘Performing Shakespeare and other ESU competitions have been transformative for our students. They encourage pupils to understand the power of oracy while improving their self-esteem and confidence.’

Sarah Peacock, Head of English, De Aston School, Lincolnshire

The Performing Shakespeare Competition encourages students to engage with and develop a love of Shakespeare and his use of the English language prior to the compulsory GCSE curriculum. Through performing a monologue or duologue from any of Shakespeare’s texts they develop their confidence, creativity and ability for self-expression.

‘If you can get to grips with Shakespeare you can get to grips with anything. It’s taught me about the power of speech, by speeches, we elect people because of what they say, I’ve won arguments because of the speeches they make. But it’s not just about speaking, I’ve had to understand Henry’s motivation. You teach yourself that you are Henry, that these are your people and you need every single one of them to fight for you. I’ve loved it.’

Toby wasn’t interested in drama until he entered the Performing Shakespeare competition last year,’ says his mother, Peggy. ‘He made it as far as the regional finals and came home determined to make it to the nationals this time around. He is dyslexic and has ADD so anything like this is stacked against him, but the competition has given him the belief that if you work at something, you can do it.’

‘If you work at something, you can do it.’

Just 14 years old, Toby’s slight physique belies his stage presence. When he starts his address as King Henry V (Act III, scene 3) in the final, we, the audience are battle-weary farmers, desperate to go home. But as he urges us to fight on, there’s an almost tangible change in the atmosphere. At his final rallying cry, many of us are ready to follow him to France there and then. ‘It’s taught me about the power of oracy while improving their self-esteem and confidence.’

Sarah Peacock, Head of English, De Aston School, Lincolnshire

IN NUMBERS

532 students from 266 schools competed in the Schools’ Mace debating competition 2019

1,274 students from 267 schools competed in the ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition 2019

58% of schools received fee waivers

22% of state schools

21 schools in disadvantaged communities received fee waivers

73% of teachers agreed students’ public speaking skills improved as a result of this competition

83% of teachers would recommend this competition to other schools

100% of teachers agreed that their students have improved their debating skills as a result of the competition

100% of teachers agreed that their students felt more confident in expressing themselves as a result of taking part

IN NUMBERS

640 students from 73 schools competed in the Performing Shakespeare Competition 2019

57% from state schools

1,983 people have so far viewed the final on Facebook

86% of teachers agreed students’ oracy skills improved as a result of this competition

86% of teachers agreed students feel more confident in expressing themselves as a result of this competition

86% of teachers would recommend this competition to other schools

CASE STUDY

Tobias, Ditcham Park School, Hampshire, joint winner (with Gabriel, Lincoln Minster School, Lincolnshire)

‘Toby wasn’t interested in drama until he entered the Performing Shakespeare competition last year,’ says his mother, Peggy. ‘He made it as far as the regional finals and came home determined to make it to the nationals this time around. He is dyslexic and has ADD so anything like this is stacked against him, but the competition has given him the belief that if you work at something, you can do it.’

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57% of teachers agreed students feel more confident in expressing themselves as a result of this competition

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LONDON DEBATE CHALLENGE
(Years 7-9)

The London Debate Challenge gives Key Stage 3 students from state and maintained schools across the capital the opportunity to develop their skills in critical analysis and reasoning, as well as developing their confidence in expressing and delivery through a mixture of expert training and competition.

PRIMARY SCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITIONS
(Years 4-6)

Recognising the importance of oracy activities at primary level, over recent years three of the larger ESU branches – Colchester, Ouse Valley and South Wales – have each developed their own, highly successful primary-level initiatives, comprising workshops, a junior debate academy and competitions. The majority are volunteer-run by highly respected educationalists and are free to the schools involved.

‘Having a visitor who really knows how this works to introduce this meant that the children were engaged and interested!’

