

ISA

Debating Competition

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2024
TWYCROSS HOUSE SCHOOL

Deadline
16/10/24

OPEN TO KS3-5

COMPETITION OPEN TO ISA MEMBERS' SCHOOLS ONLY.



ISA

ARTS

www.isaschools.org.uk | isaarts@isaschools.org.uk | [@ISAartsUK](https://www.instagram.com/ISAartsUK)

Eligibility

This competition is open to ISA Members' schools only. Schools can submit a maximum of one team per age group. This will be a full day's programme with prizes being given at the end of the day.

At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities accessible. We welcome applications from all pupils, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please notify us at the earliest opportunity so we can provide the document accordingly, if required.

Competition categories and first debating topic

- Key Stage 3: This house believes that autonomous vehicles will make driving safer.
- Key Stage 4-5: This house believes that one person can make a real difference.

How to enter

Entries must be submitted via the entry form on the ISA website by **Wednesday 16 October 2024**. Please regard entries as a definite commitment to attend the event.

Please remember that late cancellations mean that other schools miss out on opportunities and cause considerable inconvenience to the organisers. **Please note: Entry numbers are limited and will be first come, first served. You will be informed if the competition is fully booked and will have the opportunity to join a waiting list. You may then be contacted in the event of cancellations.**

General information

- We will send you a timetable for the day prior to the event.
- The first debating topic is given in these guidelines for the schools to prepare in advance. The side for each team will be given on the day of the event. The second and final topics will be provided on the day. You will have time to prepare for them.
- On arrival, your team will be shown to a preparation room where they will be based for the day.
- Each debate will take place simultaneously, so it is very important we run on time to ensure the day finishes promptly.
- Only one member of staff is permitted in the room during preparation time for the debates.
- Audience members are welcome to attend this competition, please note that space is limited.
- Participants are required to bring their own laptops and packed lunch.
- Dress code: school uniform or business attire.
- We encourage schools to have a reserve team in case of last-minute changes.
final
- While we recognise the potential benefit of AI, we kindly request that participants are using it for inspiration and support and in line with their schools policies on its use, rather than using it to generate their debate arguments. Please include details about the process of using AI under "any special circumstances" box if applicable, so judges are aware.

Debating rules

The debates will follow the extended mace format.

Although debating can be a stressful and fast-paced activity, speakers must be mindful to respect other participants (including other speakers, judges, chairs, teachers and staff) at all times. Any language or behaviour that is deemed offensive or badgering to others will be penalised, or in severe cases will result in disqualification.

- Each team is to have 3 speakers.
- Before each debate the teams will have half an hour to prepare. Use of internet is allowed for research.
- While we recognise the potential benefit of AI, we kindly request that participants are using it for inspiration and support rather than using it to generate their speech.
- During the debates, teams may use laptops, phones or other devices for timekeeping and note reading only. No research must be conducted during the debate.
- We encourage students to bring water with them for the debates.

KS4/5 Speeches:

- Each speaker has a five-minute time limit for their speech.
- One minute into each speech a bell will sound to allow for Points of Information from the opposition.
- Each speaker must accept a minimum of one POI during their time.
- Four minutes into the speech the bell will sound again to mark the speaker's final minute. (Points of Information are not allowed in the last minute)
- On the fifth minute a double bell will sound to mark the end of your time. The speech must end within a few seconds of this double bell sounding or your team will be penalised.

KS3 Speeches:

- Each speaker has a three-minute time limit for their speech.
- After 30 seconds into each speech a bell will sound to allow for Points of Information from the opposition.
- Each speaker must accept a minimum of one POI during their time.
- 2 minutes into the speech the bell will sound again to mark the speaker's final minute. (Points of Information are not allowed in the last minute)
- On the third minute a double bell will sound to mark the end of your time. The speech must end within a few seconds of this double bell sounding or your team will be penalised.

Points of Information:

Each speaker must accept a minimum of one POI during their time.

If the judge considers any team to be badgering (making too many POIs in order to disrupt the speaker), their score will be penalised.

Concluding speeches:

- Once all three team members have spoken for the proposition and opposition it is time for each team's concluding speech.
- The concluding speeches are to be made by either the first or the second speaker of each team.
- The proposing team make the first concluding speech.
- The concluding speech is to last maximum 5 minutes for KS4/5 and maximum 3 minutes for KS3 students.
- No points of information are allowed during the concluding speeches.
- A bell will sound to mark you have one-minute left. Then a double bell will sound to mark the end of your time. The speech must end within a few seconds of this double bell sounding or your team will be penalised.

Final:

Each school will have the opportunity to debate twice, with the two highest-scoring teams from each age group making it through to the final.

The final motion will be given on the day. Students will have 30 minutes to prepare.

Judging Criteria

The debates will be marked to a points system including the following criteria:

- Style
- Content
- Strategy
- Overall argument

If you have any questions, please contact isaarts@isaschools.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your entries.