

Derby City School Debate Competition 2022

Last year the debate competition was a challenge to run – but we made it a completely virtual event and managed to make it a huge success. This year turned out to be even more of a challenge due to the uncertainty of emerging from Covid

The event was postponed from it's usual January start and eventually we started a mostly "in person" event in March. Some schools had students still self isolating so once again we made the best of it and managed the tech in any way possible. As ever the children themselves amazed the judges with their resilience and hard work. It is gratifying to see the children take onboard the judges comments and watch the skill and confidence of the debating increase.

With a slightly reduced field of six schools and eight teams taking part we were pleased to welcome some familiar faces and some new schools to the debate experience. Topics included climate change, tourism and space exploration

Congratulations to all the pupils and to the staff who supported and encouraged them and thanks to the students from the University of Derby who mentored some of the schools.

The Final took place on 4th May 2022 when a team from Allestree Woodlands narrowly beat a team from Littleover Community School debating whether the UK should have an open border policy for immigrants. The final was judged by Dr Jennifer Gant, Julie Skill - then President of DDLS and HHJ Shaun Smith. The judges were impressed at the standard of debating on display saying "There were again some really impressive speakers on display and it was great to see how the children had developed their skills as the competition had progressed."

The competition has, as ever, been organized by the Derby and District Law Society, E4E and The University of Derby Law School. The project is a great example of organizations working well together and what can be achieved with lots of time but very little financial input.

A massive THANK YOU to all the academic staff at the University of Derby, particularly Steve Bravery, members of DDLS who helped judge the competition, all at E4E, particularly Arshad Iqbal, for his support throughout

and help in contacting the schools and everyone who gave up their time to make this project such a fantastic success.



The winning team from Allestree Woodlands with the judges



The runners up from Littleover Community School