

Concern Debates

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Stakes were high early this week as the Loreto Concern Debates team gave their all for their 2nd debate in the competition.

The Concern Debates programme, initiated in 1984, is a national competition that involves secondary school students debating global development issues. Its aim is to foster values of teamwork, sportsmanship and of course, debating and public speaking skills amongst those that partake. It also strives to spread more awareness about social issues and global crises.

Our first debate prior to this discussed the statement “GMOs are necessary in the fight to end world hunger”. As the proposition, the team pulled together very comprehensive arguments. However, we ended up losing anyway :-((

This time however, the team was determined to win. “Climate Activists must give up eating meat” was the given motion, and we were selected as the opposition. The team consisted of Heidi as Captain, and Fiona, Malavika and Molly as our three speakers. For context, this team is the real-world equivalent of the power rangers. They're like if the evangelists decided to debate about global development and sustainability. Grace was a substitute, Cáit was chairperson and I was timekeeper. I can confirm that the debaters shed blood, sweat and tears into their speeches, and the effort that went into each of them is genuinely insane.

Tuesday was the day. At 1 o' clock, we all made our way to the meeting room and waited anxiously. The room was set up, and the proposition school was called. The speeches delivered were incredible. I don't think you quite understand how scarily good our team was. The number of times my jaw dropped during some of their refutations and rebuttals was astronomical. Their comebacks were absolutely amazing. And of course, I must credit the proposition. Some great arguments and points were made, and their timing was spot-on. Afterwards, we were given 15 minutes for our lunch, as it went on for over an hour.

Overall, it went well. Fingers are crossed extremely tight right now, in the hope that this debate works out in our favour. Our next debate is scheduled in 2 weeks I believe, so the speakers have some time to relax and recuperate. My personal favourite part of debating is just the team spirit. It's fun to spend time working on something with each other, especially since everyone gets along great.

So, I of course want to say an enormous well done to the coolest debate team in the entire country for their demanding work, and a sincere thank you to Mr. Cornejo for organizing and leading the team :)

