St. John’s College,

Hastings.

2nd February 2010.

Dear Principal,

**Hawke’s Bay Secondary Schools’ Debating** is preparing for another busy year. Your debaters will be involved in both prepared and limited preparation debates. The senior debaters also have the opportunity to participate in the Russell McVeagh competition, early in Term Two (the date has yet to be finalised, but is tentatively set for 24/25th April).

**We would like schools to be prepared to** **host Limited Preparation Debating Tournaments this year. This would involve hosting one age-group of debaters, one afternoon in Term 2 and one afternoon in Term 3.** Coaches and students would arrive at 1pm and go to a meeting point or library where they receive their moots or propositions. They would prepare their debates until 2pm (or whenever the last period starts). Debaters would go to **classrooms for the last period**. **We do not need these classes to be English classes, any well-mannered audience will suffice.** Smaller schools can host these events. St. John’s College hosted the Year 11 debates successfully in 2009, debating to Classical Studies, Mathematics, English and Social Studies classes. Minimal effort is required by the host teachers as setting up classrooms during lunchtime is straightforward; having six desks at the front facing the audience, with one desk for the chairperson in the middle. The adjudicator sits at the back. All the teacher needs to do is keep their students quiet.

By having these tournaments in schools, a larger number of students are exposed to debating and interest in oratory grows. Enclosed is a copy of the draft guidelines and dates. These may change. Please support debating in 2010 by informing your school’s debating coach that your school is prepared to host a Limited Preparation Debating Tournament.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Lyndie Balfour

H.O.D. English St. John’s College and organiser of 2010 H.B. Schools’ Senior Debating.