



Urban Debate League

As part of our participation in the Debate Mate programme, Archbishop Lanfranc hosted The Urban Debate League on Thursday 18th March. The competition involved debating teams from Lanfranc competing against two other schools. This was a fantastic opportunity for us to demonstrate and develop our debating skills.

We were told to arrive at school at 3.30pm to prepare for the competition which began at 4.00pm. As we prepared, the nerves started building and the crowds started gathering. We met the competition, Norwood and Harris Purley, and heard the first motion: 'This House Believe that Britain is Broken'. We had just 10 minutes to plan what to say in our 5 minutes speeches, but we worked hard as a team and as time came to a close we were ready to face the music!

Norwood and Lanfranc fought fearsomely with one another, with Norwood beating Lanfranc by 2 points...however, we did not know what was going on in the other room! Lanfranc's second team were beating Harris Purley!

After this first victory, we gathered to hear the second motion: 'This House would arm all police'. Again we got ready to plan and shake off the nerves. It was now our team's turn to beat Harris Purley!

Once the excellent speeches from both Lanfranc and Harris Purley had come to an end, we anxiously awaited the results. We all thought we were going to lose, but surprisingly we won! Two victories for Lanfranc!

Overall it was an amazing experience and we hope to be crowned 'Debating Champs of London' when we compete in the Richard Koch Cup on Thursday 22nd April at The London School of Economics.

By Vishal Patel, year 9