



# 2024 Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5 and 6 State Championships

The Tops Conference Centre  
Bendeena Gardens Road  
Stanwell Tops

Sunday 8 to Wednesday 11  
December 2024

## Past champions

1995	Mulbring Public School
1996	Gateshead West Public School
1997	Narrabri West Public School
1998	Young Public School
1999	Blayney Public School
2000	Hurstville Public School
2001	Wollongong Public School
2002	Dubbo Public School
2003	Bowral Public School
2004	Minnamurra Public School
2005	Beecroft Public School
2006	Neutral Bay Public School
2007	Illaroo Road Public School
2008	Woollahra Public School
2009	Bathurst Public School
2010	Sutherland Public School
2011	Alstonville Public School
2012	Gerringong Public School
2013	Woollahra Public School
2014	Beecroft Public School
2015	Griffith East Public School
2016	Timbumburi Public School
2017	South Coogee Public School
2018	Hastings Public School
2019	Bowral Public School
2020	North Sydney Public School
2021	Bangalow Public School
2022	Alstonville Public School
2023	Balgowlah Heights Public School



## Introduction

The NSW Department of Education congratulates you on being the winning team from your region in the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5 and 6. More than 1,000 teams entered the challenge this year, and only 10 teams remain.

In this package you will find details of organisation, information on the camp, the rules of the competition and forms for completion. Please contact the organisers at any time to discuss details of the championships (contact details below).

### Each participating school is responsible for:

- Their team's travel arrangements. Some funds are available to assist regional areas with transport costs. Please contact the Speaking Competitions Officer about this assistance.
- Ensuring that the parent/caregiver of each team member completes the student permission form which makes up the final 3 pages of this package. These forms should be scanned and emailed to Tony Davey, the 2024 chief adjudicator, as soon as possible (contact details below) and then brought along to the camp and retained by the teacher in charge of the team.
- Completing risk assessments for travel to and from the championships.
- If applicable, preparing a parent/caregiver permission to cover permission to travel to and from the camp as per each team's arrangements.

### The Arts Unit will provide:

- Three relief days for each team's teacher
- Part of the accommodation costs
- Fees and accommodation expenses for adjudicators
- Palm cards, pens and paper etc for use in all debates
- Completed risk assessments for the venue and accommodation

### Camp fees

The cost for the camp is \$310.00 TBC (GST-free) per participating student. This covers accommodation, meals, trophies, and certificates. Each student should make this payment to their own school. The NSW Department of Education will then charge each school after the championships using the intercompany journal process.

### Relief for the accompanying teacher

Relief will be paid to each participating school via the intercompany journal process. Please let the office at your school know to look out for a payment of \$1,599 TBC (GST-free, includes oncosts) with the description 'Debating relief x 3 days 8 to 11 Dec 24.'

Look forward to seeing you there!

Justine Clarke  
Speaking Competitions Officer  
T: 8512 1172  
M: 0418 412 218  
E: [justine.clarke@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:justine.clarke@det.nsw.edu.au)

Tony Davey  
2024 Chief Adjudicator  
Locked Bag 1500, PETERSHAM 2049  
M: 0405 181 178  
E: [anthony.r.davey@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:anthony.r.davey@det.nsw.edu.au)



## Camp organisation

### Registration

Please fill out the 'Team registration form' included in this package and email it to The Arts Unit as soon as possible so that we can begin work on room allocation. Ensure that all names are correctly spelt and printed, as this form will be used to print the certificates which will be presented at the end of the championships. Please send the form as soon as you have the names of your team, and then resend as soon as you have the necessary dietary and health information.

### Arrival and departure

Debating begins early Monday morning, so it is recommended that all teams arrive by Sunday evening. There will be a meeting followed by brief debating workshops after dinner on Sunday night. Teams unable to arrive on Sunday will need to contact The Arts Unit about their schedule for Monday morning. The camp ends with an 11:30 AM lunch on Wednesday.

