



# Speakers for Schools

**Year in review 2015-16:** Sparking the imagination of the next generation

I thought it was brilliant that someone with such high status comes around, actually interacts with schools and students, and even better he let us ask him questions personally.

Raj, Year 11, City and Islington College

**2011**

Speakers for Schools programme is launched

140 events hosted during first year

# Welcome

## Why we are here

Each year we help hundreds of state schools and colleges access talks from the UK's leading figures in business, science, arts, media, academia sharing their insights and inspiration with the next generation, free of charge. These are stimulating opportunities that young people would not have otherwise – our state schools need all the help they can get creating these one-of-a-kind interactions.

## More than a talk

Five years on from our October 2011 launch, we are so much more than just a one-off event for our schools. These talks are changing the way leading figures engage with, inspire and interact with the next generation to better equip them for their future. This includes our speakers generously offering opportunities beyond talks, such as invaluable engagement with their organisations. To further these invaluable opportunities, in the coming period the charity will be launching a platform to help these companies widen their offer to young people with the most need, starting with work experience.

## Thank you

The support of amazing figures donating their time and the work of ambitious educators make these events possible. We are extremely grateful to you all.

We hope you will keep reading to see how your support helps change the way young people view themselves and realise their ambitions.



Andrew Law  
Chair of Trustees



Robert Peston  
Founder

**JAN 2012**

We host Bill Gates' first-ever UK school talk in Lewisham, London



It was refreshing to hear about someone who has managed to achieve so much in their life – academically, personally and professionally. I feel inspired to go and live my life to the fullest.

Robyn, Year 12, Hewens College

**NOV 2012**

Speakers for Schools programme is launched in Scotland and Wales

**2012/13**

Number of school talks more than doubles to 382 in a single year

Nick Hytner of the National Theatre, speaking at Dame Alice Owen's School

# Broadening young people's horizons

By providing access to free talks from eminent professionals and academics for all UK state secondary schools and their pupils, we help to broaden young people's horizons and encourage them in their ambitions.

Independent schools routinely use their networks of distinguished individuals to instil a culture of aspiration in their students. We believe that all young people regardless of background should have this opportunity to be encouraged, inspired by and linked to these top influencers.

We believe in:

- Giving state secondary school pupils access to top, influential figures, free of charge.
- Raising awareness of the wealth of opportunities available.
- Breaking down young people's misconceptions about what they can do.
- Improving links between organisations, individuals, state schools and colleges.
- Involving young people in the conversations that shape their future.

We are also now exploring how we can help our speakers and their organisations better offer other opportunities alongside their talks to further support young people in realising their potential and ambitions.

**Our aim is to level the playing field for the 92% of young people who attend state schools.**

**64% of pupils described themselves as ambitious, but 37% saw a lack of personal connections as a barrier to career success.\***

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\*Source: 2013 Speakers for Schools poll of 1,000 state secondary pupils

I would recommend that  
any speaker finds the  
time to do this.

Amanda Sourry, Unilever

**2013**

We launch as an  
independent charity  
serving the whole  
of the UK

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Then Prime Minister David Cameron MP speaks as a part of Speakers for Schools Week 2013

# Our impact so far

OCT 2013

Inaugural Speakers for Schools Week takes place

70,000

students reached through live streamed events



390,000

students reached through **2900+** talks



We've reached schools in 90% of all UK Local Authorities





Robert Peston chairs the 2016 “EU Referendum: What Now?” live panel event with Dreda Mitchell, Owen Jones and Miriam González Durántez.

**>1/3**

Over 1/3 of the UK's state secondary schools and colleges have hosted a speaker



62% of students took action as a result of their talk e.g. set a new goal



**96%**

of teachers say their talk has had a lasting impact on students

# Key achievements this year

2015-16 was a successful year, where we helped facilitate 825 events, reaching 98,000 students, and saw our first talk in Northern Ireland.

Our activities continue to be guided by three high-level aims to broaden young people's horizons and involve them in conversations:

- **Give students access to insights, information and perspectives from top, influential figures:** Inspiring them and helping them to prepare for their future.
- **Maximise awareness of the wealth of opportunities available to students:** Providing information, demystifying industries and breaking down misconceptions of what state secondary pupils can do.
- **Improve links between top organisations, their leaders and state schools and colleges:** Creating awareness and a dialogue that helps our speakers understand how they can give state school pupils a leg-up for their future.

**Actor Toby Jones spoke to year 11 and 12 Oasis Academy Hadley students about his approach to drama translating to a philosophy for understanding life around us and framing their personal journey as their own hero.**

**Lady Barbara Judge, Chairman of the Institute of Directors, visited Notre Dame Roman Catholic Girls' School to share her advice with Year 9 girls on how to make the most of their potential and embrace their career.**

**Sir David Warren, former UK Ambassador to Japan, spoke to the Holyfield Sixth Form in the weeks following the EU Referendum vote, sharing his perspective on what these major events might mean for the UK and fielding the tough questions on the political and economic implications of this historical event.**

**2014**

STEM campaign with 3 live events reaches & inspires thousands of young people

Editor of Glamour magazine Jo Elvin speaks to sixth form students

## Our campaigns

Each year, in addition to hundreds of individual school talks, we run national talk series on themes important to our schools, students and speakers. These create a critical mass of influential voices inspiring young people on key issues.

