**TEMPLATE LETTER FOR MPs TO SEND LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS ABOUT VOICE BOX**

Dear [Insert Head Teacher’s name]

***Voice Box Joke Competition for Primary Schoolchildren***

I am writing to advise you about a competition for primary schools across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, which is designed to raise awareness amongst children and young people of the fun and importance of communication.

***Voice Box*** is an annual competition organised by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) in partnership with NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers). All mainstream and specialist primary schools are being invited to hold joke-telling competitions between their pupils in October and November 2019. Once each school has found a winning joke they should submit it to the RCSLT by 29 November. The RCSLT’s judging panel will then shortlist the best entries to go through to the Grand Final in London, next year. Full details and a toolkit for schools can be found on www.rcslt.org/giving-voice

As you know, communication is fundamental to us achieving our potential. ***Voice Box*** provides primary schools with a unique opportunity to assist pupils to feel included and build their communication confidence in a friendly and supportive environment. Helping children to develop their speech, language and communication skills enables them to unlock their potential, achieve their academic achievement, and engage in social situations. It also promotes good mental health and wellbeing, supports long-term employability in adulthood, and life chances.

**I fully support the aims of *Voice Box* and very much hope that your school will be able to take part.**

Good luck!

Yours sincerely,