



9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

### DEBATE CLUB

I am writing to you about an exciting opportunity for your child to work with an organisation called Debate Mate. Debate Mate run after-school debating clubs and currently work in 250 primary and secondary schools throughout the UK. Last year Debate Mate worked in partnership with Comic Relief and collaborated on our Urban Debate League Competition; students debated important global issues that are supported by Comic Relief, and in April, secondary school students had the opportunity to attend a debate in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation!

Students will learn the art of public speaking and how to debate in a formal setting for one hour from **3.30pm-4.30pm** a week, on a **Thursday**. The club will be run by specially trained and DBS cleared university students and the techniques are delivered through a series of fun and interactive exercises and games. Debating is shown to improve students' critical and creative thinking; teamwork; leadership; empathy and self-management. Students who have been on the programme see substantial progress in their speaking and listening skills, their engagement with school, and a range of students have been shown to benefit (and enjoy!) these clubs.

The club will run for 17 weeks commencing the week beginning the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017, with breaks during school holidays. In that time there will also be two local competitions, the Urban Debate League in the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 and the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018. There is also a one-day competition, The Debate Mate Cup, in the weeks prior to and following the Easter holidays. The overall winners of these competitions go through to the national finals in London held at prestigious locations like the House of Lords.

This is an extremely exciting opportunity for your child and will benefit their educational achievement as well as teach them the art of public debating.

Yours faithfully,

*A. Hartley*

Ms A Hartley  
**Lead Practitioner (Literacy)**