## Creativity, arts & culture in UK schools: Fuelling an innovative, thriving Britain

Jobs and careers are no longer linear; the next generation will need to have more robust, well-rounded skills and faculties. This 2016 campaign showcased the role of arts, creative and cultural learning in preparing students for an increasingly interdisciplinary, complex world. Over 25 top industry figures, including David Morrissey and Baroness (Lola) Young, helped young people see that skills required to thrive in these industries are useful throughout your life and career. We also created a guide for speakers and schools to focus on this theme throughout the year.



## The EU Referendum: What Now?

In June and July 2016 we hosted a talk series focusing on the results of the EU Referendum. This included a nationally-streamed panel debate with the TES, chaired by our founder Robert Peston, giving students a chance to hear directly from and put their questions to expert speakers. Over 25 speakers, including Nick Clegg, Yvette Cooper and Baroness Wheatcroft, also gave talks in schools and tackled questions on what this meant for young people in the UK.

A student who has been causing us concern went to the office after the talk this morning. He asked if he could be placed in isolation for a day so that he could work hard and catch up on the work he has missed. When asked what brought on this sudden change in attitude, he said, 'David's talk. It's made me think that I need to sort myself out and work hard.'

Year 11 teacher, New College Nottingham

**2015**

General Election talk series aims to engage young people in politics and democracy



# Who we work with

## State schools, academies and colleges

Speakers for Schools was set up for state schools that struggle to access talks from eminent, high-profile figures. Our programme is entirely free and all state maintained UK secondary schools and colleges are eligible to apply to be a part of the network.

## Leading figures

Our speaker network includes 1100 of the UK's leading figures from all industries and fields, each donating their time and travel for their talk. By working closely with their office to align this with their diary, we make it possible for them to give their time in a state school despite their numerous commitments.

**JAN 2016**

Creativity, Arts & Culture campaign launches with partners Creative Industries Federation and Arts Council England

## Institutions and membership bodies

Important to creating better links, our work includes on-going collaboration with professional and industry bodies. Our campaigns with partners such as 30% Club, the Creative Industries Federation and the Institute of Directors work with their leading figures as speakers to create a critical mass of support to reach young people with messages that link to industry imperatives on increasing diversity, future skills, employability and more.

## Local authorities and education trusts

Having facilitated over 3,000 events to date, we've reached over 90% of local authorities across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We continue to build links with them and with education trusts. Educational partners such as Teach First, Ark Academies and School Leaders Scotland help us reach the schools that need us the most.

**Our charity also connects with partners and supporters that offer further free resources and services to state schools to help better signpost these opportunities across the sector.**

To find out more visit

[www.Speakers4Schools.org/take-part](http://www.Speakers4Schools.org/take-part)

# Expanding our work – furthering your impact

Speakers for Schools talks have already reached and inspired over 390,000 students since we launched 5 years ago, but we know there is still much more to be done to help them. While we will continue to grow our speaker network and improve our reach to the schools with the most need, we also want to nurture the further impact of our network.

In addition to inspiring talks that share speakers' unique insights, from 2016 onwards we'll be helping them and their organisations to reach even more state school students, providing opportunities that prepare them for their future and encourage diverse uptake across professions.

## Ways our speakers impact students

We are grateful for the time our speakers give to the programme to help motivate and encourage students. If you are looking for ways to further your support and impact, we also work with speakers on the following:

- Linking with their organisation's CSR and HR programmes on youth engagement, skills, diversity agenda, future talent and more.
- Finding ways to help their organisations offer much-needed opportunities, such as work experience or insight days.
- Offering their time personally for more talks and advice round table events with students.



**JUN 2016**

EU Referendum 'What Now?' live-streamed panel debate involves students from across the country



## New programme roll out

Despite the amazing internships, graduate schemes and similar on offer today, many employers know there are still talented, ambitious young people not equipped or connected enough to take advantage of these. Work experience is usually a teenager's first taste of the world of work, and can be incredibly formative, helping build employability skills, confidence and awareness about the opportunities available to them after school.

Having run a successful pilot in 2016, Speakers for Schools will be rolling out a programme to help our speakers' companies widen their offer of employability and skills opportunities, starting with work experience to young people at the most disadvantage.

