



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Debate Academy Guide 2024

Monday 5th August - Saturday 10th August 2024
Stamford Endowed Schools





Introduction from the Course Director

Debate Academy is an annual, week-long summer school, held in the United Kingdom during early August, dedicated to improving young people's debating skills. The venue for Debate Academy 2024 is Stamford School.

Our ESU Oracy Coaches are expert debaters. They provide specialist tutoring to students, from ages 14 to 18, in a variety of competitive debating formats. Debate Academy will offer a tailored experience for all, whether you have little to no experience, or are preparing for trials for your national debating team.

This guide is designed to provide additional information and address any questions you may have about Debate Academy.

For the most up to date information on this year's Debate Academy or to register for a place, please visit [our website](#).

If you have any further questions or queries about Debate Academy 2024, please feel free to get in touch with us at education@esu.org

We look forward to seeing you there!

Cait Lees
Assistant Director of Education
The English-Speaking Union





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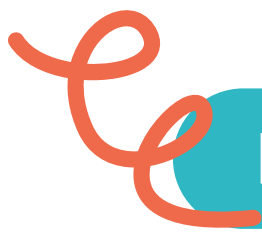
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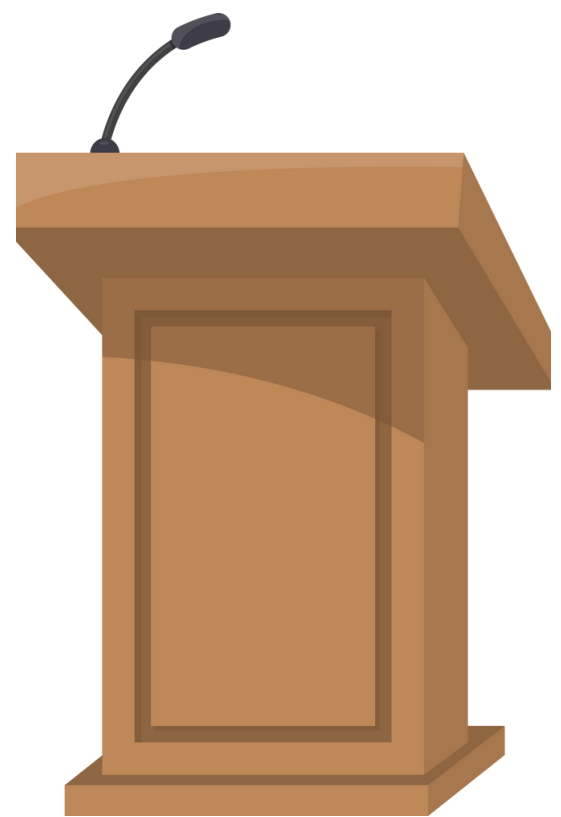
Learning at Debate Academy

At Debate Academy students will receive expert tuition on debating from some of the best debaters in the country. They will get the chance to discuss world issues, sharpen analytical, reasoning and public speaking skills, and spar with other students from all over the world in competitive debates.

We offer a mixed formats programme which offers practice in British Parliamentary, ESU Schools' Mace and the World Schools Debating Championships formats, as well as helping students to develop a wide range of useful oracy skills.

Each day, students will have dedicated teaching hours that will consist of a mix of practice debates, skills-oriented exercises and games as well as focused topic-based seminars tailored to your experience level. Class sizes will be no bigger than 25 to maximise each student's ability to participate in sessions and get the most out of the week.

Every student will get the opportunity to participate in at least six debates across the week. This is the same for all streams and each student will receive detailed feedback and guidance following their debates from our oracy coaches. At the end of the week students should feel more confident in public speaking, constructing arguments and engaging in topical issues.

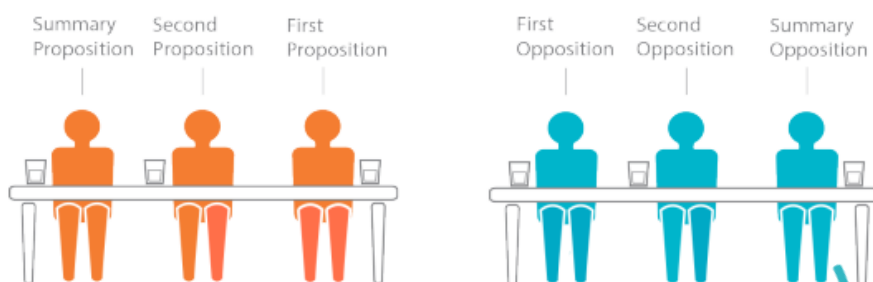





As well as debate skills focused lessons and the chance to participate in debates alongside their peers, Debate Academy also offers a choice of electives throughout the week. These cover a range of specialist topics and are delivered by our Oracy Coaches. Previous topics have included International Institutions, History of the LGBT+ Movement and the Philosophy of Democracy. In these content focused sessions students are able to pick the elective that most interests them and explore a variety of challenging and investigative discussion topics.

Students will learn and practice three different debating formats that are commonly used in UK debating competitions. It is not necessary for students to have knowledge of any given format before arrival. Regardless of ability level, quick re-caps and primers on the formats will be given. For further information, links to explanations of the formats are provided below.

The first format is the ESU Schools' Mace Extended Mace format. This is the format that is used in our national tournament, the ESU Schools' Mace, the largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales. For more information on how the format works, you can look [here](#).





The second format is British Parliamentary debating. This is the format used by most university organised debating tournaments around the United Kingdom including those organised by the Cambridge and Oxford Unions. A guide explaining how this format works, written by the Cambridge Union for their schools' tournament, can be found [here](#).

