

Dear students,

We are pleased to invite you to apply for the Scottish National Debating Team and Training Squads for 2021-22. All pupils in S1-S6 (or equivalent) who attend a school in Scotland are eligible to apply.

This year we are excited to be expanding our squads to allow us to include more pupils than we have done in previous years. For the academic year 2021-22 this will include a development stream for pupils in S1-S4 alongside the selection process for the National Team which is open to all pupils in S1-S6.

Due to Covid it has not yet been determined whether the World Championships in Summer 2022 will take place online or in Macau as previously intended. We will notify pupils of the exact details as soon as we are able to.

The training and selection process for 2021-22 will be as follows:

Applications

All pupils who are interested in applying should complete an application form and send it to scottishdebatingteam@gmail.com by no later than **11:59pm Sunday 3rd October**.

Based on these applications, a group of 18-24 students will be chosen to join the Training Squad. A further group of 20-40 debaters in S1-S4 will be chosen to join the Development Squad. We are purposefully keeping the size of these groups flexible – the number of pupils we choose will be dependent on the quality of applications we receive.

Development Squad

The aim of the Development Squad is to give younger pupils the ability to access high quality training in the World Schools format. With the hope that in future years many of these pupils will go on to progress onto the Training Squad and represent Scotland on the National Team and “A” teams.

The purpose of this Development Squad is therefore not to find the finished product but rather to pick pupils with potential, interest and a willingness to work hard to get the most out of the experience. As such, we would highly encourage pupils with all levels of experience including those with no debating or public speaking experience to apply.

Once selected, the Development Squad will train together for the remainder of the academic year. This will involve a mixture of training sessions, practice debates and homework exercises. Pupils should be willing to dedicate at least 6-8 hours a month to this programme. The current plan is for this programme to run entirely online. However, Covid allowing, plans may be made to run a couple of training days in person in 2022.

Selection Process for National Team

The Training Squad will train together from October to December 2021. This will involve a mixture of online training sessions, practice debates and homework exercises. Pupils should be willing to dedicate at least 2-3 hours a week to this programme to get the most out of this training.

All members of the Training Squad will be invited to attend an online Trials weekend on **Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th December**.

Using the information from this event as well as the information we have gathered over the training period, we will select the competition teams that will represent Scotland at international competitions in 2022. There will be 3 teams: a final team of 5 to represent Scotland at the World Championships in Summer 2022, alongside 2 "A" teams who will represent Scotland at an online international tournament. Pupils selected for these teams will be expected to commit to further training between selection and the tournament.

In addition, any pupils in S1-S4 who are not successful in making it onto one of the competition teams for 2021-22 will be invited to continue training for the remainder of the academic year with the Development Squad.

We are greatly looking forward to reading your application. Should you have any further questions, please email them to scottishdebatingteam@gmail.com.

Kind regards,

Jordan Pfothauer & Maxine Muirhead

Coaches of the Scottish National Debating Team