Teacher, Bromham CofE Primary School

IN NUMBERS

235 students from 47 schools competed in the London Debate Challenge
47% increase on last year
100% from state schools

IN NUMBERS

Colchester
30 schools
60 workshops
936 pupils

Ouse Valley
20 schools
36 workshops
876 pupils

South Wales
23 schools
3 workshops
215 pupils

Total number of pupils involved in ESU primary competitions: 2,027

REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOPS

The South Wales branch also delivers a high number of workshops for secondary schools in the area as preparation for the ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition.

‘A fantastic experience for pupils. Excellent preparation for competitions and the EN1 element of the GCSE.’

Participating school

IN NUMBERS

238 students involved in 10 different schools
100% of responding teachers rated the workshops excellent or very good
80% of responding teachers agreed students had improved their confidence in expressing themselves

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION
(ages 16-20)

The International Public Speaking Competition brings the best young speakers from all over the world to the UK for a week of cultural exchange and public speaking contests. This year was our largest competition yet, reaching over 1,000,000 young people in six continents. Forty-nine participants from 47 nations and regions came to London, where Ennio, representing Spain, was adjudged the winner at the Royal Institution in Mayfair.

IN NUMBERS

Over 1,000,000 participants
47 nations and regions represented in the final
5 nations represented in the grand final (Australia, China, Lithuania, Philippines and Spain)

CASE STUDY
Catalina Paz Menendez, Argentina representative
‘The cultural exchange at the IPSC was out of this world. Meeting new people from different parts of the world, learning about their way of thinking, their ideas, their religions – I was so impressed. I have made strong friendships and that for me is the most important and rich part of this whole experience.

IN NUMBERS

68 young people trained
Final squads (5 per team) were
70% female
60% state school and
20% BAME

WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS
(ages 14-19)

The World Schools Debating Championships (WSDC) represent the pinnacle of English-language secondary school debating across the globe. The ESU sponsors and trains Team England and Team Wales. At this year’s championships in Bangkok, Thailand, Team England placed third overall, with Rachel rated 10th best speaker at the competition.

IN NUMBERS

62 students involved in 10 different schools
100% of responding teachers rated the workshops excellent or very good
80% of responding teachers agreed students had improved their confidence in expressing themselves

CASE STUDY
Liberty, Team England
‘In a world filled with conflict, hatred and censored speech, WSDC represents an important opportunity for young adults to come together and participate in fair, respectful discussion.’
Our International Reach

The English-Speaking Union currently has 55 International ESUs spanning the globe from Albania to Yemen. Representatives from 30 countries attended the International Council Meeting in London in May 2018, held to coincide with our prestigious International Public Speaking Competition (see page 19) for which many international ESUs run a feeder contest. We also sent a total of 10 debate mentors on tours organised by ESU Denmark, USA, Romania, Italy and Japan, reaching approximately 1,000 young people with show debates and training.

ESU US

Thanks to the efforts of our branches and coordinators, who facilitated competitions at the school and branch level, 52 students from across the USA graced the stage at Lincoln Center for the 36th ESU National Shakespeare Competition (NSC; below). Additionally, the new NSC:Online project used technology to reach budding Shakespeareans without a local branch, extending the ESU US’s reach into new communities across the US. More than 1,500 students competed in the Middle School Public Speaking Competition (NSC; below), and 54 teachers attended a Shakespeare workshop, and we sponsored an English film screening at the school and branch level, 52 students from 40 schools took part and 28 participants from 19 different cities made it to the final. We were delighted that our winner, Greta (right), went on to be one of the six finalists at the IPSC in London.

ESU CHILE

2018-2019 saw over 64 schools and more than 750 students participating in our events, including a significant increase in the number of state schools. In early April the Teatro Municipal de Santiago played host to our public speaking competition, a two-day event full of practical workshops and inspiring speeches. With over 30 schools in attendance, it was the largest competition of its kind in ESU Chile’s history. And in September, Chile’s most prestigious state school, the Instituto Nacional, reached the semi-final stage of our debating tournament, a significant achievement considering it was their first year as members of ESU Chile.

ESU LITHUANIA

The national PSC organised by ESU Lithuania is becoming one of the best English competitions in the country. This year we advertised with the English Teacher Association and mailed all high schools and educational centres in the country. Between 30 and 40 schools took part and 28 participants from 19 different cities made it to the final. We were delighted that our winner, Greta (right), went on to be one of the six finalists at the IPSC in London.

ESU GEORGIA

This year we were delighted when Masa Tkemaladze, an English teacher from a small town in Georgia, was awarded the runner-up prize for the ESU’s International Oracy Teacher Award.

ESU FRANCE

On Saturday, 23 March, Eve, a student from Lycée Joachim du Bellay in Angers, beat 11 other contestants from nine schools to win the French National Public Speaking Competition 2019. In May, she represented France at the IPSC in London.

ESU JAPAN

ESU Japan’s 20-year long work to promote parliamentary debate has secured it a place in the national high school curriculum from 2022. Focusing on the young, ESU Japan has switched from hosting the university debate competitions to co-sponsoring the High School Parliamentary Debate Union of Japan Competition. It has embarked on a three-year (2019-2021) programme to foster global communicators, which aims, inter alia, to help high school teachers learn how to teach debate (pictured). ESU Japan’s close ties with the ESU in London which, for example, sends ESU mentors to Japan, will continue to be a key factor in this.

ESU MALAYSIA

ESU Malaysia has had a number of highlights this year. Imelda (left) was adjudged the winner of 12 finalists in our national public speaking competition; we ran a successful presentation and public speaking workshop, and we sponsored an essay writing competition organised by the Ministry of Education and open to all government schools. Council members of ESU Malaysia were invited as judges for the competition.

For a full list of our International ESUs, see page 31.
The English-Speaking Union was founded without whom our work would not be possible. We are immensely grateful to all our members and volunteers, without whom our work would not be possible.

Our branches
- Brighton Hove & District
- Bristol
- Buckinghamshire
- Cambridge Welland Valley
- Canterbury & East Kent
- Chester
- Colchester & North Essex
- Cornwall
- Devon & Exeter
- Eastbourne
- Epping Forest
- Guildford & District
- Hastings 1066
- Herefordshire
- Hertfordshire
- Lincolnshire
- Liverpool & Merseyside
- London
- Mid-Cheshire
- Norwich & Norfolk
- Ouse Valley
- Oxfordshire
- Salisbury & Wiltshire
- South Wales
- Suffolk
- Taunton & District
- Tunbridge Wells
- West Sussex
- Worcestershire
- York & District

Spotlight on Epping Forest
‘Epping Forest is a somewhat elderly but active branch which focuses on raising funds for schools in the area to take part in the ESU’s activities. These funds are raised through a lively events programme which this year included visits to the Royal Festival Hall, the Bevis Marks Synagogue and a holiday to Dumfries and Galloway (pictured). In the last financial year, we funded £4,000 worth of educational work in the East Anglian region, providing various schools with Discover Your Voice workshops, Discover Debating and with fee waivers for the ESU’s national competitions. My husband (the chairman) and I attended one of the workshops and it was very interesting to see how some of the pupils who had seemed most introverted at first were much more forthcoming by the end. It really reinforced the message about how important speaking skills are in life and we are delighted if our contributions can help schools which would not otherwise be able to develop these skills.’

Gill Meagher, Treasurer

Spotlight on Lincolnshire
‘Lincolnshire is the second largest county in England and one of the least populated so the branch limits its social programme to three or four high-quality, mainly speaker-led events a year. Chief among these is the autumn fundraising dinner, at which Michael Buerk (pictured, centre) was the speaker in 2018, and which netted well over £2,000. In addition to some scholarship funds started by former chairmen and held at Dartmouth House, we raise around £3,000 a year for the ESU’s oracy programmes and this year sponsored three schools on the Discover Debating programme, as well as funding workshops and a travel bursary to a school wishing to take pupils to attend the Performing Shakespeare final.