### Student accommodation

Students will be allocated to rooms with up to 8 children sharing bunk accommodation. Every effort will be made to ensure that team members are able to room with each other. However, male and female students will be accommodated in nearby but separate rooms, so some teams will be split up.

### Teacher accommodation

Teachers will be accommodated in rooms at the end of the student wings, or in rooms nearby. If your school has an extra teacher who wishes to accompany the team, let us know as soon as possible. Please note that all adults need to bring their own linen, towels, soap and other toiletries

### The Tops Conference Centre

The Tops Conference Centre is located in Stanwell Tops off Bendena Gardens Road, about an hour south of Sydney. The centre has an excellent website including maps, directions, lists of available facilities, risk assessments and other resources at: [www.thetops.com.au](http://www.thetops.com.au). The championships are being held at the Grevillea facility, which is to the right as you enter the conference centre grounds. Grevillea is a separate part of the centre with its own exclusive accommodation, meeting rooms, dining room and play equipment/courts. Maps of Grevillea and its facilities are available on the website.

### Travel

Train services run from Sydney to Helensburgh or Stanwell Park stations. With prior warning, we will be able to arrange collection in a department vehicle from these stations. There is ample parking at the Grevillea facility. Directions are available on the website.

### Health requirements

Please notify The Arts Unit immediately if any member of your team has special health needs. We particularly need to know if anyone has any severe allergies or will be unable to participate in certain outdoor activities. Note that a risk assessment for the event itself will be sent through to each school.



## Camp organisation continued

### Meals

All meals will be taken together in the Grevillea dining room. The first meal will be dinner on Sunday night, and the last will be lunch on Wednesday. Each day will include a morning and afternoon tea and a supper along with regular meals. If any member of your team or any adult has special dietary requirements, you will need to get that information to The Arts Unit as soon as possible. A list of alternative diets is available on the centre's website.

### Activities

Along with debating, The Tops Conference Centre has a number of exciting activities available to campers. We'll be organising them over the coming weeks in consultation with the centre. Included in this package is a form to be completed by a parent or caregiver which allows students to participate in these camp activities. Please ensure that these forms are completed, returned with the other two pages and also brought along to the camp. Details of activities on offer and a copy of the permission form are also available on the website. We will also be bringing along some balls and play equipment which will be available to the students at any time.

### 2024 Years 5 and 6 state final

Don't forget that parents, families and friends are welcome to come to the state final on Wednesday at 10.15am. The final will be recorded for use as a teaching aid in schools, and a video of the final will also be posted online for the public to view and download.

### Things to bring

Supplies for debating preparation will be provided, but it's fine if teams want to bring along their own paper, pens and palmcards. Dictionaries will not be provided, and teams won't be allowed to take them into preparation. In addition, each student should ensure they pack:

- A sleeping bag and a pillow
- Sleep wear
- A bath towel
- Toiletries including soap
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Any personal medications - to be arranged with the team's teacher
- A water bottle
- Wet weather gear
- A hat
- A jumper or jacket
- 2 pairs of covered shoes (sandals and thongs are not recommended for the activities)
- A change of clothes for each day
- A full length top
- Shorts for activities
- Please note that some outdoor activities may result in soiled clothes, so ensure that you pack something suitable for outdoor recreational use
- Students are also welcome to bring along balls or other activities
- Students may also bring coins for the vending machines



