

**SBHS
DEBATING
2011**

**Parent and Student
Information Package**

SBHS Debating- why debate?

- Debating is a “sport”!
- Its a mind gym- to exercise your brain
- It covers all KLA’s (key learning areas) and can help you with other subjects.
- It is sociable, it develops team work, your communication skills and confidence.
- It is practical and useful.
- We have a long history of **success** and strong networks of debaters across schools.

DEBATING SUCCESS



- In 2010 High won the state debating competitions in:
Year 12 – Hume Barbour Trophy
Year 11 – Carl Kramp Trophy
Year 10 (Teasdale Cup)
- In 2006 Faraz Amin, Sriram Srikumar and Romesh Abeyesuriya won the GPS First Grade Debating Competition.

WHO RUNS DEBATING?

Rachel Powell

Headteacher History and MIC Debating

Dana Quick

Coach Co-ordinator

Email contact is the easiest-
sbhsdebating@gmail.com

THE BASICS OF DEBATING

- Teams consist of -3 speakers and 1 “Team Advisor” or 4th (silent) speaker.
- At each year level, debaters have a set time limit for their speeches.
- Debates are either prepared (usually only in Year 7) or done with 1 hour preparation time.
- The general **topic area** will be given out prior to the debate
- For unprepared debates a coin is tossed to decide the sides.
- The affirmative team always starts the debate.

Judging a debate- Adjudication

- An non aligned adjudicator will (in most instances) “judge” a debate.
- They will look for 3 main things in your speech- **manner, matter and method.**
- At the end of the debate they will deliver their adjudication which will highlight the good and bad aspects of the debate and they will give their decision.
- An adjudicators decision is final, any issues or complaints about this should be directed to the school co-ordinator.
- Usually an adjudicator will provide individual feedback to debaters at the very end.

COACHING

- is offered to all boys who register for debating.
- is FREE of charge in term 1. A co-payment for participation is charged for boys who continue in Term 2 and 3.
- Will commence in Week 4 (Feb. 18th) of this term and run through until week 7 of term 3 (approx 22 weeks).
- Is held on FRIDAY AFTERNOONS from 3.20pm-4.45pm for all years

HOW DO I JOIN DEBATING?

- Read this information package.
- Complete and return the contact information sheet and the Code of Conduct to Ms Powell in the History Staff Room.
- Start attending coaching on Friday afternoons from Feb 18th, 2011.

Note- attending coaching doesn't mean that you are in a debating team

DEBATING FEES

- In 2007, a fee was introduced for those who are continuing with Debating beyond Term 1.
- The fee is \$80 for Year 7 in 2011 and is payable to the office in term 2.
- More information about this will be provided later.

WHAT IF I CAN'T ATTEND COACHING?

- Training for all grades is on Friday after school until approx 4.45pm.
- If you cannot attend training in term 1 because of summer sporting commitments you may start attending debating coaching in at the start of Term 2.
- Attendance at coaching is monitored.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO DEBATING?

TO COACHING

- Your enthusiasm to learn new skills and ideas and your ears to listen with.
- **AN EXERCISE BOOK-** must come with you each week and you take notes and do activities in this book. It will be marked at the end of the season in order for you to have your award scheme marked off.

THE COACHES

- Coaches are generally old-boys and/or university students with high level of debating experience (some up to “world” level!).
- Coaches are paid from the school budget to coach for one and a half hours a week and to attend debates and provide feedback afterwards.
- Coaches are responsible for running selections and choosing teams.
- This year we aim to have 10 coaches.
- All coaches and adjudicators go through the compulsory employment screening procedures for working with children.

CONDUCT IN COACHING

- The same rules apply in debating and coaching as in school.
- All boys must treat their coach with the same respect that they would a teacher.
- **Debating is a privilege not a right.**
- Boys who are behaving inappropriately in coaching will be brought to the attention of Ms Powell who will take appropriate action in consultation with parents and Dr Jagger.

THE DEBATING CODE OF CONDUCT

- Students must **sign a code of conduct** - which outlines the expectation of boys in coaching and at debates in order to participate in debating.
- Students who break this code may be removed from debating.
- Boys who have not completed a Code of Conduct will not be allowed to attend coaching.

THE COMPETITIONS - WHEN?

FRIDAY NIGHTS

- The Eastside Competition (Term 1 and 2)
- The Friday Evening Debating Comp (Term 1 and 2)
- Social Debates (Term 2, various dates)
- GPS Competition (Term 3, week 1-7)

DURING SCHOOL

- Premier's Debating Challenge
(various dates for each year level from term 2-4, this is coordinated by Ms Powell, Dr Finnie & Mr Webb)

THE COMPETITIONS- WHAT?

- **Eastside, FED and Social Debates**

Are opportunities for students to try-out for the GPS teams. Formal selections for GPS are held in training at the end of term 2.

- **The GPS Competition.**

This is the more prestigious/official comp, the A team in each year level is set and the other teams rotate through each week.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEBATE.

- We endeavour to offer as many opportunities to debate as possible.
- All Year 7s will get at least one social debate.

UNI TRAINING DAYS

- Sydney University, UNSW and Macquarie Uni all hold school training days.
- These days generally involve workshops, guest speakers and mock debates, and enrich the coaching provided by the school
- Places are generally limited and information will be provided as it is made available.
- The days incur a cost of between \$20-35.

