



E Phillips
KS2 Manager
01691 626511
email: elaine.phillips@ellesmere.com

1st April 2019

Dear Parents,

Spoken English Exam

The Year 6 ESB exam is scheduled for the 26th of June. Time will be set aside in English lessons so that pupils can practise and improve their presentations but a good deal of the preparation will need to be done at home, especially over the half term holiday in May. For those of you who are not familiar with the process, here are the exam requirements:

Section 1: Presenting a topic of choice

Research, prepare and present a 4 minute talk on a topic of personal interest. Illustrate this talk with appropriate visual aids, materials and/or demonstration. Brief notes or cue cards can be used to provide prompts but reading from a script is NOT permitted.

Popular topics include pets, sports, indoor/outdoor hobbies and holiday destinations. The topic should not be too broad e.g. a talk about cars is far too vague, but a talk about Formula 1 or James Bond movie cars is more realistic for a 4 minute presentation.

Section 2: Speaking by Heart

Present a memorised piece of poetry of own choice. Introduce the piece and explain why you chose it.

Almost everyone opts for a poem; the minimum should be 15-16 lines. Recitals score well if they are clear, fluent and dramatised through appropriate gestures, expression or changes in pace and tone.

Section 3: Reading Aloud

*Bring a book suitable for own reading ability and from which you have prepared *12-15 pages for reading aloud. The assessor will select an extract from these pages for you to read. Introduce the book and explain what it is about and why you chose it.*

* Please note that the prepared requirement is less stringent for documented dyslexic children. Marks are awarded for fluency, appropriate pace and expression.

Initially, some pupils feel a sense of dread when ESB is mentioned. However, experience shows that they begin to feel more comfortable after just one rehearsal and by the time the exam is over they can't stop talking about it! Not only does the ESB process teach a hugely important life skill but it also boosts confidence and self-esteem.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

Ellesmere College Ltd is a company, registered in England, no: 5066406



The keys to success are preparation and practice so I would be grateful if you could encourage your child to have their presentation ready by the time we return to school after the May half term break so that they can practise in front of the class. Please see the guidance on how to structure the talk attached to this letter.

For the time being, the children will select a poem with guidance from their English teacher. Over the Easter holidays, it is important that the poem is committed to memory. At this stage, please do not worry too much about the delivery, as that can be practised in class.

Many thanks for your anticipated support and please email me if you have any questions.

Mrs E Phillips
KS2 Manager

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

Ellesmere College Ltd is a company, registered in England, no: 5066406



E.S.B. Talks

How to structure your talk

Your talk should have four clear sections depending on your topic. It is easiest to arrange these chronologically. Look at the examples below for some ideas.

Topic - Apple

1. How the company started – Steve Jobs etc.
2. My favourite Apple products
3. Apple's competitors and their products
4. What I think Apple will do in the future.

Topic – My pet dog

1. His name, breed and where we got him from.
2. What he eats and how to look after him.
3. Where we take him for walks and games we play with him.
4. Would I recommend this breed of dog to others? Other breeds that I like.

Write these sections out in full and then time yourself reading it out loud. Your talk should take 4 minutes to read.

Once your talk is the correct length transfer the key points onto cue cards. You should have no more than 4 bullet points per cue card.

Visual Aids

If you make a PowerPoint, do so after you have written a full script and ensure that there is very little writing on your slides. Aim to have 1 – 5 slides with pictures or photos on; you can then talk about these.

Sports equipment or clothing can prove to be useful visual aids and allow you to demonstrate.

Models of relevant structures or animals can also work well.

Handy Hints

- Choose a topic that you are passionate about; this will make it much easier to talk about.
- Make sure that you aren't repeating yourself.
- Don't include too many numbers, dates or long lists. These are hard to remember and aren't very interesting for your audience.
- Stay on topic and keep the information relevant to your title.
- Make sure your visual aids are adding something to your talk not distracting the audience.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

Ellesmere College Ltd is a company, registered in England, no: 5066406