



WALK IN NEW LIFE

MATER MARIA  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

# MMCC 2021 Catholic Schools and Debating Association Public Speaking Competition

**The Mater Maria Public Speaking Team may not attract a huge following of students at the College but it is certainly a team that prioritises quality over quantity. 2021 has seen the congregation of diligent team members who eagerly competed in our first round of competitions against the Catholic Systemic schools in the Catholic Schools Debating Association.**



Our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 11 students were all successful in writing and preparing their speeches for the competition. The students worked together to create winning speeches about topics that we were most passionate about and the camaraderie achieved across year groups was a success in itself. We have now built a cohesive team presence that we can draw upon in order to achieve accolades in other public speaking arenas. The seniors will really be able to sharpen their speaking skills and create a strong presence as leaders in their important years ahead.

This first competition heralded the successes of the following students:

Luke Peterson, Tiffany Walsh and Jessica Muir of Year 11 (left), completed the first round of the CSDA Public Speaking

Competition on Friday 5 March and gave three absolutely cracking speeches to a full room in the Zoom gathering held here at Mater Maria Catholic College. They all spoke about current complex events and controversial matters. All competitions are held on Friday evenings, a call well beyond the school week.

Most noteworthy was the success of our Year 8 student, Michael DiCostanzo (right), who completed all three rounds and made it to the Grand Finals on Friday 19 March hosted by our team of students here at Mater. Michael spoke eloquently against the consumerism created by ongoing Christmas greed and presented a hypothetical letter from Santa back to us humans, sharing a very poignant message about the true meaning of sharing and generosity. Please congratulate Michael when you see him.



Our other Year 8 student, Anastasia Karjalainen, and Year 7 students Presley Finch, Isobel Andrews and Andreas Pfannenmueller also demonstrated experienced speech writing techniques and strong speaking skills in their campaigns to let their voices be heard in the CSDA Zoom rooms allocated to their year groups. Andreas did especially well as he proceeded through to round two in a Year 9 room as we had exhausted allocations for the Year 7 room. Presley Finch was quite convincing in his round one and also proceeded through to round two.

A very big thank you to Presley Finch and Isobel Andrews for chairing the Grand Final, hosting the room and showing a maturity well beyond their years.

All of these young voices deserve to be heard, and do not worry, you will be hearing much more from them in the future.

Jennifer Leigh-Jones  
Public Speaking Team Manager