

Geneva: On the 10th December 2005, four members of Year 13 embarked on the annual adventure to the Palais des Nations, Geneva to enjoy the cut and thrust of debate at the Students' League of Nations. It is very difficult to encapsulate exactly what such a trip involves, as it is a unique experience, but suffice to say it is an event which requires the intellectual, academic, cultural and social skills of delegates.

Representing the views of a country about which one may have no experience, affinity or affection is a very difficult task, but one which our intrepid students had to undertake. Gemma Ellis and Abz Mackrill represented Ecuador; Hannah Gunn and Rosy Lawrence represented Iceland. One might imagine that these countries don't have the highest profile in international affairs, but the job of a UN delegate is to bring their country's opinions to the forefront of the world's attention and our students performed to a very high standard. The debates ranged from the regulation of the world's mass media to the ban on trafficking of women.

The opportunity to go to the UN is one which presents the delegate with many transferable skills, possibly the most important of which is to be able to speak in front of several hundred people and to be able to argue different perspectives. These skills are much valued in the business world and today's delegates gain a lot from the experience offered to them.

Isle of Wight: On Easter Monday eight senior debaters accompanied by Mr Holland, Mrs Lindridge and Will Poole, represented the College at the Isle of Wight Model United Nations General Assembly. College students represented Canada (Leela Shanson and Jessica Summers), Mexico (Phil Donald and Adam Darroch-Thompson), Afghanistan (Claire Bush and Laura Bridgstock) and the USA (Alex Megone and Matthew Tubbs). The three debates were on climate change, homosexuality and nuclear proliferation. The last resolution was presented by the USA and was selected for debate from 55 other suggested topics. The debate came to a nail-biting finish, missing out on being passed after a recount of votes and only by the narrowest of margins.

Mr Julian Holland, UN Co-ordinator



TOP: MR JULIAN HOLLAND CHAIRING A SESSION. CENTRE: LAURA BRIDGSTOCK AND CLAIRE BUSH REPRESENTING AFGHANISTAN. BOTTOM: WILL POOLE IN THE CHAIR WITH MATTHEW TUBBS AND ALEX MEGONE REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES