Teacher Briefing Document

A partnership between Equalitas Professional Services and Charlton Athletic Community Trust

Welcome and Overview

Welcome to **The Oracy Cup**, an exciting new competition designed to give every pupil the opportunity to find and celebrate their voice.

The Oracy Cup is delivered in partnership by **Equalitas** and **Charlton Athletic Community Trust**. The Oracy Cup invites schools across Kent and South-East London to build confidence, teamwork, and communication through speaking and listening.

This project brings education and sport together - combining Equalitas' expertise in learning and inclusion with CACT's powerful community spirit and commitment to giving young people a platform to shine.

Equalitas says:
"Every young person deserves the chance to be heard. The Oracy Cup is about giving pupils - especially those who might not always speak up - the confidence to share their ideas and believe their voice matters."

Charlton Athletic Community Trust says:
"Teamwork, communication, and aspiration are at the heart of everything we do. Through The Oracy Cup, we're proud to help young people use their voices to inspire others both on and off the pitch."

Aims and Educational Rationale

The Oracy Cup is built on the belief that **communication is a life-changing skill**. It draws on leading UK research from the **Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)**, **Oracy Cambridge (supported by Bexley Oracy Network** and **Voice 21 Oracy Framework**, which show that developing speaking and listening skills improves academic outcomes, confidence, and wellbeing — especially for disadvantaged pupils.

Core Aims:

- Help pupils become confident, articulate communicators.
- Narrow the "communication gap" for disadvantaged learners.
- Build teamwork, empathy, and social confidence.
- Celebrate inclusion, community, and achievement through Oracy.

Building on Existing Practice

The Oracy Cup is designed to complement and celebrate the Oracy work already happening in schools. We recognise that many educators are already embedding speaking and listening across the curriculum in powerful ways. This initiative offers a joyful and structured opportunity to showcase that work, deepen pupil engagement, and connect Oracy to wider themes of confidence, inclusion, and community.

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Connecting Oracy to Careers and Aspirations

The Oracy Cup also supports schools in meeting key elements of the **Gatsby Benchmarks** — particularly Benchmarks 4 (Linking curriculum learning to careers), 5 (Encounters with employers and employees), and 6 (Experiences of workplaces). Through authentic speaking opportunities, interaction with role models (e.g. Charlton players, media professionals), and celebration events that mirror real-world contexts, pupils gain insight into communication as a vital career skill. Schools may wish to involve careers leads in planning and promotion, helping pupils see how their voice can shape their future.

Competition Structure and Timeline

Target Groups:

- **Primary:** Ages 9–11
- **Secondary:** Ages 12–15

Competition Period: September – November 2026

Timeline Highlights:

- **Monday 21st September 2026:** Official launch, school registration and teacher resources shared
- **September – November:** Schools deliver Oracy Cup tutor-time lessons and run internal heats
- **Friday 13th November:** School winners submitted to Equalitas and Charlton Athletic Community Trust.
- **Monday 16th November – Friday 20th November:** Judging and finalist selection
- **December:** CACT celebration events (TV Production Day, Press Conference, Matchday Experience)

Competition Format:

1. Schools run the Oracy Cup internally (in tutor time or class).
2. Pupils prepare and perform short speeches on their chosen topics using the provided lesson plans and models.
3. Schools select their winning entries to submit to Equalitas.
4. CACT and Equalitas judge and celebrate the finalists.

Competition Themes

- Careers in Sport
- The Power of Sport
- The Power of the Badge

How to Use the Tutor-Time Lessons

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Each school receives **three short, 20-minute lesson plans**, ready to slot into tutor sessions or class assemblies.
They can be taught weekly, fortnightly, or as a short preparation series. The lesson plans and judging process have been informed by the Voice 21/Oracy Cambridge Oracy Framework.

Lesson Themes:

1. *Finding Your Voice* – building confidence and self-expression
2. *Building and Structuring Speech* – developing content and organisation
3. *Speaking to Inspire* – rehearsing and performing with pride

Tips for Delivery:

- Encourage every pupil to participate — effort and courage count.
- Focus on clarity, structure, and confidence rather than memorisation.
- Create a safe, supportive space where pupils listen and cheer each other on.
- Use the reflection prompts to help pupils self-assess and celebrate growth.

Judging Criteria Explained

The Oracy Cup celebrates both skill and spirit. Entries will be judged against **four key criteria**:

Criterion	What We're Looking For	Examples
Clarity	Pupils express ideas clearly and choose words carefully.	Strong structure, clear tone, easy to follow.
Confidence	Pupils show self-belief and composure when speaking.	Good posture, steady pace, expressive delivery.
Content	Pupils share original, thoughtful ideas that engage the listener.	Well-reasoned points, interesting topic choice.
Teamwork	Pupils listen, support, and give feedback to peers.	Respectful turn-taking, encouragement, active listening.

How the criteria are used:

Schools should use all four criteria during their internal Oracy Cup activities and competition. This includes observing how pupils listen, support one another and respond to feedback. Schools should then select up to two winning entries for submission. Submitted audio entries will be judged primarily on Clarity, Confidence and Content. **Top tip:** Reinforce that "winning" isn't just about being the loudest speaker — it's about growing in confidence, being authentic, and helping others do the same.

Supporting Pupils

- **Encourage preparation:** Let pupils brainstorm, rehearse, and give each other feedback.
- **Include everyone:** Scaffold for quieter pupils — pair them up, or allow creative formats (storytelling, poems, persuasive talks).

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- **Celebrate progress:** Use certificates or classroom shout-outs to recognise bravery and growth.
- **Link to real life:** Talk about how communication helps in school, interviews, friendships, and community life.

Prizes and Celebration Events

All schools submitting winning entries will receive **Charlton Athletic match tickets**.
Finalists will be invited to special experiences including:

- **3rd Place:** Charlton TV Production Day – behind-the-scenes experience in sports media.
- **2nd Place:** Charlton Press Conference Experience – meet players and ask questions alongside journalists.
- **1st Place:** Matchday Experience – join commentators live in the commentary box at Charlton Athletic vs Swansea on Saturday 12th December or Charlton Athletic Women vs Arsenal Women on Sunday 20th December.

Equalitas will work closely with schools and families to support transport, attendance, and accessibility for all winners.

Submit your Oracy Cup entry

When your school is ready, submit your winning entry using the form on our website. We request that schools submit a maximum of **2 entries**, selected from their internal competition(s).

Please ensure:

- The entry is uploaded as an MP3 or WAV audio file labelled as: SchoolName_Secondary_Entry1/2 or SchoolName_Primary_Entry1/2
- The entry is no longer than 2 minutes long.
- The recording features the pupil delivering their Oracy Cup speech
- Teacher name, school name, and pupil entrant name are completed in the form.
- **The deadline to submit entries will be 11pm on Friday 13th November 2026.**

Contacts and Support

For questions, support, or submission guidance, please contact:

Equalitas Professional Services:
www.equalitas.co.uk
teachertraining@equalitas.co.uk

Charlton Athletic Community Trust:
www.cact.org.uk

Together, we're helping young people find their voice - and use it to change their world.

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