

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations that your child has been chosen to represent their school in Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge! This is a fantastic achievement and we hope you are very proud of them.

The West Midlands "Speak Out" Challenge! is a public speaking competition which gives young people across the West Midlands the training, skills and platform for their voices to be heard. The structure of our events has changed due to the Coronavirus epidemic and we wanted to let you know how they will work, the steps we have taken to ensure the experience is safe and successful for your child and how you can support them.

The safety of our participants is our top priority. We have created a Safeguarding at Digital Finals document, which details all of the steps we have taken to ensure the safety of your child at our events.

Your child's teacher will be sharing all the dates of their events with you, and information about attending their Digital Final. All we need from you is your consent for your child to attend each event - we will be sending out consent forms closer to the time.

### **The Digital Final Workshop**

We are offering every participant the opportunity to attend a live workshop, hosted by a professional public speaking trainer. This is hosted in a secure password protected environment on Zoom and delivered by a trainer who is DBS checked and has undergone safeguarding training. The workshop is designed to boost the confidence of our speakers, and give them some tips for filming their speeches at home. The workshop is optional. If your child is unwilling or unable to participate in their workshop, they can still submit their speech to the Digital Final.

### **The Digital Final**

Rather than performing to a live audience at a Regional Final, students will be submitting a filmed version of their speech. We will provide them with all the information that they need to film their speech at home, as well as the opportunity to attend the training workshop. The films will be shown at a Digital Final event hosted on Zoom along with speeches from other students from across London and Essex. They will be shown to those who attend the webinar, judged live by a panel of VIP judges using the same criteria we use at our live events and the winning speech will go through to our semi-final. We would love for you to attend the event – you will be sent a joining link closer to the time.

Please do let us know if you have any questions or concerns about your child's Speak Out Challenge experience. You can reach us at [hello@speakerstrust.org](mailto:hello@speakerstrust.org) or 02070732614.

Thank you for your support and we very much look forward to hearing your child's speech!

All the Best,

The Speakers Trust Team

