



# Speakers Trust Press Information

*For immediate release*

## **Speakers Trust praises BBC2's 'The Speaker' programme**

The Speakers Trust charity, whose mission is to encourage and help develop speaking skill and confidence in all parts of the community, is giving strong backing to the BBC2 "The Speaker" series of programmes.

Interviewed on Radio 4's 'Today' programme, the Trust's President, Lord (Digby) Jones stated: "Why I'm so keen on this competition, and what the whole of the Speakers Trust is trying to do, is to get young people at this young age to have a bit of self esteem, to stand up and look people in they eye, and to get confidence to make a speech".

The BBC2 series was largely inspired by the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, which has trained over 40,000 schoolchildren in public speaking and which is an initiative of the Trust's SpeakersBank subsidiary. The Speak Out Challenge's Coordinator, Sean Kennedy, is Speaking Consultant to the BBC2 series.

Writing in the Speak Out Challenge's website ([www.speakoutchallenge.com](http://www.speakoutchallenge.com)), Sean Kennedy states: "It is wonderful to see the talent across the country, and to realise that Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" Challenge has inspired a programme dedicated to giving young people a forum. Just as we have seen over the last four years at our Regional Finals, teenagers everywhere in the UK are passionate, motivated and want to make a difference".

### **Notes for Editors**

- 1 The Speakers Trust exists to help everybody in this country – young, old, disabled or disadvantaged, regardless of their ethnicity or religious affiliations – acquire the confidence and skills needed to have their voice heard so that they can participate in and enrich our community.
- 2 The Speakers Trust is the parent of Speakers Bank Limited which has trained upwards of 40,000 secondary school children in London in the skills of public speaking and is currently extending its activities to major cities throughout the United Kingdom.
- 3 Further details may be obtained from:
  - from the Trust's website, which is [www.speakerstrust.org.uk](http://www.speakerstrust.org.uk)
  - from Peter Curtis-Allen, Chairman of the Speakers Trust, on 0208 835 2300