The final format taught is the World Schools format. This is the format of the World Schools' Debating Championships as well as most international competitive debating. The ESU guide to this format can be found [here](#).



Which 'Stream' is for me?

Whilst applying to Debate Academy students will be asked to tell us more about any debating and public speaking experience, as well as let us know what level they think they're at. We will take this information and make sure students are in the right ability stream.

This section is a handy guide with more information about streams. Each year we have students of all ages with a wide range of experience in debating from beginner to advanced, so you'll always find others at the same level as you to practice and debate with.





Which 'Stream' is for me?

Beginner

- No previous experience of debating or public speaking
- Build confidence and learn the basics
- Find out what debating is like

This level is a great way to kick off involvement in debating with a bang!

Lower Intermediate

- Not necessarily have debated regularly before but participated in similar activities or a couple of tournaments before
- Some previous experience of Model United Nations, Youth Parliament or Public Speaking
- Great place to hone skills

Get the first taste of what it's like to start debating regularly and to get to understand how debating works at a deeper level.

Upper Intermediate

- Regularly compete in debating or public speaking
- Spar with other students
- Learn advanced tactics for competitive edge
- Learn how to prepare for tournaments.

For debaters looking to make the jump into the top levels of debating.

Advanced

- Serious debater
- Learn how to progress from tournament finalist to tournament champion
- Ideal for those trialling for a spot on a country's international team

Each year many of the top schools' debaters come to compete against one another and stretch themselves even further at Debate Academy.

Living at Debate Academy



Debate Academy is a residential summer school in which all students will be staying in the boarding facilities provided by Stamford Endowed Schools. Stamford School and Stamford High School are located in the picturesque town of Stamford. This section will give you a little bit more detail about what the facilities look like.

Due to growing numbers, Debate Academy 2024 will take place on two campuses within Stamford School. Students will be allocated to one campus and will remain there for the week. All teaching, activities and catering will be at their designated campus.



Accommodation



Students will be split across Stamford School and Stamford High School in seven of the newly refurbished boarding houses. Students will be required to remain on their designated campus for the duration of the week and will not be permitted to move between the two sites. Boarding houses have dedicated communal areas with televisions, pool tables and musical instruments for the students to enjoy in their leisure time.

Rooms are a mix of dormitories, double rooms and single rooms. The priority order for allocating single rooms will be as follows:

1. Individual needs (e.g. medical requirements)
2. Older students will then be allocated to a single room (if available)
3. Finally, students will be randomly allocated into single gender rooms/dormitories

Whilst all boarding houses will be co-ed, we ensure that all rooms are single gender and students will be able to access male/female/gender-neutral shower and toilet facilities.



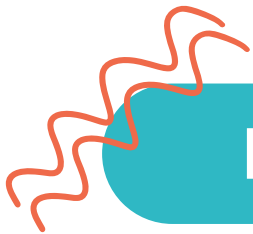


Food



All on-site catering is provided by Stamford Endowed Schools in the large communal dining halls at the respective sites. Each day a choice of hot or cold breakfast is provided, along with lunch and dinner. We also provide fresh fruit and squash each day to keep students fuelled for their classes.

We cater for most dietary requirements; however, we are sadly unable to provide kosher meals. If you have this requirement, we instead recommend that you sign up for the vegetarian meals.



Free Time and Socialising



As well as debate focused lessons and elective, students will have a range of activity lessons to choose from run by our Oracy Coaches. Oracy Coaches share a selection of hobbies that drive them outside of debating that students can choose to take part in. Some of the previous options have included a walk around the local town, stage-fighting and drama, ballroom dancing and bridge. This is a great opportunity for students to learn new hobbies and relax after a day of debating.

In addition to our activity lessons we run a variety of socials each evening that all students take part in so they are able to meet peers and make friends outside of their debate classes. Last year, we held socials such as sports night, olympic games and a very competitive quiz night!

In the breaks during the day students can walk around the beautiful Stamford School grounds and socialise with friends. Light refreshments in the form of squash, water and fruit will be provided each day during break times.





Student Welfare

We are committed to making sure that Debate Academy is a safe and happy space for all students. In order to ensure that students feel safe, we have a range of policies in place, including the following:

We are happy to accommodate any health-related issues (mental or physical) that we can throughout the week, and if there are requirements that may impact on the student's well-being we ask that this is communicated to us in advance so that we can plan accordingly.

We do not directly monitor students at all times - students are however, expected to remain on their designated school site unless they are given permission to leave by a member of ESU staff. Students will be expected to adhere to a curfew to be in their rooms and attend all classes where they will be registered. ESU staff will take registration in the morning and in the evening, as well as attendance for each lesson. Whilst for some of the older students this might feel restrictive it is necessary for the sound running of the course.

Finally, if a student does have issues whilst at Debate Academy, in addition to several qualified first-aiders being onsite and available at any time, we also have dedicated welfare points of contact to allow students to securely express anything that is bothering them during their stay. All ESU staff on site are DBS checked and have completed online and in-person training in safeguarding best practice.





Applying to Debate Academy

We hope this short guide has given you all the information that you need for Debate Academy, but feel free to get in touch with our team at any time if you have any more questions.

You can find the link to apply to Debate Academy on our website [here](#). The cost per participant is £725 and includes all accommodation and food for the duration.

The ESU offers partial or full bursaries to students in order to attend Debate Academy and we are committed to ensuring that a student's financial circumstances should not present a barrier to their ability to attend. We are able to offer bursaries of 50%, 80% or 100% of the course fee, allocated on a basis of financial need. We can also offer money towards travel expenses for students receiving bursaries. Please get in touch with us for more information.

Thank you again for your interest in Debate Academy 2024.
We hope to see you at Stamford School in August!

