

## Schools Debating Network Competition (Week 1-7 Term 3)

Last Friday we travelled to Redlands College for the Final Round 7 of the SDN Competition. Due to the Twilight Concert we were down to a bare minimum number of debaters as most debaters also play a musical instrument. We must acknowledge the amazing resilience of our debaters on the night. Adrian Bond (Year 8) completed his debate at 7.20pm and went straight into the Senior Debate, which commenced at 7.30pm, as 1<sup>st</sup> speaker. Ben Cullen (Year 7), Nathan Byrne and William Thomson (Year 8) went from their 7.20pm concluding debates into the Junior Debate with just 6 minutes prep time before their 7.30pm debate commencement. They did an amazing job and lost with a 'close' adjudication. Bravo to our scathingly brilliant and profoundly resilient debaters. The parents and I were overwhelmed at the skill and determination that these students displayed on the night. The wonderful life skill of just getting the job done is something that all of our debaters encapsulate. Bravo to Adrian, Ben, Nathan and Will for showing us all exactly how this is done!

A Survey Monkey has been sent to all 2017 debaters and parents. The aim of the survey is to see who would enrol in the SDN Debating Competition in 2018. The verbal feedback that we have had to date shows that we will probably have a small (4-5 man) SDN debate team for each year group. This team would attend the seven SDN debates in Term 3. Our focus for SDN will be different in 2018. We will have three specific SDN coaches for 2018 and have three separate coaching teams: the Year 7 & 8; Year 9 & Junior and Year 10 & Senior debaters coached together. We will work towards identifying the specific debate style and features that the SDN adjudicators are seeking. Whilst we have tried to do this in 2017 we have found it difficult. Of course this doesn't mean that we give up...we just revise, reimagine and reorient our coaching strategies and the skill set that we will work towards.

It is important for us all to know that extra-curricular commitment needs to be two terms worth of activity. The desire of our debaters to have a full extra-curricular for debating was one of the reasons behind our decision to join the SDN Competition 3 years ago.

This Friday lunch time we have the gym booked for our end of year "pizza partai" and farewell to Year 12. Our 2018 CSDA Debate season commences in Term 2 2018 and I look forward to seeing you all on our cold Friday nights next year. Once again thank you to all of our amazing parents. Your support, humour and grace are profound. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful parent body—you cannot know how much we value your guidance. God bless and we hope to see you around the school.

Kind regards

*Michele Waterson*

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