



# KINGSWOOD SECONDARY ACADEMY

## Oracy Programme

### Context

At the Kingswood Secondary Academy, we believe that it is essential that students learn to talk confidently, appropriately, and sensitively. Through oracy students learn to think carefully and deepen their understanding about the spoken language they are using. In developing their language skills students learn to construct informed argument and debate which in turn develops their literacy skills.

In 2016 with the support of President Kennedy School in Coventry we established an oracy programme in Humanities for years 7 and 8. We committed to teaching all KS3 as Humanities and not as discreet subjects and started teaching Y7 through oracy and year 8 through literacy. The rationale was that students need to know how to identify, explain and develop an argument before they can write it.

### Importance of Oracy

Oracy matters as so much in life depends on being a good communicator. If we can teach good communication and language skills, we can support the students' ability to learn, reflect and understand how to interact with others. The teaching of oracy skills is the foundation of learning. Once the students develop their speaking and listening skills, they can then commit to paper and develop their writing and reading skills. The aim of oracy is to motivate the students to express and share their knowledge and understanding verbally with each other.

### Talking Points

In KS3 Humanities students are introduced to 'Talking Points' through themes. For example, the first unit in year 7 focuses on Corby and students learn about their place in Corby and how they belong. The lessons have a History, Geography or RS focus.

Students are given a statement and crucially, time to think about this. Students wishing to talk stand and one student starts by saying why they Agree or Challenge the statement. When they have finished speaking, they will ask another student to contribute and they can respond to the 'Talking Point' using ABC (Agree, Build or Challenge). Students can stand up at any point of the 'Talking Point' in response to what is being said. The teacher does not join in with the 'Talking Point' – it's all about the student's thinking.



TALKING  
POINT

Identity is not important.



TALKING  
POINT

People are attracted to Corby by adverts on the London Underground