***Sharing your VoiceBox competition with your local media is a great way to highlight the importance of children’s communication with your local community.***

***Below is a template press release for you to fill in and send to your local media outlets. Simply fill in the blank spaces and copy and paste the text onto school letterhead or into an email.***

***If you have any queries or require support in identifying and/or contacting your local media outlets, please email us at*** ***voicebox@rcslt.org******.***

Use drop down menu to enter date

Pupils from insert area/name of school celebrate the importance of good communication

Did you hear the one about the pupils from insert school name who took part in Scotland’s joke competition to celebrate the fun and importance of communication?

The pupils took part in VoiceBox, an initiative run by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists in Scotland (RCSLT Scotland) to demonstrate the importance of good communication skills.

According to RCSLT Scotland, one in four children in Scotland have a speech, language or communication need. Telling jokes demonstrates the power of communication in a fun way and the importance of supporting children in their speech and language development.

Insert number of children pupils took part in telling their best jokes in front of their peers and a judging panel, including insert names of judges.

***You can insert a quote from your school’s headteacher here. Below is an example of the sort of quote you could provide:***

Insert headteacher’s name, Headteacher at insert school name said: “Supporting children with communication needs allows them to engage fully at school and with friends and play an active role in society. VoiceBox has provided a fun way to kick off the new year and get pupils engaged while raising awareness of this important topic.”

***If your local councillors or MSP attend VoiceBox, you can ask them to provide a quote below. Here is an example of the sort of quote they could provide:***

Insert councillor or MSP name and title said: “It was a pleasure to attend VoiceBox and hear the pupils demonstrate their communication skills telling an array of outstanding jokes. As a politician, speaking and listening is a vital part of my life and I really value the work done by teachers and speech and language therapists to enable others, including children, to communicate more easily.”

Glenn Carter, Head of RCSLT Scotland, said: “We’re delighted to see primary schools across Scotland engaging in VoiceBox. In every classroom, there are children who need extra help with speaking and understanding. With appropriate support around the child, including from a speech and language therapist, they become more receptive to learning, are better able to handle social situations and can develop emotional maturity. Every child has a basic right to communicate and they should be supported to do so.”

Ends

**Notes to Editor**

About insert school name

***Insert information about your school***

About RCSLT Scotland

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) is the professional body for speech and language therapists (SLTs), students and support workers working in the UK. RCSLT represents over 20,000 members – 1,300 of which are in Scotland. We promote excellence in practice and seek to improve the lives of people with communication and swallowing needs. For more information on RCSLT Scotland and VoiceBox, visit <https://www.rcslt.org/scotland/>.