We work with Dartmouth House to find suitable schools in our area and also have excellent local contacts ourselves through our committee members, Jenny Wheeldon, a former primary school head teacher. We expect to double the number of schools on the Discover Debating programme in this financial year. Since we have invited some of the children from the programme to present at our AGM, more and more members are keen to spread the word to their local schools too.’

Michael Graydon, Chairman

Spotlight on Buckinghamshire
‘Buckinghamshire is the ESU’s youngest branch, formed in 2017, when I realised that schools in the county were not being reached by the existing ESU branch network. Having attended a debating course at Dartmouth House years ago, and as the chair of governors of the largest primary school in High Wycombe, I recognise the power of public speaking and the importance of giving children the confidence to have their own thoughts and to express them. In the past year we organised two competition heats, one for the ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition and one for Performing Shakespeare. We raised a bit of money – via a car boot sale, a barbecue and through income from talks – to cover some of the hospitality costs and they were fantastic events with several teams from many schools involved. If we can do all that with just six members, just think what we can achieve in future! We have a good number of sign-ups for this year already and we aim to broaden our reach and encourage schools who have never considered public speaking to take part, giving their students a chance to show at a local – or even a national – level how great they are.’

Simon Kearey, Chairman

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- Epping Forest
- Guildford & District
- Hastings 1066
- Herefordshire
- Hertfordshire
- Lincolnshire
- Liverpool & Merseyside
- London
- Mid-Cheshire
- Norwich & Norfolk
- Ouse Valley
- Oxfordshire
- Salisbury & Wiltshire
- South Wales
- Suffolk
- Taunton & District
- Tunbridge Wells
- West Sussex
- Worcestershire
- York & District

IN NUMBERS
- 2,027 primary school students took part in branch-led regional public speaking competitions
- 240 children took part in branch-sponsored DYV sessions
- 124 children took part in branch-sponsored Discover Debating programmes
- £48,000 raised by branches for educational purposes
- 6 volunteer Performing Shakespeare coordinators
- 3,000+ volunteering hours dedicated to the ESU’s educational work
- 27 volunteer Public Speaking Competition coordinators

Thank you to all our branches for their support. For more information on how to volunteer, please see esu.org
The English-Speaking Union’s Oracy Culture Award is the only national award which recognises and celebrates those schools placing oracy at the heart of their curriculum. This year’s winners were Llanedeyrn Primary School, Cardiff and King Edward VI School, Morpeth (secondary). ‘We’re thrilled to get the award,’ says Bev Knuckey, Deputy Head of Llanedeyrn (pictured). ‘It’s an acknowledgement of the value of the work we’ve been doing, and will help us to share our practice with other schools.’

**OUR AWARDS**

**ORACY CULTURE AWARD**

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**INTERNATIONAL ORACY TEACHER AWARD**

Our inaugural award to recognise excellence and outreach in oracy education across the globe had a fantastic response, attracting entries from teachers in five continents. Of these, Robbie McDonald, a history and debate teacher from Broxburn Academy, Scotland, was judged the winner, with Maia Tkemaladze, an English teacher from Sachkhere Public School, Georgia, the runner-up.

‘The success of oracy education depends on the efforts and expertise of dedicated, knowledgeable teachers. It is heart-warming to hear how entrants have helped young people who have not had the benefit of a privileged social upbringing to find their voices and use them to good effect.’

Professor Neil Mercer, Director, Oracy Cambridge and 2019 judge

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AWARDS**

The ESU’s biennial English Language Awards celebrate and reward innovation and good practice in resources which aim to improve oracy skills in the English Language – be they apps or games, coursebooks or puppets. Thirty-two entries were assessed by 13 judges and the winners were announced at a packed awards ceremony at Dartmouth House on 20 November, at which respected ELT professional Jeremy Harmer gave a keynote speech. Winners included resources from Oxford University Press, Norwich Institute for Language Education and National Geographic Learning.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

The work we do with our strategic partners allows us to reach more diverse audiences and create long-lasting impact within the field of oracy education.