## Rules of the championships

- This competition is for the 10 winning regional teams from NSW government schools in the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5 and 6.
- In each debate there will be only 4 members per team of which only 3 will speak. Only the 4 participating members will be allowed into preparation.
- Topic selection will take place at the undercover area in front of the Meeting Room/Dining Hall complex. All teams are required to be there 10 minutes prior to scheduled preparation time.
- Debating teams are to be attired in school uniform.
- On occasion, teams will be called upon to provide a chairperson and timekeeper for the debates at which they are spectators.
- For every debate there will be a choice of 3 topics. Topics will be set by the NSW Speaking Competitions Officer in consultation with the adjudicators. All teams will choose from the same list of 3 topics in each round.
- During topics selection, only the 4 team members involved in the debate will be involved in the ranking of the topics from 1 to 3.
- Both 3rd choices will be eliminated, and the highest-rated topic chosen. Where two remaining topics are equally popular, a coin toss shall decide between them.
- The toss of a coin will determine affirmative/negative. The winner of the toss is the affirmative.
- For each round there will be a period of 60 minutes for preparation. There will be no adult present in the room during this time.
- The only materials allowed in preparation will be a timer, blank palm cards, paper and pens.
- Dictionaries will not be provided for preparation, and will not be allowed in the preparation rooms.
- Students may not take bags, mobile phones, or preparation aids into preparation.
- Each team's teacher will supervise the opposition team during preparation. They are responsible for ensuring the team remains undisturbed and for escorting the team to the debate once the 60 minutes has passed.
- Each speaker has 4 minutes to speak. There will be a warning bell at 3 minutes with two bells at 4 minutes. There will be a continuous bell if a speaker exceeds the speaking time by more than 1 minute.
- Each team will debate 4 times in the round robin section of the championships.
- An adjudicator appointed by The Arts Unit will adjudicate all debates. Their decision will be final.
- The 4 teams with the most wins will move on to the semi-finals. They will be ranked by the adjudicators so that the top two teams are given the opportunity to meet in the state final.
- In the event that teams draw for semi-final spots, tiebreakers will be applied in the following order: head-to-head, strength of win, strength of schedule, adjudicator ranking. If more than two teams are drawn, the tiebreakers are applied in order until one team is eliminated and the process is restarted.
- The winners of the semi-finals will proceed to the state final on Wednesday. All teams are expected to attend the state final.



## Program – Sunday 8 December

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Arrival and registration	Meeting Room
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner	Dining Room
7:15 PM – 8:30 PM	Meeting and workshop	Meeting Room
8:30 PM	Supper	Dining Room

## Program – Monday 9 December

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast	Dining Room
8:50 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Debating round 1</b>	(see below)
10:00 AM	Morning tea available	Dining Room

<b>ROUND 1A</b> <b>Gather at 8:50 AM / Preparation at 9:00 AM (room in brackets) / Debate at 10:00 AM</b>		
<b>Education debates:</b>		<b>Debate Room:</b>
(Meeting) SWS_champion	v NE_champion (G1)	Meeting Room
(G2) WSY_champion	v W_champion (G3)	Dining Room
(Lounge) HCC_champion	v NC_champion (G4)	Lounge Room
<b>ROUND 1B</b> <b>Gather at 9.50am / Preparation at 10.00am (room in brackets) / Debate at 11.00am</b>		
<b>Education debates:</b>		<b>Debate Room:</b>
(G1) SYD_champion	v R_champion (G2)	Meeting Room
(G3) NS_champion	v ISE_champion (G4)	Lounge Room

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Lunch	Dining Room
12:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Camp activity	Meet in Courtyard
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>Debating round 2</b>	(see below)
2:45 PM	Afternoon tea available	Dining Room

<b>ROUND 2A</b> <b>Gather at 3:00 PM / Preparation at 3:10 PM (room in brackets) / Debate at 4:10 PM</b>		
<b>Sport debates:</b>		<b>Debate Room:</b>
(Meeting) SYD_champion	v NS_champion (G1)	Meeting Room
(G2) ISE_champion	v HCC_champion (G3)	Dining Room
(Lounge) R_champion	v NE_champion (G4)	Lounge Room



## Program – Monday 9 December (continued)

ROUND 2B		
Gather at 4:00 PM / Preparation at 4:10 PM (room in brackets) / Debate at 5:10 PM		
	Sport debates:	Debate Room:
	(G1) NC_champion v W_champion (G2)	Meeting Room
	(G3) SWS_champion v WSY_champion (G4)	Lounge Room
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner	Dining Room
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Movie	Meeting Room
8:30 PM	Supper	Dining Room

