

YWGS Debate Team

Year in review

2025-2026



**speak up,
speak loud,
speak out**



Ying Wa Girls' School
ENGLISH DEBATE TEAM

“Whatever the field under discussion, those who engage in debate must not only believe in each other's good faith, but also in their capacity to arrive at the truth.”

- “Forewords and Afterwords” by W. H. Auden
 (“The Protestant Mystics”), (p. 52), 1973.

Foreword:

What is Debate? This is a question I've asked myself countless times, on various occasions.

There are times when debate can be no better described than enlightening, when the culmination of sound reasoning and good persuasion arrives at a lightbulb moment, even if at the expense of your own arguments. There are times when debate feels frivolous, because research and sleep deprivation can convince any man there is no hope for the future, no possibility in winning this debate, and that debate, like most forms of speech, is all talk and no action.

But these fragments of how we feel about the subject don't add up to a full picture.

So, what is Debate?

The answer, like all things in debate, is flexible. Every debater knows there is no undebatable motion, only unbelieving speakers. The first rule in debate is No You Cannot Change Your Stance, followed by the idea that every motion, stance and argument has two sides to it. Debate itself is a medium of this abstraction. Every debater knows anxiety is also excitement, and fear can be fuel. The line between winning it all and public embarrassment is a thin one, but debaters have trained themselves to have skin of iron to be the wire-dancers of language.

My answer to What is Debate? is encompassed in, arguably, the best line of *The Name of The Rose*: “*Because learning does not consist of knowing what we must or we can do, but also of knowing what we could do and perhaps should not do.*” This, I find, is the precise nature of debate. It may not seem obvious, but debate breaks down the process of proof. It gives you data to do the evaluation for yourself because it forces you to doubt, question, and prod relentlessly at every underlying assumption. This is not natural for humans to do, because it goes upstream against previous systems of belief: oftentimes, when we accept a statement as truth, we dismiss the reality of another. But debate only ever looks at the status quo, then considers its consensus, before investigating its retaliation.

Thus, it formulates its own learned opinion: not what we must or can do, but what we could and should or should not do. This, in combination, creates the process of thought. (Though it's quite common now to elevate the act of thinking to 'critical' thinking. Which may speak to the regression of intelligence in our societies. But I digress.)

There is no standard reason to Why You Should Debate, nor should there be a specific format to What Debate is. You, a debater, most likely have your own answer to what Debate is, or Why You Debate. As Wilde states, to define is to limit. Even if definition sometimes is necessary for the sake of argument.



DION CHAN
SUMMER 2026

Year-round Events Overview

Internal Events:

Organised and Hosted by the English Debate Team

Internal Mock Debates	Bi-weekly team meetings where six team members participate in a 3v3 debate 1st Term Meetings: 17/10, 31/10, 14/11, 28/11 2nd Term Meetings: 13/3, 27/3
Internal Debating Championships	March 2026 - May 2026 The 1st iteration of the Internal Debating Championships With two categories: Junior Division and Senior Division

Interschool Collaborations:

Coordinated by members of the English Debate EXCO Team with external parties or organisations

Friendlies	WYHK junior friendly cum debate workshop: 18/10 SSGC friendly: 22/10
Workshops	Greg Forse Debate Skills Workshop: 3/11 YWGS Model United Nations (MUN) Workshop: 29-30/6 Organised by the YWMUN Secretary Team, in preparation for the 1st iteration of YWGS MUN.

External Competitions:

Members of the English Debate Team represented YWGS in participation of debate competitions and MUNs

Debate Competitions	The Hong Kong Bar Association Debating Competitions: 5/7-19/7 Hong Kong Secondary Schools Debating Competition: Sep 2025 St. Joseph's College Invitational: 13/9 The UNSDG UNESCO* Debating Competition: Oct 2025 Senior Schools Debating Championship: 4-5/10 The 41st Sing Tao Inter-School Debating Competition: November 2025 Junior Scholars Debating Championship: 7/3 *The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Debating Competition, held under the name of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
MUNs	ICEMUN: 20-21/9 (Held at the venue of YWGS) DGSMUN: 8-9/11 YWCMUN: 24-25/1 KGVMUN: 7-8/2 HKISMUN: 27/2-1/3 HARMUN: 7-8/3 RENMUN: 14-15/3 HKMUN: 21-23/3

	SJCMUN: 4-5/7 ISMUNHK: 11-12/7
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English Debate EXCO Team Members

as at 2025-2026:

Captain: Dion Chan

Vice Captains: Katie Yim, Tinyee Cheung

Secretaries: Sofia Daures, Cheri Cheng, Katherine Rao

TIC: Miss Wong (MA), Miss Chan (CR), Mr Yuan (JY), Miss Leung (LL), Miss Mainey (MT)
and Miss Sek (SK)