Debating

Introduction

Debating is a valued skill at St John’s Grammar School, with specific teaching of necessary skills occurring within the English Curriculum. It is offered as an Extra-Curricular Activity to Year 5 and 6 students.

Debating teaches many communication skills which can be applied in written language, research, public speaking, working as team member and improving confidence in general.

Following is an outline of the skills taught to enable students to develop an appreciation for and ability to be involved in debating. An outline of the activities offered which focus specifically on debating in Years 4, 5 and 6 is also included. These activities allow for reinforcement and refinement of the skills covered at each year level.
Debating Skills:

Year 4

Introduction to and the development of:

- Presenting an argument in writing
- Seeing both sides to an argument
- Role of Chairperson, Timekeeper and Minute Taker in class meetings
- Showing solutions to a problem
- Representing class viewpoint (As distinct to personal viewpoint)
- Confidence in speaking in front of a group

Year 5

Introduction to and the development of:

- The correct use of palm cards
- Putting the case for and against an issue
- Voice projection
- Role of Chairperson and Timekeeper in debating
- Rules of hypothetical debating
- Speech writing
- Team work in presenting an argument

Year 6

- How to present an in-depth case on one point of view
- Role of Adjudicator
- Role of a leader
- Public speaking - Use of a microphone
  - Voice projection
  - Rate of speaking
- Orderly meeting format
- Use of Overhead projector, photocopier, video to support speech / lecture presentation
- Lecturing skills
- House debates
- Rebuttal