

English Speaking Board (International) Ltd.



ESB News



Winter 2018



Contents

Message from our Chief Executive	3
2017 Young Speakers of the Year Showcase	4
Meet our International Partners	8
'My ESB Experience'	10
Making an Entrance!	12
In the Spotlight: Mary Ward Centre	16
Q&A with an Expert	18
Could your Pupil be a 2018 'Spirit of ESB' Winner?	21
You spoke. We listened	23

COVER PHOTO 2017 Young Speakers of the Year Showcase

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Message from our Chief Executive

ESB's Chief Executive, Tina Renshaw, welcomes you to our Winter Edition of ESB News.



TINA RENSHAW

Chief Executive

It is a great pleasure to welcome you with a fresh perspective in 2018 to our all-new edition of **ESB News**, keeping you connected with the work we're doing to ensure you continue to receive the highest standard of assessments, service and support.

In this Winter Edition, we introduce you to our two key international language partners, Europalso in Greece and British Institutes in Italy, whose work continues to blossom, expanding our presence in the international language market.

We are always looking for ways to help you to incorporate ESB into your teaching, providing resources, training and workshops to centres who need that additional support. Our conference in Stoke-on-Trent last year was a fantastic example, when we were able to give teachers useful tips, tricks and activities to use in the classroom to help their pupils get the most out of ESB assessments.

Our annual Young Speakers of the Year Showcase in November was a triumphant success. It was an honour and a privilege to host the ceremony, and to see first-hand our talented learners perform in front of family and friends, and be recognised for their achievements. In this year's ceremony we introduced new categories to celebrate success across a wider breadth of our learners, fulfilling ESB's ethos to encourage the potential of all. We are already taking in nominations for this year's Speech awards, so please read on for details of how to submit a nomination.

We are always open to feedback, and would love to hear your opinion on what you would like to see in ESB News, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,
Tina

Celebrating Success!

2017 Young Speakers of the Year

Events



Back row (from left): Morgan Robson, Tina Renshaw (Chief Executive, ESB) , Pippa Quarrel (ESB Chair), Bradley Tranter, Joseph Wright

Front row (from left): Joey Webster, Mia Pitts, Malayka Ali, Ameerah Saleem, Sacha

ESB held its annual Young Speakers of the Year Showcase on Saturday, 11th November. Winners travelled from around the country to Liverpool to attend the celebration and receive their awards.

Out of 15,000 students who took ESB

Speech exams across 2016/17, nine students were selected as winners in recognition of their outstanding spoken language skills. Each student performed to an audience of family, friends and teachers, impressing everyone with their skills and abilities, and their charisma and confidence.

ESB's Chief Executive, Tina Renshaw, says: "ESB's mission is to extend communication skills, to offer opportunities to stretch the most able, and to support the least confident. We do this in a learner-focused way with our students choosing their own topics, poems and books. It is wonderful to reward their achievements and then share their passions at our annual Showcase."

One of the winners, Sacha from Broomfield House School said after the ceremony, "I love performing and ESB has reinforced my enthusiasm for

listening to, and delivering a good story. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to read aloud my favourite passage from Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*."

Another worthy winner, Mia Pitts from St Francis School said, "I am thrilled to receive this award, and to speak about my prized instrument, the piano accordion. Going to the ESB award ceremony was a really great experience that I will never forget."

Please go to p.19 to read more about our winners.

To see a highlights video of the Showcase, please click the 'play' symbol below.

The video running time is 03.32 minutes.

...and it's not just about the pupils!

For our 2017 guest speakers, we asked the people who know ESB best, our dedicated teachers.

Our first guest was Executive Head Teacher, Anthony David, who came to the ceremony to speak about how ESB assessments has helped raise attainment in his two schools, Millbrook Park C of E Primary School and St Paul's CE Primary School, both of which achieved Ofsted 'Outstanding'. A keen supporter of ESB, Anthony's speech outlined the importance of encouraging confidence in pupils by allowing them to speak about their passion.

Our second guest speaker was Mary Worsley, who teaches English at Bolton School Girls' Division, who spoke about how she uses ESB assessments as an enrichment activity. Mary is passionate about how ESB assessments motivate young people, as it offers them a platform to express themselves and find a voice.

