



2024 Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 7 and 8 State Championships

The Women's College,
University of Sydney

Wednesday 4 to Friday 6
December 2024

Past champions	
1998	Oxley High School
1999	Colo High School
2000	Sydney Girls High School
2001	Dover Heights High School
2002	Smiths Hill High School
2003	Sydney Boys High School
2004	Caringbah High School
2005	Goulburn High School
2006	Baulkham Hills High School
2007	Inverell High School
2008	Inverell High School
2009	Sydney Girls High School
2010	Fort Street High School
2011	Nambucca Heads High School
2012	Sydney Girls High School
2013	North Sydney Girls High School
2014	Merewether High School
2015	NBSC Manly Campus
2016	Merewether High School
2017	Smiths Hill High School
2018	NBSC Manly Campus
2019	Fort Street High School
2020	Callaghan College Waratah
2021	Not awarded
2022	James Ruse Agricultural High School
2023	Byron Bay High School



Introduction

The NSW Department of Education congratulates you on being the winning team from your region in the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 7 and 8. Over 350 teams entered the competition this year, and only the ten regional champions remain. They'll now face off in a state tournament at a residential camp to determine the 2024 champions.

In this package you will find details of organisation, information on the camp, the rules of the competition and forms for completion. Please contact the organisers at any time to discuss details of the championships (contact details below).

Each participating school is responsible for:

- Their team's travel arrangements. Some funds are available to assist regional areas with transport costs. Please contact the Speaking Competitions Officer about this assistance.
- Ensuring that the parent/caregiver of each team member completes the student permission form which makes up the final 2 pages of this package. These forms should be scanned and emailed to Tony Davey, the 2024 chief adjudicator, as soon as possible (contact details below).
- Completing risk assessments for travel to and from the championships.
- If applicable, preparing a parent/caregiver permission to cover permission to travel to and from the camp as per each team's arrangements.

The Arts Unit will provide:

- Three relief days for each team's teacher
- Part of the accommodation costs
- Fees and accommodation expenses for adjudicators
- Palm cards, pens and paper etc for use in all debates
- Completed risk assessments for the venue and accommodation

Camp fees

The cost for the camp is \$350.00 TBC (GST-free) per participating student. This covers accommodation, meals, trophies, and certificates. Each student should make this payment to their own school. The department will then charge each school after the championships using the intercompany journal process.

Relief for the accompanying teacher

Relief will be paid to each coordinator's school via the intercompany journal process. Please let the office at your school know to look out for a payment of \$1,599 TBC (GST-free, includes oncosts) with the description 'Debating relief x 3 days 4 to 6 Dec 24.'

Look forward to seeing you there!

Justine Clarke
Speaking Competitions Officer
T: 8512 1172
M: 0418 412 218
E: justine.clarke@det.nsw.edu.au

Tony Davey
2024 Chief Adjudicator
Locked Bag 1500, PETERSHAM 2049
M: 0405 181 178
E: anthony.r.davey@det.nsw.edu.au



Camp organisation

Registration

Please fill out the 'Team registration form' included in this package and email it to The Arts Unit as soon as possible so that we can begin work on room allocation. Ensure that all names are correctly spelt and printed, as this form will be used to print the certificates which will be presented at the end of the championships. Please send the form as soon as you have the names of your team, and then resend as soon as you have the necessary dietary and health information.

Student accommodation

Students will be allocated to either single or twin rooms. Every effort will be made to ensure that team members are able to room with each other, but male and female students will be accommodated in nearby but separate parts of the college. Separate bathrooms will be allocated to students.

Teacher accommodation

Teachers will be accommodated in rooms at the end of the student sections. Separate bathrooms will be allocated to teachers.

Recreation time

Recreation time will be supervised by the regional coordinators. The organisers will brief the teams before the tournament as to recreational options for the camp.

Travel

Teams are responsible for their own travel to the championships. The Women's College is located within the grounds of the university, with an entrance on Carillon Ave, Newtown. Parking will be available at the college.

Meals

All meals will be taken together in the dining room. The first meal will be morning tea on Wednesday, and the last will be morning tea on Friday. Each day will include a morning and afternoon tea and a supper along with regular meals. If any member of your team or any adult has special dietary requirements, please contact The Arts Unit as soon as you're aware and then include that information on the registration form.

Health requirements

Please notify The Arts Unit immediately if any member of your team has special health needs like severe allergies that will need to be managed. Note that a risk assessment for the camp will be sent to each participating school.

2024 Years 7 and 8 state final

Don't forget that parents, families and friends are welcome to come to the state final on Friday at 10.00am. The final will be recorded for use as a teaching aid in schools, and a video of the final will also be posted online for the public to view and download.



