

Years 5 & 6 - Information for Schools

1. OVERVIEW

FORMAT Festival	YEAR GROUPS Any mix of Years 5 & 6	TEAM ENTRIES 1 per school	TEAM SIZE 3 pupils per team	TERM Spring and Summer Term
DURATION Full Day	ENTRY FEE £15 per team	BOOKINGS OPEN 5th November	BOOKINGS CLOSE 3rd December	JUDGES Schools to provide one judge per team

2. FESTIVAL FORMAT

2 teams per debate room	3 speakers per team	6 speeches in total	4 minutes per speech
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Proposition

Presents the case in favour of the motion.

Opposition

Presents the case against the motion.

There are no reply speeches. The first and final minutes are protected. Points of Information are permitted between speeches.

3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The competition is a standalone, one-day debating festival with three rounds.

Round Structure

- Round 1 is a prepared motion shared in advance.
- Round 2 and Round 3 are hidden motions revealed on the day.

Preparation Rules (Round 2 and 3)

- During preparation, pupils may use the printed preparation worksheet and a pen.
- Staff and accompanying adults must not assist.
- Phones, tablets, laptops, internet access and AI tools cannot be used during preparation.

Full guidance on preparation, speaker roles and points of information is provided in our **Debate Guide** which can be found on our [website](#).

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
SPEAKING FESTIVAL

4. EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

Below is an example schedule to give you an idea of what the day may look like. This is just a guide, hosts will share full event details closer to the event.

Time	Activity
09:00 - 09:20	Registration, judge briefing and distribution of the pre-set draw
09:20 - 09:25	Buffer for Round 1 preparations
09:25 - 10:25	Round 1 prepared motion - debate and feedback
10:25 - 10:55	Break
10:55 - 11:00	Buffer for Round 2 preparations
11:00 - 11:30	Round 2 motion revealed - supervised preparation
11:30 - 12:30	Round 2 - debate and feedback
12:30 - 13:25	Lunch
13:25 - 13:30	Buffer for Round 3 preparations
13:30 - 14:00	Round 3 motion revealed - supervised preparation
14:00 - 15:00	Round 3 - debate and feedback
15:00 - 15:30	Scores collated and checked
15:30	Awards and departure

5. JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

- Each school must provide one judge for every team entered and judges will be allocated to 1-2 rounds.
- The judge must be a teacher or another suitable accompanying adult and no previous debating experience is required; judges will receive the guidance and a briefing.
- Each debate is assessed by **one** conflict-free judge and no judge will assess a debate involving their own school.

40% - Content

The strength, relevance and explanation of the arguments made.

40% - Style

Clarity, pace, expression and confidence in delivery.

20% - Strategy

Teamwork, fulfilling the speaker role and responding to the other side.

6. HOW SCORING WORKS

Individual Scores

Each of the three speakers receives 60–80 in every debate.

Team Score

Add the three speaker scores: the team total is 180–240. The higher combined score wins.

Final Standings

Teams rank by round wins. If tied, total speaker points across all rounds decide the ranking.

7. AWARDS

Winners Trophy

Awarded to the winners of each festival.

Best Speaker Award

For the highest individual speaker score across the rounds.

Certificates

Awarded to all participants.