

# Platanos College News

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## The Big Debate 2017

This week Platanos College pupils were invited to a show debate at The Royal Institute with some very special guests. Two teams from the Urban Debate League were debating on the motion **'This house believes that for people in developing countries, the world is getting better'**.

The judges at the event included well known newscaster Jon Snow and Academy Award winning actress Emma Thompson. The event helped pupils explore a number of topics in depth and was a real thought-provoking, inspiring occasion.

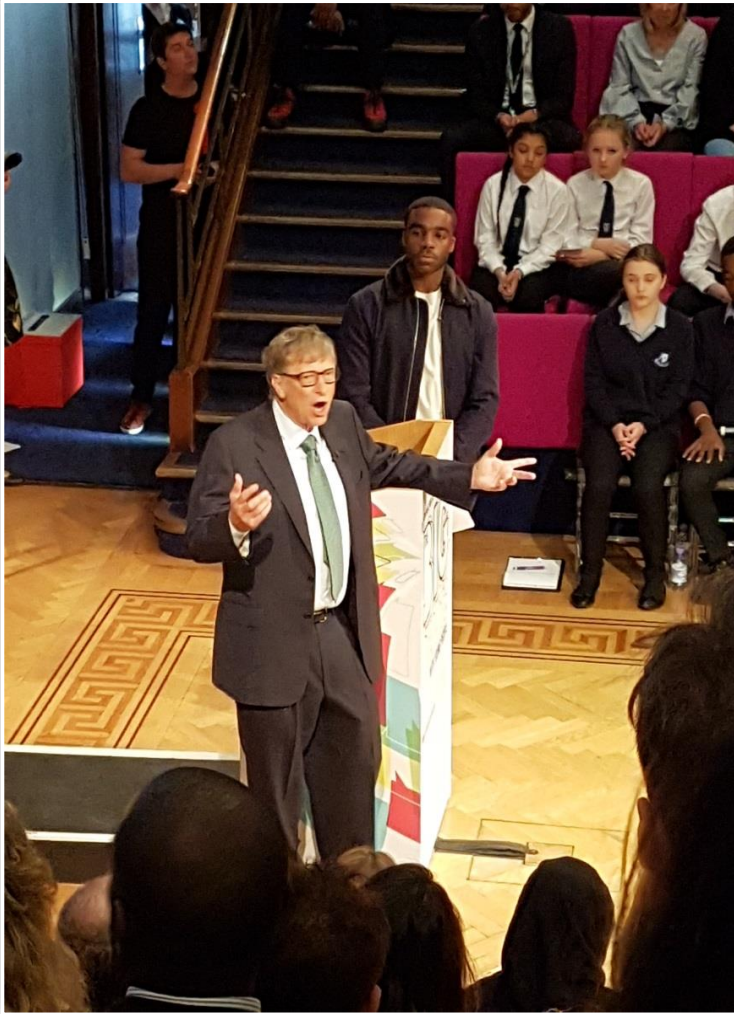
The day was run in partnership with *Comic Relief* and *The Bill and Melina Gates Foundation* and saw Bill Gates himself make a surprise visit to speak to the 300 pupils in attendance. The pupils had a unique and amazing opportunity to listen to one of the most influential people in the world and ask him questions about his foundation. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Platanos pupils and one that they are not likely to forget any time soon.





**Platanos pupils pictured at the Big Debate:** Qalid Muse Ali; Abdulqadir Ali; Robert Karapetian; Shivaruby Premkanthan; Vicky Do Mai; Chukwudindu Okali; Chung Ping-Xu; Alexie Jahabani; Ayni Mahmoud





*“The event was incredible!  
We met some inspiring  
people like Bill Gates and  
witnessed a thrilling debate.*

*I have taken a lot from this  
and will use the things that I  
have learnt to develop my  
own thinking and debating  
skills.”*

***Platanos pupil, Vicky Mai.***