

## YSS Newsletter September 2022

Hello Friends, Supporters and Alumni,

Welcome back to the new school term. We hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are refreshed and ready for an exciting programme of YSS events.

### **Speak Up Scotland**

Our Speak Up Scotland programme continues to grow as more schools are requesting workshops. Last year, we were particularly pleased to deliver a series of workshops within specific schools which allows the young participants the opportunity to advance their skills to a higher level. We are returning to these schools this term to deliver advanced training to those who already have the basics under their belt and bring on the new cohort of S1 pupils. Our ambition with Speak Up Scotland is to deliver a 3 year programme of workshops and as the pupils move into S4, they will debate competitively in our Mace and Public Speaking competitions.



*Jordan with the pupils who took part in a workshop at King's Park Secondary School.*

*"This workshop was one of a kind: very innovative, informative, illustrative, interactive and most importantly FUN!!"- Zainab Adeleye , School Captain, King's Park Secondary School*

**Mace and Public Speaking Competitions**

Traditionally, the heats for our competitions have been held in the evening from 6pm to 9pm. This year we are considering a change in approach and would welcome your views and feedback. A proposal has been put forward to run the heats on a Saturday, during the day, which allows the participants more time to interact and not worry about getting home late on a dark, snowy night in November. Consideration must be given to travel and who would accompany the participants to the venue so we would really value your comments and suggestions on how we might take this forward.

Please send any thoughts or feedback on this change to [info@youngspeakersscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@youngspeakersscotland.org.uk).

### **St Andrew's Day Debate**

We are thrilled to be running the St Andrew's Day debate once again this year, moving back to the Scottish Parliament after a few years of Covid disruption. We continue to work alongside the Scottish Government and Education Scotland in running this exciting event, and will be using this year to build on the gains we made over recent years, including the introduction of international debaters to the event for the first time.

Please get in touch if you would be interested in taking part in this event as a volunteer judge, or if you would simply like to come along as an observer.

### **World Schools Debate Championship**

Our national team again made us proud by breaking at the World Schools Debating Competition for the third year in a row. The team performed phenomenally well, winning a judge from returning-champions Canada, and were eventually eliminated by Indonesia in a closely-fought octo-final.

We still have a long way to go to realise our ambition of winning this competition as we did in 2012. We are therefore proposing to establish a panel of experts to offer support and guidance on further training to raise the quality of debate to compete at the highest level. If you have any suggestions or wish to join the panel, please contact our Programmes Director, Jordan Pfothenauer, at [info@youngspeakersscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@youngspeakersscotland.org.uk).

### **Judging Workshops**

We will be running two online workshops for those interested in judging for us on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th October. On both days, the workshop will start at 7pm and run for 90 minutes. All are welcome to attend; the workshops are suitable for both beginners as well as those with judging experience who would like a "refresher course".

If you are interested in taking part in a judging workshop, please contact [events@youngspeakersscotland.org.uk](mailto:events@youngspeakersscotland.org.uk).

## How to support YSS

All our news, as well as info on how to support the work we do, is available on our website: [www.youngspeakersscotland.org.uk](http://www.youngspeakersscotland.org.uk)

With very best wishes

Gurvinder Brar  
Chair