Rules of the championships

- This competition is for the 10 regional champion teams from NSW government schools in the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 7 and 8.
- In each debate there will be only 4 members per team of which only 3 will speak. Only the 4 participating members will be allowed into preparation.
- All teams are required to be present at the designated meeting place 10 minutes prior to scheduled preparation time.
- Debating teams are to be attired in school uniform.
- For every debate there will be a choice of 3 topics. Topics will be set by the chief adjudicator in consultation with the adjudicators. All teams will choose from the same list of 3 topics in each round.
- During topics selection, only the 4 team members involved in the debate will be involved in the ranking of the topics from 1 to 3.
- Both 3rd choices will be eliminated, and the highest-rated topic chosen. Where two remaining topics are equally popular, a coin toss shall decide between them.
- The toss of a coin will determine affirmative/negative. The winner of the toss is the affirmative.
- For each round there will be a period of 60 minutes for preparation. There will be no adult present in the room during this time.
- The only materials allowed in preparation will be a timer, blank palm cards, paper and pens.
- Dictionaries will not be provided for preparation, and will not be allowed in the preparation rooms.
- Students may not take bags, mobile phones, or preparation aids into preparation.
- Teams will prepare in the same preparation room on any given day.
- Each team's teacher will supervise the opposition team during preparation. They are responsible for ensuring the team remains undisturbed and for escorting the team to the debate once the 60 minutes has passed.
- Each speaker has 6 minutes to speak. There will be a warning bell at 4 minutes with two bells at 6 minutes. There will be a continuous bell if a speaker exceeds the speaking time by more than 1 minute.
- Each team will debate 5 times in the round-robin section.
- An adjudicator appointed by The Arts Unit will adjudicate all debates. Their decision will be final.
- The teams will be placed into two pools of 5, and will debate the other 4 teams in their pool plus one team from the other pool. The two highest-ranked teams from each pool will proceed to the semi-finals, where the winner from one pool will face the runner-up from the other pool.
- In the event that teams draw for semi-final spots, tiebreakers will be applied in the following order: head-to-head, strength of win, strength of schedule, adjudicator ranking. If more than two teams are drawn, the tiebreakers are applied in order until one team is eliminated and the process is restarted.
- The winners of the semi-finals will proceed to the state final on Friday. All teams are expected to attend the state final.



Program for the championships

Preparation rooms for Wednesday debates		
HCC_champion:	Room TBC	NC_champion: Room TBC
ISE_champion:	Room TBC	NE_champion: Room TBC
NS_champion:	Room TBC	R_champion: Room TBC
SWS_champion:	Room TBC	SYD_champion: Room TBC
WSY_champion:	Room TBC	W_champion: Room TBC
Day 1 – Wednesday 4 December 2024		
9:00 AM	Arrival and registration	Menzies
10:00 AM	Watch the Junior State Debating Final	Menzies
11:15 AM	Morning tea	Courtyard
12:00 PM	Orientation meeting	Menzies
12:30 PM	Lunch	Dining hall
1:00 PM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
1:10 PM	Round 1 preparation	
2:10 PM	Round 1 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. NS_champion v HCC_champion	Room TBC
	2. WSY_champion v NC_champion	Room TBC
	3. SYD_champion v ISE_champion	Room TBC
	4. NE_champion v W_champion	Room TBC
	5. SWS_champion v R_champion	Room TBC
3:10 PM	Afternoon tea	Courtyard
3:30 PM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
3:40 PM	Round 2 preparation	
4:40 PM	Round 2 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. NC_champion v R_champion	Room TBC
	2. NS_champion v WSY_champion	Room TBC
	3. ISE_champion v W_champion	Room TBC
	4. HCC_champion v NE_champion	Room TBC
	5. SYD_champion v SWS_champion	Room TBC
6:00 PM	Dinner	Dining hall
6:50 PM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
7:00 PM	Round 3 preparation	
8:00 PM	Round 3 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. HCC_champion v ISE_champion	Room TBC
	2. WSY_champion v NE_champion	Room TBC
	3. SYD_champion v R_champion	Room TBC
	4. NS_champion v NC_champion	Room TBC
	5. SWS_champion v W_champion	Room TBC
9:15 PM	Supper	Courtyard



