

MODERN WORLD DEBATES

The Bishop's Junior College took part in the 'Modern World Debates' organized by The Modern School, Dubai held from **February 5th 2012 to February 7th 2012**. The Bishop's Junior College team consisted of **Yashaswi Shukla and Suyash Jha**. The duo were accompanied by **Ms. Yasmin Chagla**.

The Competition started on 5th February with sixteen teams competing from different countries. It was an international debate held in the British Parliamentary style. The Debate began with a preliminary round of a set of four debates. The Bishop's team was fortunate to get the first proposition i.e. the opening government position. The first round acquainted the team with the British Parliamentary system and helped them to produce a better debate in the subsequent rounds.

The Adjudication Panel was composed of highly qualified adjudicators from eight different countries whose valuable feedback was extremely elaborate and constructive. It was this precious feedback which enabled our young gentlemen to do well in this competition.

The entire theme of the Debate was purely intellectual and the analysis left no room for rhetoric and assertion. The topics were varied. For instance, 'This house would televise criminal trials' or 'This house would remove all restrictions on immigration. Through the course of these debates our team learnt the importance of logic, reasoning, analysis, substantiation, causation and structure in debating.

After a very good performance at the debates, the Bishop's Boys finished fifth in the competition. Two other Indian schools which participated were the Doon School, Dehradun

and Sri Ram College, Delhi. The top four teams to reach the semi-finals were from the U.A.E. of which Jumeirah College went on to win the debate.

In all it was a thrilling experience and most of all highly educational. The exposure to the quality of debating, the new friendships which were forged, the critiques of the judges and the strive to bring out the truth in the stances of the debators opened several new avenues for the team. The team returned home with a lot of experience and more confidence. It was indeed an exceptional experience as the skills acquired did not apply solely to debating, but to almost every pursuit, rendering the trip very enriching in every aspect.