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MEDIA RELEASE

GOOD SHEPHERD STUDENTS MAKE DEBATING STATE FINALS SERIES

Good Shepherd Lutheran College's Year 9 Debating Team is arguably one of the best on the Sunshine Coast after recently winning all four of the preliminary rounds of the Sunshine Coast division of the Queensland Debating Union Schools Competition.

The competition was strong among competing schools, with students coming together from all over the Sunshine Coast - with only one goal in mind – to win their argument!

With the four competition rounds held from March to June, the College's Year 9 Debating Team's stamina and dedication no doubt proved to be part of their winning formulae – meeting after school and during breaks to brainstorm and prepare.

The rules were clear - three of the four topics to be debated could be prepared prior to the competition rounds but the fourth and last round was the strictest and really tested the team's skills.

"For the last round of the competition students were given the topic an hour before the debate and the only resources allowed were a dictionary and a thesaurus," said Ms Liz Newton, Debating Coach for Good Shepherd Lutheran College.

"No coaches, no parents, and most important of all, no computers!"

What is even more impressive about the team's win is the fact that this year is the first year that the four team members have debated together.

According to Mr Anthony Dyer, Principal of Good Shepherd Lutheran College, debating is an excellent medium for collectively teaching students relevant life skills.

"Through debating students learn and practise skills such as team work, structuring an argument, rebutting an argument and speaking in public," he said.

Good Shepherd's Year 9 Debating Team will now progress to the State Finals Series to be held in Brisbane starting in July.

All the winning teams from South-East Queensland will be coming together in weekly knockout competition heats culminating in the State Final on 29 August.

Ends.



Photograph attached: Good Shepherd Year 9 Debating Team (L-R) Selina Latimer, Adrian Hindes, David Hoffman & Madison Woolley

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