

Platanos College News

Thursday 24th January 2018

Urban Debate League Round 1

On Wednesday 24th January, three teams from the Platanos Debating Society went along to the first round of the Urban Debate League in Notre Dame RC Girls' School. For some pupils, this was their first time at a debate competition and so it was an entirely new experience. Our teams had been preparing for weeks with their Debate Mate mentors in our after school club and it was time to put their skills to the test.

The first debate was *'This house would ban advertising targeted at children under 16'*. This was an interesting and thought-provoking motion and our teams had only fifteen minutes to prepare their arguments. The second motion was equally challenging: *'This house would allow the police to have full and unrestricted access to everyone's online information'*. Platanos pupils competed against five other schools in these two debates and some of the arguments put forward were outstanding.





Our most experienced debaters made up the Platanos A team and they terrifically demonstrated the skills that they have learned over the last couple of years in the debating society. They made clear and concise points, confidently rebutted their opponents arguments and worked wonderfully as a team to ensure they put forward the best arguments possible. This resulted in them comfortably winning both of their debates.



Platanos B team consisted of a mixture of experienced debaters and pupils who are new to the Debate Mate program. For the pupils who participated last year, this was their first debate competition since last year and so they had to brush off their debating cobwebs and find their confidence once again. For both debates, our B team were very closely matched with their opponents which led to them narrowly missing out on wins by a mere point or two.

Our Platanos C team were our novice team, entirely new to debating this year. They showed great determination and worked hard to put into practice what they have been learning since October. In their first debate, they were pitted against a much older and more experienced team and so lost out due to lack of experience. Their second debate was against another novice team, however, they didn't have enough cohesion in their arguments to get the points for a win. Despite this, pupils received lots of valuable feedback from the judges which they can work on and take forward into their next debate.

The next round of the Urban Debate League will take place on Thursday, 1st March in Sacred Heart RC Secondary School.