

Stuart Carlton
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Contact: Stuart Carlton

7th February 2019

Dear Headteacher

Re: 2019 Schools Debating Competition

For the last six years, North Yorkshire County Council has hosted a highly successful youth debating competition for Y5/6 pupils across the region. The competition begins at district level and culminates at the Council Chamber in County Hall where heat winners debate to become County Champions.

I am writing to remind you that the deadline for entering the 2019 competition is **Friday 22nd February 2019**. If you wish to enter a team, please email Jessica.pickard@northyorks.gov.uk to express your interest, including your school name, and the details of the relevant point of contact within the school.

Participation has grown over the last six years with 68 primary schools participating in 2018's competition. As we enter our seventh year we aim to grow involvement again.

Schools that have participated in past competitions, at both regional and county level, have given very positive feedback about their involvement in the event and its value to the children who took part. Participation also contributes towards the delivery of the National Curriculum for English including the statutory requirements to "participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates" outlining the need to develop children's "confidence, enjoyment and mastery of language" which "should be extended through public speaking, performance and debate". Clearly this work also supports the development of reading and writing skills in the preparation and research they have to undertake to prepare for the debates.

The competition consists of teams of six Y5/6 pupils debating a pre-determined subject before a judging panel. Points are awarded for delivery/presentation, content, facts, questions and answers.

The statement to be debated at the 2019 heats is
'Should we ban school uniform?'

The regional heats are held in the local district council chambers, and run from 10:00am-12:00pm.

The dates for the 2018 heats are as follows;

Hambleton- Monday 11th March (due to interest we will be holding an AM and PM heat)
Selby- Tuesday 12th March (due to interest we will be holding an AM and PM heat)
Scarborough- Thursday 14th March
Harrogate- Friday 15th March (due to interest we will be holding an AM and PM heat)
Craven- Tuesday 19th March
Ryedale- Wednesday 20th March
Richmond- Friday 22nd March

The final will be held at County Hall, Northallerton on Friday 14th June 2019 for all the regional heat winners.

Schools wishing to enter will need to

- Be available to compete on the relevant date
- Field a team of six Y5/6 pupils. For smaller schools wishing to enter we would encourage collaborating with other local schools to form a team.
- Have a team consisting of two pupils to present the debate, and four to ask questions (each speaker having two minutes followed by four minutes for questions from any of the schools present). Please note, credit will be given for questions asked in response to the current debate, not necessarily pre prepared questions.

We hope you will give serious consideration to your school's participation in this great initiative - who knows, we might find a great public speaker or politician of the future!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stuart Carlton', written in a cursive style.

Stuart Carlton
Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service