

## **Public Speaking In St.Louis**

Our school holds an annual debating competition for all Junior classes, every student in our school is welcome to take part in this competition. The winning class trophy for each Year Group is a hotly contested event. Each class is represented by a team of 3 debaters and the Grand Final is adjudicated by our experienced Senior Debating team.

Our public speakers have represented the school in numerous events this year, including Concern debates, Soroptimist Society, Alcohol Ireland Awareness and Mental Health Ireland public speaking competition.

We have successfully debated against other schools from Mayo, Galway and Sligo. Preparing speeches for the 'Concern' debates requires a lot of research. We have to prepare speeches to argue topics such as the International Community is indifferent to Africa, AIDS will never be cured in our lifetime, the world cannot sustain its growing population, and that the UN is a failure and should be disbanded. In 2014, our team of 12 students scored a solid result of 9 points out of a possible 12, equivalent to 3 unanimous wins out of 4 debates and we were the top scoring school in Mayo.

The most recent Mental Health topic was that we should care to share in this global village and a team of 3 students represented the school.

A number of girls from fifth year take part in the Soroptimist public speaking competition each year and came first runner up in the last two years.

All involved in public speaking invest a lot of time and effort in preparing for the events and we look forward to their continued success in college debating and onwards.

Debating encourages students to articulate arguments in a focused, persuasive and sensitive fashion.

