



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION  
Scotland

## 2018 ST ANDREW'S DAY DEBATING TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

We would like to extend an invitation to your school to apply for participation in the forthcoming **St Andrew's Day Debating Tournament**, to be held at **The Scottish Parliament on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**.

**The competition is kindly supported by the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government.**

The St Andrew's Day Debating Tournament, held annually at The Scottish Parliament for the past twelve years, will see pupils compete in a day-long tournament, with three preliminary rounds and a Grand Final in the Debating Chamber of the Parliament.

This year, for the first time, we will pair pupils from different schools together, and these teams will be mentored by university students. Pupils are also involved in chairing and timekeeping for the debates, on the judging panels, and contributing to the floor debates.

We are asking you to nominate **one pupil** from your school who will be partnered with a pupil from another school, who will debate together in a British Parliamentary format in each round. Usually, we ask that pupils be in **S3-S6**. There may be the opportunity to enter a second speaker.

In addition, we also ask if you would like to nominate **one pupil** who would wish to be one of the pupil judges on each of our six Judging Teams. This is an ideal opportunity for them to learn the judging process and to expand their knowledge of debating. The best pupil judge from the initial three rounds will then be selected to be one of the judges in the Final.

We are also seeking young people to Chair the debates in each of the committee rooms. Their role will be to introduce the speakers and to ensure that they keep to their allotted speaking time. This is an ideal opportunity for a young person who may have some experience in debating or public speaking and who wishes to be involved throughout the day in a different role.

We also hope that you would bring supporters, as all young people attending will get the opportunity to sit in the MSPs' chairs at the final, and will have the chance to participate in the open floor debate. There is a prize for Best Contribution from the Floor.

Registration begins at 09:00 and the event finishes at approximately 18:45.

**If your school is new to debating and would like to take part then we would be delighted to welcome you to the competition. We will be running regional training sessions to help your pupils get started with debating and enable them to take part. These sessions will be free to attend, and we may be able to assist with travel costs. If you would like your pupils to attend one of these sessions, please let us know in your application form.**

We would like to ensure that this competition is as widely accessible as possible, so the geographical spread of teams will also be taken into account when selecting schools to take part. We anticipate that we will have some funding available to assist schools with travel costs, particularly if travelling a long distance. Please get in touch if you think you would require help with this.

**The deadline for applications is Friday 14th September.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **This is my school's first time taking part in the St Andrew's Day Tournament! Can you help us with any training?**

Yes! This year we are delighted to announce that we will be running regional workshops to help pupils who are novice debaters prepare for the tournament. These workshops will be free to attend and we may be able to assist with travel costs. Please indicate on your entry form if you would like to attend one of the training sessions.

### **How old do my pupils have to be to take part?**

The St Andrew's Day Tournament is open to pupils in S3 to S6. Younger pupils may attend as supporters, and they may be able to take part if space allows.

### **How much does it cost to enter the St Andrew's Day Tournament?**

The tournament is kindly funded by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament. There is no entry fee.

### **My school is a long way from Edinburgh! Can you help with travel costs?**

We have a budget to help schools with travel (and, if necessary, accommodation) costs. If you need help with travel costs please let us know in your application form. We will allocate the money as fairly as possible.

### **Can I enter more than one speaker?**

Each school may enter one speaker, one judge and one chair. If space is available then we will accept additional speakers. Please let us know on your application form if you would like a reserve speaker from your school.

### **Can we bring supporters?**

Yes! But space is limited so we will let you know nearer the time how many pupils you can bring. Please let us know on your application form how many supporters you would like to bring.

### **I've registered. What happens next?**

After registration closes, you'll receive an email confirming your registration and details (if applicable) of the training workshop.

### **I've chosen my speaker, judge and chair but I have a whole class/debating club eager to be involved. Is there a way that they can all take part in the St Andrew's Day Tournament?**

It's great if you can get a whole class or debating club involved in helping your speaker prepare. This allows your other students to take an active part in helping your speaker succeed in their debates. Additionally, you will also be able to bring supporters along to the event (see above).

### **What are this year's motions?**

We set motions that specifically relate to the values of St Andrew and Scotland to underline the importance of St Andrew's Day, whilst engaging pupils with current issues that affect Scotland. This year motions will also incorporate the values of Fair Saturday. The motions for the preliminary rounds will be announced in advance of the tournament. The motion for the Grand Final will be released on the day as a short-prep motion.

### **Is there a dress code?**

Pupils are required to wear school uniform for the event.

### **Why do you need my mobile number on the entry form?**

All information regarding the competition is communicated by email. However, we need contact details for outside of school hours in case of emergency and on the day itself. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to ask us.