

Debating news

1. Frankly Speaking Competition

On Friday 25th February, Martha and Caleb (both Year 12) took part in the Frankly Speaking Debating Competition. The first two rounds and semi final took place at Benjamin Franklin House in the morning and the final took place in the United States Embassy in the afternoon.

Martha and Caleb took part in the following two debates at the start of the day;

- 1. This house believes that emergency services should not be allowed to go on strike. (CSG in opposition)**
- 2. This house believes that the global tourism industry does more harm than good. (CSG in proposition)**

After the two debates, it was announced that the CSG team had made it to the semi-final, in which they won the coin toss and chose to be opposition to the following motion;

This house believes that economic sanctions do not defend against threats to international peace and security.

Then it was announced that CSG had made it to the final at the US Embassy- a fantastic result!

We then moved over to the US Embassy and took in the incredible surroundings and refreshments before hearing a speech from the US Ambassador to the United Kingdom who spoke about the importance of debating in today's world as well as the legacy of Benjamin Franklin in the pursuit of knowledge and intellectual curiosity.

Following the Year 10-11 final, Martha and Caleb debated the following motion;

This house believes that social media companies have an obligation to "police" the information shared on their sites. (CSG in opposition)

At the end of the day it was announced that the team from CSG were runners up in the competition!

This was a fantastic result, as it was the first time we have entered the Frankly Speaking Competition and the final was incredibly close, with judges and audience members offering very positive feedback to our debaters.

The competition was a fantastic experience for our debaters, visiting historically significant sites and debating against schools from around London.

(Photos of the day below)





LIVED HERE.

BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN

PRINTER,
PHILOSOPHER, AND STATESMAN

BORN 1706.
DIED 1790.

SCIENTIA ET VERITAS



2. ESU Schools Mace Regional Final 2022

On the evening of Monday 28th February, Frida, Ines, Martha and Lola (all Year 12) represented CSG in the Regional Final of the English Speaking Union's Schools Mace Debating Competition.

Over the course of the evening, six teams debated the following motions online;

This House Would nationalise the energy supply system

Proposition: Eltham College Opposition: London Academy of Excellence

This House Would abolish timed exams as a means of assessment in education

Proposition: Bromley High School Opposition: Chingford Foundation School

This House Believes That 'influencer culture' is a force for good

Proposition: Ashmole Academy Opposition: Camden School for Girls

The debates were all of a very high standard, as all teams had made it through two previous rounds. Speakers from CSG debated passionately and brought in a wide range of evidence to support their points.

At the end of the evening, there were only one team to go through to Finals Day and the judge decided that the team from Chingford Foundation School would be progressing to the overall final. It was incredibly close and the competition has been an excellent experience for our debaters - the judge was very complimentary of the way they structured and analysed their points.

3. Oxford Union Schools Debating - North London Round

On the evening of Thursday 24th February eight Year 12 students took part in the North London Round of the Oxford Union Schools Debating Competition, which took place virtually and consisted of 40 teams from across London taking part.

The students (Martha, Ines, Lola, Fiona, Belle, Frida, Rosalie and Caleb) were split into four teams and took part in the following two debates over the course of the evening;

- 1) This house would prohibit the use of images of suffering in charity campaigns
- 2) This house would introduce a 100% inheritance tax

The judges gave students very positive feedback on their speeches and praised them for the clarity and structure of their arguments.

At the end of the evening it was announced that two of our teams (Team 1 - Martha and Ines and Team 3 - Belle and Frida) have made it to Finals Day in the Oxford Union on Saturday 12th March!

This is a truly fantastic result and the first time we have had two teams make it to Finals Day.

Overall, the evening was a very worthwhile experience for the debaters, many of whom were competing for the first time. We look forward to competition against the top debating teams from around the world in a few weeks' time.

Mr Gunn
Debating Co-ordinator/Head of History