## Program – Tuesday 10 December

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast	Dining Room
8:50 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Debating round 3</b>	(see below)
10:00 AM	Morning tea available	Dining Room

ROUND 3A		
Gather at 8:50 AM / Preparation at 9:00 AM (room in brackets) / Debate at 10:00 AM		
	Screens and media debates:	Debate Room:
	(Meeting) ISE_champion v R_champion (G1)	Meeting Room
	(G2) SWS_champion v NC_champion (G3)	Dining Room
	(Lounge) WSY_champion v NS_champion (G4)	Lounge Room
ROUND 3B		
Gather at 9:50 AM / Preparation at 10:00 AM (room in brackets) / Debate at 11:00 AM		
	Screens and media debates:	Debate Room:
	(G1) NE_champion v W_champion (G2)	Meeting Room
	(G3) HCC_champion v SYD_champion (G4)	Lounge Room

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Lunch	Dining Room
12:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Camp activity	Meet in Courtyard
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>Debating round 4</b>	(see below)
2:45 PM	Afternoon tea available	Dining Room



## Program – Tuesday 10 December (continued)

ROUND 4A		
Gather at 3:00 PM / Preparation at 3:10 PM (room in brackets) / Debate at 4:10 PM		
General debates:		Debate Room:
(Meeting) NC_champion v NS_champion (G1)		Meeting Room
(G2) SYD_champion v NE_champion (G3)		Dining Room
(Lounge) W_champion v ISE_champion (G4)		Lounge Room
ROUND 4B		
Gather at 4:00 PM / Preparation at 4:10 PM (room in brackets) / Debate at 5:10 PM		
General debates:		Debate Room:
(G1) HCC_champion v WSY_champion (G2)		Meeting Room
(G3) R_champion v SWS_champion (G4)		Lounge Room

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner	Dining Room
6:30 PM – 6:40 PM	Semi-finalists gather for topics	Courtyard
6:40 PM – 7:40 PM	Semi-final preparation / free time	(see below)
7:40 PM – 8:30 PM	<b>Semi-finals</b>	(see below)
8:30 PM	Supper	Dining Room

SEMI-FINALS		
Gather at 6:30 PM / Preparation at 6:40 PM (room in brackets) / Debate at 7:40 PM		
General debates:		Debate Room:
(G1) 1 <sup>st</sup> Qualifier v 4 <sup>th</sup> Qualifier (G2)		Meeting Room
(G3) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qualifier v 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qualifier (G4)		Lounge Room

## Program – Wednesday 11 December

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast and pack up	Dining Room
8:50 AM – 9:00 AM	State finalists gather for topic selection	Courtyard
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	State final preparation	Meeting Room
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Adjudicator debate	Meeting Room
10:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Morning tea	Dining Room
10:10 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>State final</b>	Meeting room
11:30 AM	Lunch and farewell	Dining Room





## Team registration form

School:

Teacher's Name:

Mobile:

Dietary / Health Needs:

1

Student's Name:

Dietary / Health Needs:

M / F:

2

Student's Name:

Dietary / Health Needs:

M / F:

3

Student's Name:

Dietary / Health Needs:

M / F:

4

Student's Name:

Dietary / Health Needs:

M / F:

5

Student's Name:

Dietary / Health Needs:

M / F:

Email to: [anthony.r.davey@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:anthony.r.davey@det.nsw.edu.au)



# Student permission note page 1 of 3

### Privacy advice

The personal information provided on this consent form will be used by the NSW Department of Education for general administration and communication and other matters of welfare relating to your child at this excursion. While the provision of this information is voluntary, it is strongly recommended that all details are completed. Failure to do so may impede the resolution of welfare issues if you are not able to be contacted. This information will be stored securely. You may access or correct any of the details at any time by contacting the teacher in charge of your team.

### Permission

I give permission for my child/ward to attend the 2024 Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5 and 6 State Championships at The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops from Sunday 8 to Wednesday 11 December 2024.

