

# Platanos College News

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## Debate Mate Accelerate pupils compete in the Houses of Parliament

Pupils in our Debate Mate Accelerate programme had an exciting opportunity last week as they participated in the Urban Debate League competition which was hosted by the Houses of Parliament. This was an excellent opportunity only available to the 10 schools that take part in the London Accelerate Programme. It was an exclusive occasion for pupils to debate in the prestigious venue of the Committee Rooms in the Houses of Parliament and also for pupils to gain some competitive debating experience ahead of the Debate Mate Cup.

Five pupils took part in the competition and there were two rounds of debates on the day. The first round was a prepared motion which saw Debate Mate collaborate with Comic Relief giving the pupils an opportunity to discuss an important issue: ***This house believes that we should be spending less money on overseas aid, when the needs at home are so great.*** The pupils had prepared well and spoke confidently in this debate; unfortunately they just missed out on the win. The next round was focused on the motion: ***This house believes that junk food should be banned.*** The pupils had 15 minutes to prepare and came up with some fantastic, convincing arguments. It was another close debate and Platanos narrowly lost out by a couple of points.

Despite this however, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon at the Houses of Parliament and received some invaluable feedback for their next debate. This was the first time any of the selected pupils had debated in a competition and they represented the school wonderfully. We very much look forward to the Debate Mate Cup in April.



Pupils that participated in the Debate Mate Accelerate Urban Debate League at the Houses of Parliament (left to right): **Hibaq Mumin, Alphan Emirezglu, Bonnie Masaila, Cameron Johnson and Mohamed Idris.**