

## MINDS UNDERGROUND

# Young Minds Debate

### OVERVIEW

We have 7 levels of debate coaching in the new Young Minds programme, each of which is a 12 week course. This includes an introductory level, followed by Levels 1-6. Based on Ben's feedback from the first debate, we will be skipping the introductory level and starting straight on Week 1, which aims to progress the students to the next level of debate, building on skills learnt over their previous courses.



### AIMS

By the end of the course, students should be able to speak confidently and clearly for 3 minutes, with 30 minutes preparation time. We will build on previous skills of argument generation and construction in order to take debating skills to the next level. We will also move towards a more advanced selection of topic discussions to expand our knowledge of global affairs and discussion topics. These skills should help students to improve their performance in competitive debating as well as provide them with vital skills for public speaking and presentation more broadly.

### THE WEEKLY COURSE

Eight of the classes will include a 10 minute discussion of current affairs, a 30 minute skill session and 25 minutes of speaking practice targeted at practicing the skills. The remaining four classes will consist of a full debate with feedback.

8 sessions will be skills based, with an additional 4 giving us time to do a full debate.

### SKILLS GAINED

- Public speaking skills
- Verbal and non-verbal communication skills
- Conversation and discussion skills
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Research and reflection skills
- Persuasion skills
- Planning and preparation skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Current Affairs knowledge and insights
- Argument building skills which are transferrable to all essay planning & writing

### OUR HOST

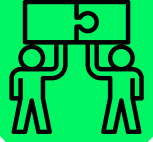
Ben Joe was on team England in 2018 (top 5 students in the country) and while on the team, England were ranked 3rd in the world! He has since coached regularly in particular students aged 9-12 at Dulwich College.

Our MU debate course has been co-written with the Head Coach of Team England, Issy, and another leading Debate Coach, Kenza (coached Team India in 2019 when they were World Champions & was World Champion in 2016/ Best Speaker in the World in 2017).



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## Session Overview



### SESSION 1: GENERATING PRACTICAL ARGUMENTS

Look at how we generate practical arguments using a stakeholders analysis. We'll practice this using games like stakeholders bingo, and also advance any previous understanding by looking at how we weigh stakeholders.

### SESSION 2: ANALYSING PRACTICAL ARGUMENTS 1

Look at how we analyse practical arguments using the PEEIL method, focusing on the explanation. In particular we'll use the 'Now Action Then' technique to build on the work already done using logic and 'asking why'.

### SESSION 3: ANALYSING PRACTICAL ARGUMENTS 2

Build on the skills of session 1 to add structure and depth to our arguments. In particular we'll look at how we can 'bookend' each argument to add clarity, and also how we can better explain why things matter.

### SESSION 4: STYLE 1

Look at methods to improve speaking style with a focus on variation and tone. Look at different ways of practicing speaking style in your own time and practice some of these skills in class. We'll look at how different style techniques work for different motions.

### SESSION 5: REBUTTAL

Build on the fundamentals of how to rebut an argument. In particular we will look at the 'Premise Logic Evidence' method and how to break down an argument into its component parts in order to target our rebuttal.

### SESSION 6: PREP TIME

Explore teamwork and preparation time and how to work together to get the best case. We'll look at what the schedule for prep should be as well as different ways to share out the workload in order to efficiently construct a case.

### SESSION 7: POINTS OF INFORMATION

Learning about making interruptions in speeches and how to make them effective. In particular we will look at the two different methods of POI construction: how to come up with them in preparation time as well as how to come up with them live during the debate.

### SESSION 8: STYLE 2

Further practice in how to improve speaking style, this time focusing on language choice and fluency. Again we will practice these skills in class and provide guidance on how to work on these skills this going forward.

