

DEBATE TEAM

1. The Debate team has been an intense, informative and interesting experience. I have been a part of the team since G9 and I have gained many skills and knowledge in this course of time. Sessions run every Saturday for 3 hours and start off with a focus on a brief discussion of current events, such that at any point we are presented with a motion revolving around current events we are prepared. Our debate coach tasks us with weekly readings of 25 articles that we must finish before every lesson to stay up to date with world events. The session normally continues with a mock debate or either prep for upcoming tournaments, and at times we run through the basics of case setup, adjudication or substantive writing. Debate, most importantly has taught me confidence in public speaking as well as adaptation and teamwork. Confidence because, there are times when you are put on the spotlight knowing absolutely nothing about a topic and you have to still provide an answer in front of a number of people, for me this was intimidating earlier but now I can easily present or talk in front of a group of people. Debate conditions intensity, it is nothing short of running 10 rounds of a football pitch or playing a game of cricket. The rigour and the thoroughness that goes into each speech, into each argument is remarkable, and debate teaches you more than anything, the art of argumentation as well as creating links between theory and the real world. Furthermore, debate is not a one man show, you rely on your team, you rely on them for support arguments, POIs, time keeping, most of all if one team member is not up to the mark, the whole team scores badly. Hence, I have understood the importance of collaboration and communication between a team. Debate teaches you “structured creativity”, something like it encourages you to come up with creative reasoning and arguments but within a very specific structure and presentation. Overall, Debate has been a great experience because more than anything after every debate session I have walked out having learnt something new about a real world event, about a political theory, a new concept or even something as simple as a new word.