



## *Focus on News Review*

*(Opening Plenary: 8.45 – 9.00 Tuesday – Friday)*

As its name suggests, this short plenary session first thing in the morning is a valuable opportunity for students to keep up with and talk about the day's news, at the same time as practising their speaking and presentation skills. Through discussions of the day's top stories, as well as through giving short presentations on topics which interest them, students start the day on a very positive note, interacting with one another in English in a genuine real-world way.

Every week, students work with a variety of genuine, authentic news sources. These include audio materials, such as podcasts of the day's main stories from BBC news, as well as articles from newspapers, magazines, or the internet. All articles, audio and visual, are used primarily to stimulate discussion between the students. Students share any information they may have heard about each story, before moving on to express opinions, discuss possible causes and outcomes, or role-play situations, as appropriate. Using genuine articles from easily accessible authentic sources in the News Review also opens the students' eyes to the plethora of resources readily available to them, and also to the fact that they can understand and enjoy genuine English newspapers and broadcasts.



In addition to this, students are encouraged to research and give short mini-presentations on stories which are of particular interest to them. This is the perfect opportunity for them to practise and develop their public speaking skills. Above all, we build students' confidence when standing up and addressing a room full of people in a relatively unfamiliar language – a daunting prospect for anyone!

And it is this passion for building students' confidence in their own performance, through public speaking, through understanding the main points in the headlines on the radio, or simply through successfully chatting with someone new, that drives OISE Oxford, and what makes the News Review such a vital part of the day's programme.