



## The Bishop's Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar

### The Clifford Hicks International Inter-School Debate

**“Clifford Hicks Debate is a phenomenon. Being its participant is a healthy obsession” *The Celestial Times*, Calcutta Boys School.**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Clifford Hicks Memorial International Inter-School Debate organised by the Literary Society of the Calcutta Boys School, Kolkata was held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The four-day event witnessed the best, brightest and most talented student orators from 70 prestigious ICSE/ISC schools pan India and abroad display their debating flair.



The Interschool Debate was initiated under the able guidance and mentorship of the current Principal and Secretary, Mr. Raja McGee in 2015. This yearly competition commemorates the exemplary life and dedicated services of Mr. Clifford Hicks. Mr. Hicks served in the capacity of a Teacher, Principal and Secretary (1952 to 1974) at the Calcutta Boys School and was himself an orator par excellence.

The debate was held in two categories – Category I for Classes XI and XII and category II for Classes IX and X, with prelims and finals for each category. The seven best teams at the Prelims from Categories I and II were shortlisted for the finale.



The opening ceremony for the prelims and finals commenced with a prayer and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Principal, the Chief guest, Moderators and Judges. The melodious rendition of the hymns “Sweet Sweet Spirit”, “One Day at a



time”, “Time Changer of Seasons”, “Lily of the Valley” and “David’s Song” by the Calcutta Boys School choir filled the air and set the scene for a wonderful afternoon on each day of the competition.





Mr. Kaushik Saha, IAS (Director of Census Operations and Director of Citizen Registration, West Bengal) and CBS Alumnus (Batch 1982) presided as the Chief Guest for the Inaugural Ceremony held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Given the large number of participating schools, the competing teams were divided into two pools for each category. Tensions ran high in the Chapel Hall as the lots were drawn to decide the order of the speakers and the motion for the debate. Mrs. Hilda Peacock and Ms. Shaberi Das officiated as the moderators for Category I and Category II respectively for the preliminary rounds. The following were the topics for the prelims:

	Category I	Category II
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 (Pool A)	Social media has caused problems for law enforcement agencies	The modern obsession with health is unhealthy
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 (Pool B)	Modern medicine ignores ethical issues	There are no great leaders in the world today

The Bishops Co-Ed School, Kalyaninagar was represented by Amrita Nair (12 A Commerce) and Ronav Jaiswal (12 A Science) in Pool B, Category 1. It was indeed a remarkable achievement as the team from The Bishops Co-Ed School, Pune was voted as one of the seven finalists.

The grand finale for Category I took place on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The motion for the finals was 'The survival of the human species depends on space exploration'. Prof. Anindya Roy Chowdhury moderated the debate while Ms. Jennifer Arul, Ms. Kimberley D'Souza, and Mr. Rohit S. Malkhani constituted the panel of eminent judges. The qualifying teams put forth their arguments with great conviction and well-reasoned responses to the rebuttals.

Amrita Nair and Ronav Jaiswal did the school proud by bagging the award for the **"Winning Team"** at the finals and the **"Runner Up Team"** at the prelims. Ms. Amrita Nair was also adjudged the "Runner Up Speaker" at the final and preliminary rounds.

The festivities of the conclave wrapped up on a positive note with the closing ceremony and prize distribution. Mr. Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, graced the occasion with his presence.

In the end, the debate not only proved a display of impeccable rhetoric skills. It also proved a platform where new friendships were forged, a stage that celebrated the diverse talents of the students and finally an enriching opportunity for outstation students and teachers as they explored the City of Joy.

**Report by Ms. Jovia D'Souza**  
**Designed by Mrs. Neelam Philip**

