

The Scholar Ship

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a flame to be kindled" - Plutarch

De Leybourne Society Debate

Can terrorism ever be justified?
Ben Warren takes us beyond the motion to unpick the complexities of last week's debate...



The first academic De Leybourne debate took place this last Tuesday, with the motion being 'This House Believes Terrorism Can Be Justified'. For the first time ever, it was a debate that was so evenly argued that I couldn't settle on a clear winner due to the great points and the confident delivery by both sides.

A debate on such a complex topic is really hard to address, especially as it is an issue that has taken various forms and has been prevalent throughout human history. Even so, Jessie (Y12), Jason (Y12) and Mrs O'Callaghan for the proposition did an amazing job of defining terrorism, arguing the motion and using historical figures such as Guy Fawkes, Nelson Mandela and even the US government that actually put what seemed to be an unreasonable idea into a reasonable perspective. This was countered by Esme (Y13), Freya (Y12) and Mr Roe's ideas on the civilian perspective and how it can only be truly understood when you are affected personally. Due to this, each point was countered by a swift rebuttal and in the end I was left completely stumped.

So, congratulations to everyone debating, as it really was an incredible 45 minutes. Debating is a great skill, as being able to speak in public is a valuable asset, and to be able to understand points and fight your own is even more impressive. Although this debate was mainly contested between the older pupils, all De Leybourne debates are open to every pupil and it is really impressive when Year 7 pupils take on Year 11s and win: so give it a go! Inter-house debates are coming up soon, so you have a chance to represent your house and to develop some really important skills that will be vital in the future, as well as to help you later lead debates in school.

HEADMASTER'S DISTINCTIONS

Miah Patten	Aoife Rew
Katie Pugh	Ayoola Oshiyemi (x2)
Georgina Lilley	Henry Shadrack
Alex Jackson	Jason Sims
Morgan Thomas	Bryana Findlay
Olivia Mayers	

LAMDA AWARDS

Molly Carroll
Matilda Gladwell
Ben Warren
Lily Rowe
Robyn McNally
Emily Dinnick
Eve Clifton-Thompson
Olly Young
Maddy Fitch

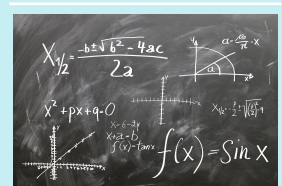
Upcoming Events



October 1st, 1700
Library
Riddle Society
Trial Of The (18th) Century



October 8th, 1700
Library
Studd Society
Are You Born A Criminal, Or Does Society Make You One?



October 8th, 1545
Lecture
Cambridge Physics Centre Lecture (returning 2130)

Advance Notice!

Year 11 A Level Options Fair

October 17th, 1645
Jellicoe Room

European Day of Languages

Following the school's activities for the European Day of Languages, linguists Archie and Leila explain why languages matter to them and why we should embrace the challenge of learning new languages...

[Archie]: Learning a language, in my opinion, is one of the most important subjects that we can learn. I believe this because the usefulness of a language has always been - and will continue to be - a tool for discovering new cultures and people; and with growing connectivity achieved through technological advances, this skill is becoming all the more important. Any modern foreign language, French in my case, gives me more inspiration to learn as I can physically see (or hear) the difference the longer I study for. The ability to connect with people who I usually wouldn't, due to a language barrier, helps me to keep progressing. I also study Latin, which while not a modern language, I would say is still as useful. Languages have taught me key grammar techniques that are prevalent in almost all modern foreign languages, including English. French and Latin have improved my ability to learn new languages from scratch and to find similarities between the new language and grammar I already know.

[Leila]: A recent survey taken by the British Council reveals that 62% of the population of Britain can only speak English. In the European Union, however, it shows that - on average - 56% of people speak at least one foreign language, 28% speak at least two, and 11% speak at least three. Furthermore, 51% of EU citizens can have a full conversation in English. These statistics might suggest that English speakers have less of a chance of speaking a foreign language or that there is no reason to believe that learning languages should be important to an English speaker. This is wrong. A study at M.I.T. of nearly 670,000 people found that in order to achieve native-level ability in another language, it is best to start by the age of 10 or younger. There are also many other benefits of learning a different language at a younger age.



Year 7 enjoying their music and their languages with some karaoke in French and Spanish!

For example, bilingual children are more likely to learn faster and easier, have improved problem-solving skills and creativity, be more open-minded and tolerant towards cultural diversity, are less likely to experience age-related mental illnesses, and have more career opportunities when they are older.

Personally, I began learning languages when I was very young. My mother, being away a lot due to her military commitments, decided it was essential for me to have Spanish speaking *au pairs* and nannies who only spoke Spanish to me. I believe this helped me develop a deep understanding of the language from a young age.

When I moved to Japan at the age of 8, I remember being annoyed by my mom's constant pestering to go to Kumon in order to study Japanese after school. However, now being of an older age I realise how useful that was, and I wish I would have kept studying it, after I recently quit taking Japanese lessons. I strongly believe that it's very important to learn new languages in order to be able to communicate with different people, and to be able to understand people's diverse cultural backgrounds. Now, taking double language (French and Spanish) GCSEs, I believe I have a strong advantage in the future, and a new love of something many people can relate to. Finally, my favourite part of taking GCSE languages is being able to talk to the different people in my house and bonding over my knowledge of their language.

"THE LAST WORD", WITH THIS EDITION'S SCHOLAR...

What motivates me are the people that surround me: the people that influence me with their skill, effort, and time management. I learn many different coping methods, revision techniques and other skills from people like my parents, friends and teachers. Revision and motivation for work are different, however - what motivates me for revision is presentation. If I have nice flash cards, neat notes and animated videos ready to go, I immediately have a better thought process towards doing specific work. Depending on the situation, different things can motivate me and help me reach my goal, and I believe that finding these methods is very important to being successful, at any stage in one's life.

Jamie, Year 9