TEAM SELECTIONS

- Selections for GPS and PDC Teams are held in the form of trial debates held during coaching
- GPS teams are announced at the end of Term 2 and at formally at the Debating Assembly in the Friday of week 1, term 3.
- A students **performance** in pre-season debates, **availability** to attend debates and their **conduct** in coaching ALL contribute to the selection process.

TEAM SELECTIONS (cont)

- Generally the Eastside competition and social debates are made up of alternating and rotating teams.
- We usually have a set A team and rotate different B teams through the GPS season.
- More information of the exact structure of selections will be provided for each year level in term 2.

STUDENT AWARDS SCHEME

- The awards scheme encourages and recognises the participation of students in a wide range of activities.
- Students can again points in debating for
 - Attending at least 70% of coaching
 - Being in a GPS or PDC Team
 - Attending 2 Opens debates as a spectator
 - Chairing a debate
 - Helping with parking

COMMUNICATION-

with students and parents

- As much as possible, **email** will be used to communicate information about debating with you.
- We collect your address when you register for debating.
- This has proven to be quite effective as it cuts down on paper and the information gets straight to parents/students.
- Information is also posted on the **Debating Noticeboard** (outside 603) and in the **HIGH NOTES**.

REGISTRATION

- Registrations are made by completing the forms in this information package.
- We ask boys to register each year so as to keep our records updated with who is debating and so that contact details are correct.
- Info is **ONLY** shared with other debating parents in order to organise car pooling etc

DEBATING SUPPORTERS GROUP (DSG).

- Is the parent support group who are responsible for undertaking **parking** and other **fundraising activities** to assist with paying coaches.
- Meetings held on **first Tuesday** of the month at **6.30pm** in the Teachers Common Room
- Meetings are short and deal only with DSG business (not questions about coaching etc).
- **CRAIG PHILLIS** (Dad of Max in year 10) is the President of the DSG in 2011.

DSG- PARKING

- SBHS raises money for subcommittees by allocating parking days to each group and charging the public to park their cars on the school grounds during major sporting events at the stadium.
- The Moore Park Trust sets this rate at \$15 per car.
- Up to \$3,000 a session can be raised for debating via a “parking” day (that is the equivalent of a lot of cake stalls!).
- We should have about 3-4 days this year.

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- The DSG will be trialling a sausage sizzle in conjunction with Parking Days to be located near Anzac Pde. More details to follow.

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DSG – PARKING HOW CAN I HELP?

- By volunteering!
- It is very easy, simply directing cars into the school and parking them in a set order and collecting money.
- Shifts are about 3-4 hours long.
- SUNIL SETHI (debating parent) is Debating's Parking Coordinator and will email you with dates and request volunteers.

DSG- SUPPERS

- At HOME debates ALL students debating, chairing or watching debates are to bring a **plate of food** to contribute to supper.
- Parents work in two shifts to lay out the food for debaters **AFTER** they debate (one lot for the juniors another for the seniors).
- SBHS has a very good reputation as providing diverse and plentiful suppers!

DSG-SUPPERS

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Please come to the DSG meetings!
- The DSG will co-ordinate the running of the suppers and communicate with you about volunteering to assist with setting up and packing away.
- Food needs to be ready-to-eat. No cooking or heating facilities are available.
- IRENE BEN + NINA ILINA (parents of yr 9 boys) are supper coordinators for 2011.

MORE INFORMATION

- The website has most of the information www.sydneyhigh.org.au/debating

This includes

- the debating season calendar
- The GPS Handbook of rules
- Registrations
- DSG information
- Forms and flyers

More MORE Information

- Email your enquiry to sbhsdebating@gmail.com
I will reply ASAP
- By phoning the school and asking to speak to Rachel Powell.

Debating FAQ's

When is coaching?

Coaching for all years is on FRIDAYS AT 3.20PM. It will start in Week 4 of Term 1, 2011.

Can my son start coaching in Term 2?

Yes! Debating is officially a “winter” sport, students with sporting commitments in summer can start in term 2, although this may mean they have missed the Eastside Comp and therefore some key debates in which to try-out for the GPS teams.

Debating FAQ's

Does my son need a blazer to debate?

No. We realise not all boys have blazers especially in the junior years. They just need to be well presented (neat hair, shirt tucked in, clean shoes, tie done up etc)

If they have a blazer they should definitely be wearing it.

Debating FAQ's

- **How do we get to the debates?**

Venue information is listed on the website, is in the GPS manual and is usually on the weekly team email.

- **Do you provide transport to the debates?**

SBHS will endeavour to provide the school bus to debates that are far away and the DSG may organise a car pool.

Debating FAQ's

- **What if I don't have an email account?**

All students in NSW have an email account-
their name.surname@education.nsw.edu.au

- Information distributed via email is put on the debating notice board and important dates and information is listed in the **High Notes**.

- Free email accounts can be easily obtained from hotmail or yahoo etc...

Debating FAQ's

- **I want my son to do Debating but he doesn't want to. What should I do?**

Join Toastmasters yourself! (only joking..)

Debating can seem daunting to some boys and many are terrified of the idea of talking to a group. Ask them to attend a coaching session and check it out and to come and see me. I can talk them through their concerns, but ultimately it is up to them!