

This was the second year of the Derby City Schools Debate Competition and the competition has gone from strength to strength. The Final took place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and was judged by HHJ Jonathan Bennett, President of the Derby and District Law Society Ben Lawson and Sue Jennings, Head of Law at the University of Derby.

Following hugely entertaining semi-finals the previous week the final took place between the two teams from Littleover Community School. By a margin of just one per cent the team comprising of Polly, Emily, Siding and Lily triumphed over the team made up of Johann, Talvin, Lena and Elly. Congratulations to both pupils and staff.

The competition has, once again, been organized by the Derby and District Law Society, E4E and The University of Derby Law School. The project is a great example of organizations working well together and what can be achieved with lots of time but very little financial input.

Young lawyers from local firms visited the Schools in October to introduce the competition and talk to the children about speaking in public generally. Students from the Law and Business Schools at the University went into the Schools later last Autumn to mentor the children on how to present their arguments and prepare generally. The students impact on the children was noticeable in terms of both presentation and preparation. The students also kindly stood in at the last minute on two of the debates.

The debates have been judged by law lecturers from Derby University and Derby solicitors and all have been impressed by how enthusiastic the children and staff have been and by the high standard of the debating.

**A massive THANK YOU to everyone who gave up their time to make this project such a fantastic success – special thanks to Liz Doherty from the University of Derby who has co-ordinated the students and the University resources.**



The debate in full flow



Judges left to right Ben Lawson, Sue Jennings, HHJ Jonathan Bennett



Winners from Littleover Community School



Runners up from Littleover Community School

