



Massillon Debate Club

Debate club takes place this year on Thursdays from 5.30pm- 7pm in rooms 104-105. We have dedicated team of debaters ranging from 6ème level to *Terminale* coached by parent volunteers Peter Saisselin and Jack Forde. We were very encouraged by the performances of the Massillon team in the French Debating Association tournament and would like to encourage more students to get on board and take up debating. We have had an encouraging reaction so far from classes at all levels, and look forward to welcoming many new debaters to our Club this year.

Why take up debating?

As well as being tremendously fun, debating fosters friendly competition and inspires creativity. Debating teaches students to use language in an effective and persuasive manner, by harnessing the words, phrases and expressions they pick up in the classroom and in everyday life and applying them to a structured and substantive formal argument. It also requires students to engage with current affairs and maintain a healthy general knowledge of the world around them. Participation in Debate Club is a valuable addition to any university application.

Debating requires heightened linguistic dexterity and self-awareness, and can give students enormous advantages in all areas of life.

- Public Speaking
- Argument formulation (both written and spoken)
- Body Language
- Voice Projection
- Research and organization skills

Debate Club

At Debate club, students take part in one debate per week, on subjects which are suggested by coaches or students, as well as shorter warm-up activities, speaking on topics ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous! Debates follow the British Parliamentary Rules of Debating and are chaired by parent volunteers Peter Saisselin and Jack Forde, who are joined by teachers, FDA coaches, professional actors or other guest coaches. . Past-motions include: 'This house would censor rap-music on public media'; 'Marriage is obsolete'; and 'Compulsory military service at 18 should be reinstated'. Students should study both arguments of the motion, as they will not know whether they propose or oppose it until just before the debate begins. This encourages creative-thinking and quick decision-making on the student's part.



Debating Tournaments

Massillon is part of the Paris Inter-Schools Debating Competition which fosters links with other debating clubs around the Paris area in co-operation with the French Debating Association (FDA). We plan to organize around three competitions in varying locations around Ile de France over the course of the year.

Times and Costs

Any English section student in the Collège or Lycée is welcome to participate in the Debate Club meetings. We meet on Thursdays from 5.30pm- 7pm in room 104 /105 (students may arrive at 6pm if they have a late class).

Registration for the club is €175 for the year. This may be paid in up to three installments. This is good value as there will be 25 to 30 evenings plus competitions during term time. Snacks will be provided! Places are limited so if you wish to enroll your child into the debate club, please fill in the coupon below and send in with a cheque (or cheques) for a total of €175. If you choose to pay in installments, please mark on the back of the cheques when you wish us to lodge it. Please address the cheques to Ecole Massillon and send them to Mark Fitzpatrick. Fees cannot be refunded if a student abandons the club during the course of the year.

Registration Reply Coupon to be issued on Wednesday 13th September between 12pm and 2pm

I _____ (your name), parent of _____ (child's name/class)

Would like to enroll him/her in the Massillon Debate Club on Thursdays. I enclose a cheque for 175€ payable to "Ecole Massillon".

Signed :

Date:
