

Speakers for Schools – Speaker Checklist



Generally, a Speakers for Schools talk is made up of a 15-20 minute talk from the speaker and 30-40 minutes Q&A making it a conversational and interactive session. As each event is different, the basic checklist for working with our schools/colleges is:

- ✓ **Set a date** for your talk and let us know. This can be done well in advance with finer logistics confirmed nearer the date of the talk.
- ✓ **Discuss the school’s expectations**, what they are hoping to gain from your talk whilst letting them know what you are happy to speak about.
- ✓ **Find out about the cohort you will be addressing** (size, age, prior subject knowledge etc) and discuss how your preferred talk-theme can be adapted.
- ✓ **Discuss any major requirements** you may have (use of ICT, props etc)

Below are our main talk themes to be discussed with the school/college as a way to frame your experience and insights for students.

| <u>Talk Theme</u> | <u>Key Ideas for the Theme</u> | <u>Outcomes for Students</u> |
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| <u>Challenging the Status Quo</u> | Social change in one key area, e.g. <i>gender equality in STEM</i> or <i>reinvigorating modern democracy</i> . | Talks of this nature engage students as to how issues are manifested (e.g. in your industry), how progress can be measured and implications for students as potential activists for change. |
| <u>Expert Insights</u> | One particular topic of expertise for specific students, i.e. <i>the 2008 Financial Crisis</i> or the <i>Science of the Food Industry</i> , rather than broad personal journey or industry advice. | Ideal for preferring to speak to a smaller group of A-level or select students on a more tailored topic. Despite having a subject focus, the hope is to engage young people as to bigger issues, the future of research and some of the broader questions faced on a regular basis. |
| <u>Future Citizens</u> | Talking to students about their place in the world around them and their role in democratic, economic and social issues, or want to inspire them widen their horizons. | The topic is particularly popular with schools in rural or regional areas to help students see where they fit into history and the world stage, confidence in their identity, as well inspiring students to think about their role in society. The hope is that it will help young people see how they fit into the future of the UK. |
| <u>Industry Workings</u> | The wider context of a profession, the future of the industry and your own experience within the industry, as transferable advice and demystifying an area. | This can help young people see what’s behind a particular sector, its ingredients for success (in general), unexpected opportunities, and to raise the aspirations of the students. This is great for speakers who think there are a number of opportunities in their area unknown to students. |
| <u>Life Lessons & Advice</u> | Reflections on personal journeys and how speakers got to where they are today, e.g. <i>What I wish I knew at 16</i> | This kind of talk is ideal for a speaker speaking to a broad student group, and who is happy to be candid about personal successes and failures. The hope is that regardless of the exact angle the speaker takes, and no matter their background, it will help young people relate to the speaker and find ‘success’ more accessible. |

Note: The above is a guidance tool for your conversations whilst planning, but this can be combined or explored separately throughout the session. For more about tips from past speakers on what works best and formatting, please refer to the [S4S Speaker Tips sheet](#).