Alongside our new 'Spirit of ESB' Award category, which recognises and encourages the potential of all our learners, our 2017 Showcase also introduced the 'Burniston Bell' Award. This prestigious award is named in honour of two of the two of the key players in ESB's early success: Christabel Burniston (founder) and Jocelyn Bell. The award recognises teachers who have shown exceptional commitment to ESB.

Our 2017 Burniston Bell Award winner, who was nominated by two different assessors, was Sue Turford, who was a former Speech and Drama teacher at Concord College in Shropshire. She was nominated on account of her lifetime of dedication to teaching ESB, helping learners reach their full potential in assessments. Sue joined us with her husband at the ceremony to receive her award, and gave a gracious acceptance speech, outlining her personal highlights teaching ESB.

2017 Burniston Bell Winner,
Sue Turford

Events



Meet our International Educational Providers

ESB in Italy and Europalso

ESB's international reach is going from strength to strength. Working with our two key partners, ESB's ESOL International assessments have been sat by thousands of students across Greece and Italy over the past year.

Founded in 1956, **Europalso** is currently the largest certified organisation of foreign language centres in Greece. Every year, over 17,000 students in language schools across Greece sit our ESOL International assessments over

winter and summer periods. Europalso's President, George Zikopolous works tirelessly to promote language qualifications across the country.

In Italy, English Speaking Board operates ESOL International assessments rather differently. ESB offer them a unique on-demand service, with the option of Fast Track marking, to ensure examination results are returned within a set timeframe. The organisation operates



George Zikopolous (President, Europalso) and Zoi Rapti



Manlio Mallardo, Emma Esposito, Tina Renshaw (ESB), Domenico Ciccarelli at 2017 Young Speakers of the Year Showcase

nationally as a Cultural Association for the diffusion of the English language and culture. ESB in Italy admire the work of ESB so much that they established their very own 'Speaker of the Year' Awards, which our Chief Executive, Tina Renshaw, was asked to present in 2016.

President Domenico Ciccarelli says, "It was four years ago when we joined the big family of ESB. It is a place where the human value counts more than anything else, with a confidential approach during the examination sessions. The quality of the assessments, together with the technological competences we own, has brought ESB to a leading role in the Italian market in terms of linguistic qualifications, over the last four years.

Today, ESB represents a solid reality in Italy with over 150 Test Centres all over the country, with a huge number of

students, doubling every single year, who recognise the quality of our certifications. Thanks to Tina Renshaw's guidance, we are ready to embark on new projects aimed to spread even more ESB qualifications."

Emma Esposito (ESB Director in Italy) joined ESB last year from a background in international education growth and linguistic education. After joining ESB, she immediately noticed the differences of ESB compared to other awarding bodies, admiring the 'dynamic working environment' it brings to Italy.

Both our international education providers are crucial to the work ESB does today. Working together with Europalso and ESB in Italy, ESB continues to promote excellence in language outside of the UK.

My ESB Experience

Former ESB pupil Jenny Hazan shares her ESB story, and how it has influenced her life.

Throughout my senior school life I participated in ESB exams, culminating in my achievement of a Distinction in the Advanced Certificate in Spoken English (ACSE) in my penultimate year. Before each examination I would always spend time planning and preparing the relevant presentations, discussions and spoken pieces.

From a presentation on helicopters, obesity in the UK, to a very precarious presentation performed from a kayak in the school swimming pool, each examination gave me the opportunity to research and develop topics that interested me. Before each examination I would be a bundle of nerves and I would question why I was taking part, yet every time the ESB examiner would be supportive and encouraging, as would my fellow examinees, and I always left feeling on a high with a real sense

of achievement. Having built great confidence in my speaking and presentation abilities from the very first ESB examination, I also became able to present more persuasively and coherently as I continued to participate in each grade.

Throughout all of the stages in my life so far, I have been required to present and articulate myself well, and I have to say, that without the experience and confidence that ESB gave me at a young age perhaps I would not be where I am today.

Whilst studying European Politics at the University of Leeds, I was required to make frequent presentations and engage in debate for most, if not all, of my classes. Where the majority of my peers were almost paralysed through fear at the thought of presenting their

research in front of a room full of people, thankfully I was able to confidently and calmly perform in these situations due to the skills I had acquired through ESB.

After University, like many graduates, I really had to fight for a position in the job market, attending interviews and assessment days that all required me to have confidence in my self-presentation abilities and to be persuasive and calm under pressure. I have now entered the communications profession and my job requires me to present briefs to my superiors, convey information clearly and coherently to employees from all levels and act as an ambassador for the whole company. Although I have continually built on my communication skills, I would not be as an effective communicator as I am today without the basics that I gained in each ESB grade. In particular, I have found that, as well as the communication skills gained, the reporting, analytical, evaluative and summarising skills that I developed during my preparation for the ACSE examination have been vital.

When the media comments on the lack of communication and presentation skills held by the young people of today, I can only be disappointed that ESB grades have not been made part of the national curriculum. Preparing for ESB not only builds your presentation, speaking and researching skills, it also improves confidence and really is a fantastic way to introduce young people to the communication skills that will undoubtedly be required by them throughout the rest of their lives.



Making an Entrance!

Our Senior Examiner, Lulu Dale visited Sir William Burrough Primary School in Tower Hamlets, London, to give pupils a workshop on how to deliver a great introduction to a talk.

The pupils were given valuable tips and tricks for making an attention-grabbing start to their talks. Lulu gave examples of several different ways to introduce a talk. She played the sound of cicadas, and

asked the group to identify the sound, which led into her talk on a recent holiday to Morocco. She also suggested to open the talk with a joke, or with a question, to immediately hook the



audience. In pairs, pupils were then asked to think of ways to start their own talks, and practiced them in front of the group.

Avril Newman, Head Teacher at Sir William Burrough Primary School said, 'Lulu's workshop has been really transformational. In just one morning, it has given [the pupils] years' worth of insight and energy which they will carry with them throughout life.'

The workshops were a great success, as pupils left feeling confident about their talks, and how to hook their audience into their chosen topic.

One pupil said, 'I'll be really confident and

happy to do my presentation now, and ready to talk about my favourite topic'.

If you would like to find out more about the training and resources we offer, please speak to Alison Coates on Alison.coates@esbuk.org.

Please flip the page to see a highlights video from the day.

Please click the 'play' symbol above to play the video.

The video running time is 6.45 minutes.

English Speaking Board (International) Ltd.®

Debating Qualifications

Join the Debate



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In the Spotlight: Mary Ward Centre

We check in with one of our leading centres for ESOL Skills for Life, to get their take on our qualifications.

Located in central London, and running over 1000 classes, Mary Ward Adult Education Centre has been using ESB for its ESOL Skills for Life assessments for three years.

The centre's Curriculum Coordinator, Kirsty Barlow is a longstanding advocate of ESB, and favours our supportive approach to assessments.

Mary Ward's ESOL Curriculum

Coordinator Kirsty Barlow shares her experience with ESB.

"This is the second organisation that I have worked for that uses ESB for their ESOL Skills for Life exams.

Right from the start, I found the support offered second-to-none. The whole team in the office are so professional, helpful and friendly, nothing is too much trouble for them. From the initial visits with Jackie Johnson (ESB Business Development Adviser) to set up as a centre, the training that was provided for teaching staff, and the ongoing support from the Customer Experience Team, they have maintained a personal touch which I really appreciate. Despite the recent growth and successes of ESB, they continue to make me and my centre feel valued.

The assessments themselves are great, as we like to know that students have achieved their qualifications and been assessed by an external examiner. Speaking and Listening assessors have been very professional and caring towards our students, particularly those who need a little more support because of personal or health difficulties.

The assessments really test our students' abilities in a number of different ways, and groups I have worked with have enjoyed preparing their presentations to really show off what they can do.

The results turnaround is simply outstanding. Students are always delighted to know that they don't have to wait long to know their results, and it means I can maximise success rates with quick resits if required.

The support and guidance we receive throughout the assessment experience means that I can't recommend ESB enough."

Kirsty Barlow

Curriculum Coordinator, Mary Ward Centre

Q&A with an ESB expert

Speech

Our Business Development Adviser, Alison Coates, explains how ESB benefits both teachers and learners.

How does ESB benefit my learners?

AC ESB assessments are designed to develop learners' communication skills, encouraging them to communicate clearly and with confidence. At ESB, we believe oracy to be at the heart of the learning experience, giving a positive impact across the curriculum.

Communicating confidently helps to build key social skills, as well as helping to close the attainment gap in schools by supporting learners who may be underachieving.

Teachers are amazed by the difference ESB assessments can make to their pupils' self-esteem, which is fundamental to their educational development.

How can ESB assessments support learners of different abilities?

