

24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you about an exciting new initiative we are introducing at GAA: a dedicated focus on oracy. This initiative aims to enhance our students' speaking and listening skills, establishing oracy as a bridge to writing and reinforcing their overall academic achievements.

Oracy, the ability to express ourselves fluently in speech, is a vital skill that underpins many areas of learning and life. It not only contributes to academic success but also prepares children for effective participation in the wider world. As part of our commitment to developing these essential skills, we will be employing a variety of teaching strategies, two of which we would like to highlight: Choral Response and Talk to Transcribe.

Choral Response involves all pupils responding aloud to the teacher in unison, with every student participating. This strategy promotes active participation and helps students with pronunciation of new vocabulary as well as reading fluency. By engaging in Choral Response, children also learn to listen attentively to their peers and build a sense of community within the classroom.

In addition, the Talk to Transcribe method assists students in transitioning their spoken language into a written form. This approach allows children to engage in discussions and share their ideas verbally in pairs before committing them to paper. By encouraging dialogue and reflection, we find that students are more likely to produce higher quality written work.

The emphasis on oracy is not only geared towards enhancing classroom engagement but also aims to establish vital skills for life. In our increasingly communicative society, the ability to express our ideas clearly and persuasively is more important than ever. By strengthening these capabilities, we are not just preparing our students for academic success; we are equipping them with the tools to thrive in the future.

We invite you to support your children in this journey by asking them about these strategies and how they are supporting the transformation of their writing. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Louise Keeton

Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning)