

Years 7 & 8 - Information for Schools

1. OVERVIEW

FORMAT British Parliamentary	YEAR GROUPS Any mix of Years 7 & 8	TEAM ENTRIES 1 per school	TEAM SIZE 2 pupils per team	ENTRY FEE £15 per team
DURATION Full Day	TERM Heats - Spring Final - Summer	JUDGES Schools to provide one judge per team	BOOKINGS OPEN 5th November	BOOKINGS CLOSE 3rd December

2. BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY FORMAT

4 teams per debate room	2 pupils per team	8 speeches per debate	5 minutes per speech
Opening Government Introduces and defines the motion, and sets out the case for it.	Opening Opposition Responds directly and sets out the case against the motion.	Closing Government Extends its side's case with new material, then summarises.	Closing Opposition Extends the opposing case with new material and closes the debate.

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

3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The competition runs as a **two-stage process**: qualifying heats in the Spring Term, followed by a National Final in the Summer Term.

Qualifying Heat - Spring Term

- Qualifying heats consist of two rounds, meaning each team will debate twice.
- Round 1 is a prepared debate; the motion is shared after bookings close.
- Round 2 is a hidden motion revealed on the day with 15 minutes for preparation.
- The highest-ranked team(s) at each heat progress to the National Final.
- Total qualifying numbers depend on overall entry numbers.

National Final - Summer Term

- The National Finals consists of three preliminary rounds, before concluding with a Grand Final and a Plate Final.
- More information about the National Final will be shared closer to the time.

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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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
10:00 - 10:20	Registration, briefing and distribution of the pre-set draw
10:20 - 10:25	Buffer for Round 1 preparations
10:25 - 12:10	Round 1 prepared motion - debate and feedback
12:10 - 12:55	Lunch
12:55 - 13:00	Buffer for Round 2 preparations
13:00 - 13:15	Round 2 motion revealed - supervised preparation
13:15 - 15:00	Round 2 - debate and feedback
15:00 - 15:30	Results 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 **two** conflict-free judge and no judge will assess a debate involving their own school.

The full adjudication rubric will be shared with judges and teams will receive spoken feedback after each debate.

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. SCORING AND RANKINGS

1ST **2ND** **3RD** **4TH**
3 **2** **1** **0**

Each team is placed first to fourth in its room and awarded **competition points** accordingly. Points accumulated across the preliminary rounds determine team rankings and which teams qualify for the National Final. Ties are resolved using the competition scoring process.

7. AWARDS

**National
Champions Trophy**

Awarded to the winners of the Grand Final at the National Final.

**Plate Winners
Trophy**

Awarded to the winners of the Plate Final at the National Final.

**Heat Winners
Trophy**

Awarded to the winners of each qualifying heat.

**Best Speaker
Award**

For the highest individual speaker score across the rounds.

Certificates

Awarded to all participants across the Qualifying Heats and National Finals.