

Extra-Curricular Senior Debating

Mrs H. Cartmill



Alana Gracey, Ellie Robinson, Molly Davidson and Violet Coen took part in the Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition with Violet taking third place with her speech entitled: "Worsening Mental Health? Is this the new epidemic?"

Violet and Molly went on to represent the school at the Ulster Women's Unionist Council Edgar Graham Memorial Speaking Competition at Parliament Buildings Stormont.

Does it matter where the world cup is held? Is it professional to have visible tattoos? Does prison work? How secure is the future of the monarchy and the commonwealth? Celebrities and Climate Change: do they talk the talk but not walk the walk?

These are just some of the questions debated on Tuesday at break in the Drama Studio this year. As always, the newly elected committee put together an ambitious programme striking a balance between pre-planned and spontaneous debates in response to regional, national and world events. Other issues and questions keenly debated include:

- Gary Lineker and his controversial suspension from the BBC.
- Is the Winsor Framework enough to get the Stormont Assembly going again?
- Prince Harry: his tell-all interviews and autobiography.
- Should Shamima Begum have her British citizenship reinstated?

- The small boats crisis.
- Do we remain a nation of animal lovers?
- Are we winning the fight against racism?

Our speakers were from across Years 11 to 14 and their speaking styles ranged from the carefully prepared to the completely spontaneous. What each had in common was genuine conviction and a strong interest in contemporary affairs. No apathy towards politics, ethics, or current affairs in G43 of a Tuesday break time!

Congratulations to those girls who took part in two Public Speaking Competitions.



Molly Davidson and Violet Coen with Lady Sylvia Hermon in the Senate Chamber at Parliament Buildings Stormont

Looking ahead to next year, we extend a warm welcome to all in Years 11-14. Please look out for the notices of the election of a new committee and the meetings in early September.