ESB is committed to equality and diversity in education, and this is present in our qualifications, too.

Our graded assessments are flexible, making it easier to support learners with a variety of different learning abilities. Additionally, ESB provides separate qualifications that are specifically designed for pupils with learning difficulties, and for EAL learners. ESB's qualifications can be seamlessly 'mixed and matched', providing differentiation without drawing attention to the different abilities of your learners.

How can ESB boost employability skills?

Employability skills are becoming more important than ever to young people. In the current job market, employers are seeking out candidates who have the communication skills necessary to allow them to succeed. As well as boosting learner performance across the curriculum, ESB is



continually looking at ways to equip learners with the skills needed for life beyond school. ESB assessments require learners to give a presentation to their peers; this use of effective communication gives them a clear advantage in the job market. Significantly, ESB builds confidence in learners, which is key for both employability and educational achievement.

What else can ESB offer?

As well as raising self-esteem, ESB has a knock-on effect across the curriculum, equipping learners with a broad skill-set to help them progress in a variety of subjects. ESB helps to enrich pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, which is becoming increasingly central to raising attainment in schools. Giving

learners the choice to talk on a poem which has a personal meaning to them, or a topic they find interesting or important encourages them to think critically about wider philosophical, cultural or political ideas, which can shape them as individuals.

Recent research confirms that oracy is crucial to the development of literacy skills, as it encourages clear and effective expression and critical thinking. In terms of what ESB can offer you, you will have a supportive and dedicated team who can assist you throughout your ESB journey, and we have a host of resources and materials to help you incorporate ESB into your teaching.

Sara Khan, 'Spirit of ESB' Winner, 2017



Could your pupil be a 2018 'Spirit of ESB' winner?

Speech

Last year, ESB introduced the 'Spirit of ESB' category, which recognised and awarded learners who showed great promise in their assessments. This new award recognises and encourages the potential of all learners, in line with the vision of our founder, Christabel Burniston, who believed that acquiring interactive speaking and listening skills inspires confidence and increases self-esteem in every individual.

Our 2017 winners attended the event in Liverpool, with the support of their families, and the proud teachers who nominated them for the award.

One of our 2017 'Spirit' winners, Sara Khan said after the ceremony, 'ESB has really helped me to gain my confidence to speak in public. Today has been a very special day for me and my family'.

In order to be considered for the award, your nominated learner must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a candidate who has overcome obstacles to give an inspiring and/or memorable assessment
- a candidate who has raised awareness of an issue with significant

understanding and compassion

- a candidate who has made exceptional progress as a result of participating in this assessment

And can come from a range of learners:-

- a candidate who is new to ESB assessment
- a candidate who has had a reasonable adjustment applied to allow them to access a qualification
- a candidate entered for any individual speech assessments – ICE, EAL Graded Exams, Graded examinations in speech, interview skills, debating etc.

With our next Young Speakers of the Year Showcase taking place this November, we are already taking in nominations for our Spirit of ESB category. If you feel there is a pupil who particularly stands out to you and meets the above criteria, or if you would like to find out more about the award, please email Debbie Bassett on Deborah.bassett@esbuk.org.



What can ESB do for your ESOL students?

Reading & Writing Exams

External Assessment

You will receive your candidates' reading and writing results just **5 working days** after the receipt of assessment papers at ESB.



Your reading and writing papers are marked and moderated **externally** by ESB so you are free to teach.

Quick Turnaround

Assessments can be booked up to **2 days** before the assessment date so you can enter your candidates when they are ready.



Dates for the assessments are **chosen by you** meaning you can organise assessment dates around your timetable.

Online Resources

Sample papers, syllabuses and mark schemes are available on the ESB website for **practice** and mock examinations.



All ESOL Skills for Life qualifications are based on the ESOL core curriculum and are accredited by Ofqual

Contact jackie.johnson@esbuk.org

www.esbuk.org

You spoke. We listened.

We received your feedback telling us how we could improve our database and website, and we're currently working on a project to meet your needs.

After receiving your suggestions on what you would like to see on our database and website, we are excited to announce that we are working on a six-month project to launch a new integrated website. As customers, we value your comments, and ESB are always looking for ways to make your life easier.

The go-live date for the new website is September this year. If you would like to be involved with the testing phase, please get in touch by emailing Debbie Bassett on deborah.bassett@esbuk.org.





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