To find out more contact our Director,  
**[Ashley.Hodges@speakers4schools.org](mailto:Ashley.Hodges@speakers4schools.org)**

**66% of employers think work experience is critical when hiring**

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**63% of schools require it**

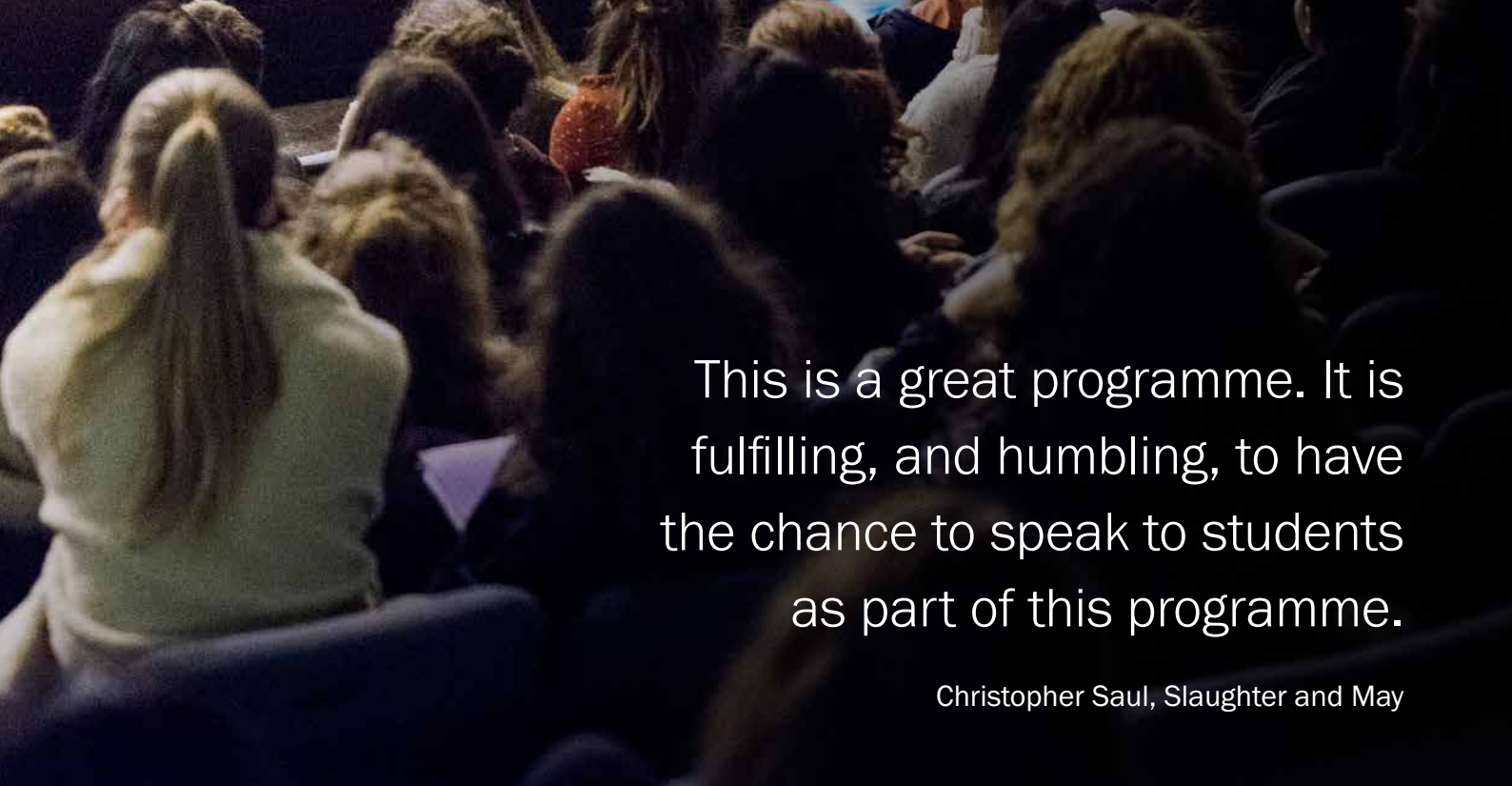
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**Only 38% of employers offer placements**

### TO DATE

2900+ talks  
with >390,000  
students  
reached

Kenneth Tharp, dance artist and CEO of The Place, runs interactive talk as a part of the Creativity, Arts & Culture series.



This is a great programme. It is fulfilling, and humbling, to have the chance to speak to students as part of this programme.

Christopher Saul, Slaughter and May

### **Our trustees**

Andrew Law (Chairman of the Board of Trustees)

Robert Peston (Founder)

David Giampaolo

Roland Rudd

### **Our executive director**

Ashley Hodges

### **Our registered address**

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**[www.speakers4schools.org](http://www.speakers4schools.org)**  
**[twitter.com/speakrs4schools](https://twitter.com/speakrs4schools)**

Speakers for Schools is a registered charity in England and Wales (no 1150411) and Scotland (SC046568). Speakers for Schools is an independent charity wholly funded by the Law Family Charitable Foundation.

Front cover: Cathy Newman, Channel 4; David Morrissey, Stage reel Films; Professor Brian Cox, University of Manchester; Baroness Young, House of Lords

\*To protect the privacy of students the names and some identifying details have been changed.