Program for the championships continued

Preparation rooms for Thursday debates		
HCC_champion:	Room TBC	NC_champion: Room TBC
ISE_champion:	Room TBC	NE_champion: Room TBC
NS_champion:	Room TBC	R_champion: Room TBC
SWS_champion:	Room TBC	SYD_champion: Room TBC
WSY_champion:	Room TBC	W_champion: Room TBC
Day 2 – Thursday 5 December 2024		
7:30 AM	Breakfast	Dining hall
8:50 AM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
9:00 AM	Round 4 Preparation	
10:00 AM	Round 4 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. SYD_champion v W_champion	Room TBC
	2. ISE_champion v R_champion	Room TBC
	3. WSY_champion v SWS_champion	Room TBC
	4. NS_champion v NE_champion	Room TBC
	5. HCC_champion v NC_champion	Room TBC
11:00 AM	Morning tea	Courtyard
11:15 AM	Free time	
12:30 PM	Lunch	Dining hall
1:20 PM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
1:30 PM	Round 5 preparation	
2:30 PM	Round 5 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. NS_champion v SYD_champion	Room TBC
	2. R_champion v W_champion	Room TBC
	3. SWS_champion v ISE_champion	Room TBC
	4. WSY_champion v HCC_champion	Room TBC
	5. NC_champion v NE_champion	Room TBC
3:45 PM	Announcement of semi-finals and afternoon tea	Courtyard
4:00 PM	Free time	
6:00 PM	Dinner	Dining hall
6:50 PM	Semi-finalists gather for topic selection	Courtyard
7:00 PM	Semi-finals preparation, free time	
8:00 PM	Semi-final debates	Debate room
	1st North (TBC) v 2nd South (TBC)	Menzies
	1st South (TBC) v 2nd North (TBC)	Main
9:15 PM	Supper	Courtyard
Day 3 – Friday 6 December 2024		
7:00 AM	Breakfast, finalists to pack and check out	Dining hall
8:50 AM	Finalists gather for topic selection	Courtyard
9:00 AM	State final preparation, other to pack and check out	
10:00 AM	State final debate	Debate room
	Win SF1 (TBC) v Win SF2 (TBC)	Menzies
11:15 AM	Morning tea and farewell	Courtyard



Team registration form

School:

Teacher's Name:

Mobile:

Dietary / Health Needs:

1	Student's Name:	
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:
2	Student's Name:	
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:
3	Student's Name:	
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:
4	Student's Name:	
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:
5	Student's Name:	
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:

Email to: anthony.r.davey@det.nsw.edu.au



Student permission note page 1 of 2

Privacy advice	
<p>The personal information provided on this consent form will be used by the NSW Department of Education for general administration and communication and other matters of welfare relating to your child at this excursion. While the provision of this information is voluntary, it is strongly recommended that all details are completed. Failure to do so may impede the resolution of welfare issues if you are not able to be contacted. This information will be stored securely. You may access or correct any of the details at any time by contacting the teacher in charge of your team.</p>	
Permission	
<p>I give permission for my child/ward to attend the 2024 Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 7 and 8 State Championships at the Women's College, University of Sydney, from Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 December 2024.</p>	
Student's Name:	
Student's School:	
<p>I understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transport to and from the venue will be my responsibility in coordination with representative team's responsible teacher. • during free time the debaters will have supervised access to recreational activities at the University of Sydney. • it is my responsibility to provide sunscreen and a hat for my child and to ensure my child understands they need to reapply the sunscreen throughout the day. • some children at the tournament may have a severe reaction to contact with nuts and I will avoid sending nuts or nut bi-products with my child. • should my child's team make the state final, their debate may be broadcast live, and that the debate will be recorded and made available publicly online with subtitles identifying my child. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I acknowledge that this event is required to be held in accordance with any current NSW Health COVID-19 Public Health Orders and the NSW Department of Education's policies and procedures. • I acknowledge and accept that there is a risk that my child may be exposed to COVID-19 whilst attending and participating. • I confirm that my child will not attend if displaying any symptoms of illness, and/or if directed to isolate under public health orders. • I understand that my child will complete a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to leaving home on the morning before the start of the program and not attend the event if the test result is positive. • I understand that I will be required to collect my child from the venue immediately if they become ill and present with COVID-like symptoms. 	
Parent/caregiver contact details	
Name:	Signature:
Address:	
Mobile:	Email:
Home phone:	Work phone:



Student permission note page 2 of 2

Doctor contact details	
Name:	
Address:	Phone:
Emergency contacts (other than the previous parent/caregiver details)	
Name (1):	Phone:
Name (2):	Phone:
List existing medical conditions or illnesses (include asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, allergies etc.). Outline the treatment for each.	
Outline special dietary needs and possible reaction to inappropriate diet.	
List any medication to be administered during the camp. Include name of medication, instructions for administration, and any possible reactions	
Student publication consent	
<p>I hereby consent to my son/daughter/ward being photographed, recorded, and/or filmed at the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 7 and 8 State Championships from Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 December 2024. I understand that the photographs, recordings and/or films may be used for NSW Department of Education publications, external publications, internet sites, social media, print and electronic mainstream media, television and or other associated promotional material or by sponsors of the departmental program in which the photograph, recording and/or film was taken. I understand that my son/daughter/ward may be identified by name and school with their image on any of these media forms.</p>	
Signature:	Date: