

opportunities. If it goes well, you will attract word of mouth interest, and can gradually grow from there.

External Training

If you read this book carefully, it will improve your debating, either as a student or a teacher. However, you may also want to bring in some external help. Here is a guide to what is available.

English Speaking Union

The ESU run a programme called 'Discover Your Voice', which offers one day (six hours) and half day (three hours) intensive training programmes in your school for groups of up to 24. They can be tailored to the skills, age and experience of your students, from KS3 to KS5, beginners to advanced. It also offers 'Discover Debating', a programme for Year 5 and 6 students. This offers an introduction to basic debating skills in a series of weekly one hour after school sessions, with the intention of kick starting debating in the school.

For a more intense training experience, the ESU run an annual Debate Academy, shortly after the end of the summer term. This is a residential course taking place over three or four days, featuring training sessions, lectures on relevant topics, show debates and the opportunity for students to take part in several debates a day. It is exciting, exhausting and inspirational.

ESU also offer CPD to teachers. They run a Public Speaking competition, which tests different skills to that of debating, but with a lot of overlap.

Intelligence Squared

Intelligence Squared (www.intelligencesquared.com) offer two day (non-residential) debating courses in London in the school holidays. They also run regular debates with high profile speakers on current controversial topics, which are often superbly entertaining and informative, and make a great outing for any debating club. These are almost always held in Central London.

Debate Mate

Debate Mate (www.debatemate.com) is a charity dedicated to using the teaching of debating skills to promote social mobility. They offer regular after school training sessions to schools with

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small
and
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up
slowly**

large numbers of disadvantaged students; see their website to find out if your school qualifies. Debate Mate also offer CPD to teachers.

Hiring an in house debating coach

Some schools hire a debating coach for their students, in the same way they might bring in a specialist hockey or cricket coach. These are usually graduate students or recent graduates who have been very involved in debating at university.

The advantage of using this kind of coach is that they will be immensely experienced and able debaters, and will be able to pass on a huge amount of expertise to students. The disadvantage is that they will not have the knowledge of how children learn or how schools are run that teachers have. Hiring a coach will not let you off the hook of running debating; you will still have to do all the administrative work of booking rooms, getting students to turn up to practice, negotiating availability of students with the rugby coach, making sure enough sandwiches are ordered for the break in the competition etc. I think this kind of training works best if you have a very ambitious and able cohort of debaters who are keen to win competitions and are eager to be stretched and challenged.

Ask me ...

I offer a wide range of training workshops for students and CPD for teachers. I also offer consultancy for teachers on how to set up and run debating in their schools. You can contact me via my website, www.debatingforeveryone.com.

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