**THE WEEK JUNIOR: THE BIG DEBATE DAY**

Since 2017 we have been working with The Week Junior, the award-winning current affairs magazine for children aged between 8 and 14, advising on its ‘The Big Debate’ page. This year we strengthened our partnership by hosting the first ever Big Debate Day, chaired by acclaimed children’s author Frank Cottrell Boyce. We brought together 150 primary school children from across some of the most deprived parts of Doncaster, a government-designated Opportunity Area, to watch a live debate from their Year 6 peers from Arbourthorne Community Primary School in Sheffield and to learn some of these skills for themselves. Workshops included sessions on how to structure an argument, developing a speaking style and how to listen and respond to the arguments of others. Three of the schools involved subsequently signed up for the Discover Debating programme.

**IN NUMBERS**

- 150 students
- 6 schools
- 54% the percentage of students speaking English as an additional language at one of the attending schools
- 30+% the percentage of students receiving Free School Meals at all schools involved

**WHAT THEY SAID**

‘I really believe that we put far too much emphasis on reading and writing in schools and nowhere near enough on speaking and listening. We are living in an age where children’s recreational time is spent listening only to people they agree with and shouting at those they don’t. To listen tolerantly and to speak graciously – these are world-changing skills; skills that have to be taught and cherished.’

Frank Cottrell Boyce, author

‘We often see our Special Educational Need children struggling to get ideas onto paper simply because they’re not able to verbalise them beforehand. These workshops help to close that gap.’

Neil Harris, Assistant Head, Castle Hills Primary School, Scawthorpe

‘Debating has boosted my confidence of speaking in front of an audience. I used to be really shy and it’s helped me come out of my shell.’

Maddison, Year 6 pupil, Arbourthorne Community Primary School
Each year the House of Lords opens its doors to citizens from all walks of life for a special chamber debate, enabling them to engage in a lively discussion of important social and political questions. This year we worked with 168 pupils from nine state/maintained schools to prepare them to debate the motion ‘How can we ensure that girls and young women are able to achieve their potential in the UK and around the world?’ The debate followed several sessions where participants had the opportunity to meet and question inspiring women. Tanya Barron, Chief Executive of Plan International UK, the event partner, said: ‘This debate marks a significant step towards tackling the many barriers to success that girls experience from a young age. We must listen to girls in order to create effective solutions to the problems they face.’

We recognise that in the current state education system the majority of young people are being denied the opportunity to develop high-quality oracy skills. The Oracy Network, of which we are founding members, and the Oracy All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) help us to advocate for this right on a national scale.

In spring 2019 the APPG, chaired by Emma Hardy MP, launched a new inquiry to investigate the current provision of oracy education in the UK, to assess the value and impact of oracy education, and to identify the barriers to children accessing and receiving quality oracy education. We are supporting this inquiry and have submitted evidence.

Our thanks go to everyone who has supported us in 2018/19, especially our branches and volunteers who do so much to help organise and deliver our educational programmes and competitions.

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The work we do changes lives. We teach young people to speak out for what they believe in and open their eyes and ears to different cultures and ways of thinking. We give them the confidence to take on new challenges – and the resilience to persevere when things get tough. In all these ways, the English-Speaking Union helps young people to achieve and surpass their goals, and to change their lives and communities for the better.

But don’t just take our word for it. Here’s what some of our alumni have to say:

‘Winning the Public Speaking Competition gave me the confidence I could do things on a national scale.’
Michael Crick, Public Speaking Competition alumnus, journalist and author

‘The Secondary School Exchange increased my confidence enormously which I think is key to achieving in life.’
KT Tunstall, SSE alumnus, singer-songwriter and musician

‘The ESU gave me confidence that I could be a winner in a strange land.’
The Rt Hon. the Lord Paul Boateng, Schools’ Mace alumnus and Chairman of the English-Speaking Union

‘The ESU ensured that we found ourselves in the turbulent years of adolescence. As a child, you are always on the edge of the world of ideas. However, the ESU, through the Schools’ Mace, which we’ve participated in since the age of 14, brought us firmly into that world. It introduced us to an array of new ideas but also, crucially, taught us how to express those ideas. This meant we could share our experience with friends at home in Liverpool, who hadn’t been given the chance we had, and have discussions that we might otherwise never have had. In this way, the fruits of the ESU’s work were multiplied.’
Patrick and James, Schools’ Mace 2019 winners

‘If you teach kids to debate, you give them a chance to have their voice heard, and you give them the power not to be ignored.’
Tommy Swapp, Schools’ Mace alumnus and pupil barrister

‘If I hadn’t done the Schools’ Mace, I wouldn’t be presenting Channel 4 News now.’
Krishnan Guru-Murthy, Schools’ Mace alumnus, journalist and broadcaster

‘I feel the skills I’ve learned will help me in later life because if there is a situation where I disagree with someone, or maybe the government, my skills will help me make sure I can get my point across.’
Alice, Discover Debating pupil

‘I’ve learnt new ways to act and how to get on with people. Some of my classmates helped me with learning my lines and that has given me a better bond with them.’
Ryan, Performing Shakespeare 2019 participant
HONORARY OFFICERS
(ex officio Trustees of the charity)
Chairman
The Rt Hon. the Lord Boateng
Deputy Chairmen
Derek Morgan OBE, DL, CCMI
Dr Tony Wood
Honorary Treasurer
Roderick Chamberlain

GOVERNORS
The following served as governors during the year:
Natasha Dyer
(to 26 September 2018)
Barbara Firth
Andrew Hay
Alice Heard
Lady Susan Inkin
Alex Just
Ellen Punter
Professor James Raven
James Scruby
David Shaw
Jonathan Sobczyk-Boddington
Anikka Weerasinghe

BRANCH CHAIRS
Current at 1.10.19
Jim Gowans
Brighton Hove & District
Nigel Currie
Bristol
Simon Kearey
Buckinghamshire
George Metcalfe
Canterbury & East Kent
Terry Rimmer
Chester
Brian Cooke
Colchester & North Essex

Property income is derived from two buildings in Mayfair, bought in the 1920s to fulfil the ESU’s role as an international friendship organisation. One property is leased out commercially. Trading income derives from the management of Dartmouth House as an events venue. Income from property and trading covers core operating costs, ensuring that monies from fundraising and sponsorship are spent directly on educational programme delivery.
SUPPORT OUR WORK

If, like us, you believe in the power of communication, there are several ways in which you can help the English-Speaking Union

VOLUNTEER
Giving your time is one of the most valuable things you can do. If you would like to volunteer to organise, judge or help out at our competitions across England and Wales, please see esu.org/volunteer

BECOME A MEMBER
Membership is what makes our charitable work possible. For as little as £55 a year you can become part of a 5,000-strong community which believes that speaking and listening skills are central to personal fulfilment and cultural understanding. For more information please see esu.org/become-a-member

INTRODUCE A SCHOOL
Our varied debating, public speaking and cultural exchange programmes and competitions help young people improve their confidence, oracy skills and knowledge of the world. Subsidies are available for schools with high levels of pupils eligible for Free School Meals or who have English as an Additional Language. Find out more at esu.org

BOOK AN EVENT
Over 30 per cent of proceeds on hire charges from Dartmouth House go towards our education programmes, so by holding a wedding, a drinks party or a conference here you’ll be helping to support our charitable work. To find out more, see esu.org/Dartmouth-house or speak to our events team on 020 7529 1554.

DONATE/SPONSOR
Donating to or sponsoring the English-Speaking Union will help us to address imbalances in opportunity and ensure that many more young people have the oracy skills and confidence they need to thrive. To donate, please see portal.esu.org/donation or call the finance team on 020 7529 1582.

For further information on all our work and how to support us, please see esu.org