



Background

HK's first and only English Speaking Board (ESB) curriculum based training centre



The Brandon Learning Centre was founded in 2006 by **Mrs. Jessica Ogilvy-Stuart** M.Ed., B.A (Hons) and **Mr. Andrew Cathcart** M.A., M.Ed., Dip. Ed. (Primary Education), Dip. Ed. (Education and Management).

Previously Head of Training Asia Pacific for Bloomberg L.P., Mrs. Jessica Ogilvy-Stuart has extensive experience of teaching professional communication skills and has trained with the English Speaking Board. Andrew Cathcart has over forty years of experience as a Primary School Headmaster and currently lectures in education and study skills at Macquarie University, Sydney. His involvement in the centre is both as a member of our Advisory Board and course facilitator of his successful study skills course. He is also the author of a book to accompany the programme.

Brandon Learning Centre is HK's first and only English Speaking Board curriculum based speech training centre.

Jessica Ogilvy-Stuart Profile

- Sub-Committee, **Hong Kong Equestrian Federation**
- Head of Fundraising, **Helping Hand**
- Seminar Speaker, **Aberdeen Marina Club**
- General Manager, **PR Newswire**
- Head of Training, Asia Pacific; Sales Team Leader, Luxemburg, **Bloomberg L.P.**

Mission

'The greatest barrier to success is lack of confidence'

Brandon Learning Centre aims to develop self-confidence in public speaking in students of all ages. Our objectives are:

- To develop the power of the voice
- To further the ability to share ideas and emotions
- To inspire a love of English literature

Instill Confidence Speaking of Success

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Introduction to the courses

The **ESB** public speaking courses aim to build students' confidence in presentations and enhance their ability to share ideas within a group. Students will go through an assessment prior to the lessons to make sure they are put in suitable classes. Through the ESB courses, students are able to:

- Overcome fears when presenting to an audience
- Develop skills of research and organization
- Improve group interaction and responding skills
- Understand a wide range of English literature

Achievements In the most recent ESB exams we achieved a pass rate of 100%. 45% of the students were awarded the grade of Merit Plus and Distinction, and 20% were awarded the grade of Merit. Our students achieved some excellent results in the 57th and 58th HK Schools Speech Festivals.

Teachers' qualifications Our British-educated and experienced teachers come from drama and language backgrounds and, within the framework of our learning objectives, adapt lessons to fit the needs of the students. We use a broad range of materials from the United Kingdom, USA and Australia.



Environment Brandon Learning Centre aims to develop creativity and confidence in students, the newly renovated centre in the heart of Causeway Bay reflects the approach. The classrooms are spacious and movement is encouraged. Each classroom has one mirrored wall so that students can watch their body language. The barrier-free environment creates an open atmosphere which encourages self-expression.

A library is set up from where students can borrow books, teachers will suggest suitable readings to broaden their horizons and inspire a love of language.



- **English Speaking Board** is founded in 1953, it has over 50 years' experiences in promoting a holistic approach to public speaking.
- **ESB** has grown into an international organisation which assesses extensively in the Great Britain, in European countries such as Italy and Spain and throughout the Far East.

Every Student Benefits!

- **ESB** offers a full range of progressive qualifications, recognised and mapped the relevant National Core Curriculum requirements.
- **ESB** assessment helps every student; it encourages thinking skills and independent learning, as well as a range of speaking and social skills.

For more details · please visit:
www.esbuk.org

明報	外傭不是英語導師 四招改善英語口語	15.04.2008
星島日報	報讀心儀學校 面試準備要充足	26.01.2008
經濟日報	小組討論 要建對立論點	08.01.2008
經濟日報	考好會考英語 SBA	07.01.2008
香港商報	信心不足 英語能寫不能說	19.08.2007
經濟日報	概念圖像學習	02.04.2007
星島日報	商界精英 CEO 晉升門檻 傳意技巧進修班吃香	13.03.2007
星島日報	賀年揮春變英文教材	23.02.2007
經濟日報	感恩節 學習欣賞身邊事物	19.11.2006
Jessica	理想改變命運	11 月號 2006
明報	Preparing for Speech Festival can be fun!	27.10.2006
星島日報	英語會話中心配合英國課程	09.10.2006
經濟日報	從興趣入手 提升英語演說能力	18.09.2006
InvestHK	New School in Hong Kong offers specialised English speaking skills	16.09.2006

「一篇生動有趣的演講能啟發人心。不少政治家具有好的演講內容，卻因為語調沉悶而把觀察悶壞，把演講白白糟蹋，這是我覺得最可惜的。因此我希望學員經指正後，能建立演講的自信和傳意技巧。」

BLC 英語會話課程 培育公開演說家 · 資本企業家

「有不少學員皆表示 **ESB** 課程能提升他們英語口語能力及自信，而且考試合格後感到自己的能力被肯定。」

信心不足 英語能寫不能說 · 商報

「**Jessica** 說很多學生都缺乏自信心：『他們怕說錯而不敢說，所以我們以獨特設計的教材提升學生的學習能力，最要是學習環境。』她又以駕車來比喻學習英語：『你不常駕駛，又怎能有好的技術？』」

商界精英 CEO 晉升門檻 傳意技巧進修班吃香 · 星島日報

「很多香港人無論是閱讀或會話的表現出色，但他們從不稱讚自己，更經常自評為差勁。港人說英語時的共通點是沒有信心，亦過份擔心文法出錯。通過朗誦詩歌，與外籍老師不斷交談，能訓練學員說英語的自信。」

英語會話中心配合英國課程 · 星島日報

“Fergus Chan, a P1 student when asked whether he would be afraid to read the poem in front of an audience, he said, ‘Nope, it is so much fun. I’ve learnt about half a dozen poems now. And I love playing games with my teachers.’”

Preparing for Speech Festival can be fun! · 明報

「無論在學習或工作，孩子也總得進行口頭報告，把他所掌握的知識、心得、建議跟他人分享。若能從小在英語口語方面有足夠的訓練，而不光專注於閱讀讀文法，當孩子面對上述處境時，就有足夠信心去應付。」

從興趣入手 提升演說能力 · 經濟日報



Timeline

2006

- Sep Opening Ceremony
- Nov Brandon Learning Centre Open Days
- Dec Head of English Speaking Board **Merriel Halsall-Williams** visited the Brandon Learning Centre
Carolyn Prodoehl, a specialist in Communicative Disorders held Advisory seminars at the Centre

2007

- Mar Visiting lecturer **Andrew Cathcart** from the Macquarie University organised a Concept Mapping class
- May Brandon Learning Centre successfully organised its 1st English Speaking Board assessment in HK, with Head of ESB **Merriel Halsall-Williams** as the assessor. 100% pass rate and 26% of students were awarded the grade of Distinction.
- Sep Brandon Learning Centre 1st anniversary Hong Kong Club school show
- Dec Brandon Learning Centre successfully registered its Effective English Communication Adult courses under Continuing Education Fund

2008

- April Hong Kong's 2nd English Speaking Board assessment was successfully conducted by experienced ESB assessor **Mrs. Marilyn Young**. Brandon Learning centre earned another 100% pass rate; 45% of the students were awarded the grade of Merit Plus and Distinction.
- June Hong Kong Club Show and English Speaking Board (ESB) certificate presentation

Contact

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