Student's Name:

Student's School:

I understand that:

- transport to and from the venue will my responsibility in coordination with team's responsible teacher.
- debaters will watch a PG-rated movie on Monday evening.
- it is my responsibility to provide sunscreen and a hat for my child and to ensure my child understands they need to reapply the sunscreen throughout the day.
- some children at the tournament may have a severe reaction to contact with nuts and I will avoid sending nuts or nut bi-products with my child.
- should my child's team make the state final, their debate will be recorded and made available publicly online with subtitles identifying my child.

- I acknowledge that this event is required to be held in accordance with any current NSW Health COVID-19 Public Health Orders and the NSW Department of Education's policies and procedures.
- I acknowledge and accept that there is a risk that my child may be exposed to COVID-19 whilst attending and participating.
- I confirm that my child will not attend if displaying any symptoms of illness, and/or if directed to isolate under public health orders.
- I understand that my child will complete a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to leaving home on the morning before the start of the program and not attend the event if the test result is positive.
- I understand that I will be required to collect my child from the venue immediately if they become ill and present with COVID-like symptoms.

### Parent/caregiver contact details

Name:

Signature:

Address:

Mobile:

Email:

Home phone:

Work phone:



## Student permission note page 2 of 3

<b>Doctor contact details</b>	
Name:	
Address:	Phone:
<b>Emergency contacts (other than the previous parent/caregiver details)</b>	
Name (1):	Phone:
Name (2):	Phone:
<b>List existing medical conditions or illnesses (include asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, allergies etc.). Outline the treatment for each.</b>	
<b>Outline special dietary needs and possible reaction to inappropriate diet.</b>	
<b>List any medication to be administered during the camp. Include name of medication, instructions for administration, and any possible reactions</b>	
<b>Student publication consent</b>	
<p>I hereby consent to my son/daughter/ward being photographed, recorded, and/or filmed at the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5 and 6 State Championships from Sunday 8 to Wednesday 11 December 2024. I understand that the photographs, recordings and/or films may be used for NSW Department of Education publications, external publications, internet sites, social media, print and electronic mainstream media, television and or other associated promotional material or by sponsors of the departmental program in which the photograph, recording and/or film was taken. I understand that my son/daughter/ward may be identified by name and school with their image on any of these media forms.</p>	
Signature:	Date:



# Student permission note page 3 of 3



To: The Churches of Christ Property Trust  
(This form will be retained by 'The Tops'  
If you require a copy, please arrange it prior to arrival)

**A PARTICIPANT DETAILS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ The participant's age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

P/code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone. (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Group \_\_\_\_\_

**B** The participant warrants:

the participant is a member of the following medical fund \_\_\_\_\_

the participants member number of that fund is \_\_\_\_\_

the participants medicare number is \_\_\_\_\_

that apart from the "Disclosed matters" the participant has no current illnesses, injuries or other adverse medical condition and is in good health. The disclosed matters are: The participant should here set out any illness, adverse medical condition or ill health from which the participant is suffering or has suffered or write NIL.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** If the above information has already been collected by the organiser then only Part C needs to be added and supplied to the Tops.

**C ACCEPTANCE / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK**

*The participant acknowledges that a reference to The Trust in this section C includes its servants and agents and further acknowledges that by reason of the nature of activities in which the participant may participate in at The Tops Conference Centre (site) that there is a risk of injury to the participant and/or a risk of an adverse affect to any current or past medical condition of the participant. **The participant acknowledges and agrees that the participant accepts that the participant engages in activities on the site at the risk of the participant.** The participant gives the trust authority, where circumstances deem it necessary, to obtain medical and ambulance assistance for the participant in the case of the participant suffering injury or ill health while on the site. For risk assessment information please visit [www.thetops.com.au](http://www.thetops.com.au) and follow the links to risk assessment.*

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Sign. (u18's) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Participant \_\_\_\_\_