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Debate Mate Ltd



## Business Overview

**ESTABLISHED:** 2007

**LOCATION:** London, United Kingdom

**LISTING:** Unlisted

**TYPE OF COMPANY:** Charity  
Company Limited by Guarantee

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:** Social  
Enterprise

**BUSINESS AREA:**  
Education

**COMPANY WEBSITE:**  
[www.debatemate.com](http://www.debatemate.com)

### BUSINESS OVERVIEW

Debate Mate Ltd (Debate Mate) is an international educational organisation dedicated to improving social mobility using cost-effective peer-to-peer debate mentoring.

Debate Mate runs after school debating clubs in areas of high child poverty, facilitated by students at universities, to give disadvantaged young people the skills they need to become young leaders and instil the qualities of confidence, interpersonal communication skills, and higher order thinking.

The social enterprise has a strong global presence, operating programmes in Africa, Jamaica, the Middle East, Nepal, and the United States. Bespoke student and teacher training workshops are also run for educators looking to integrate debating into their classrooms and wider school community.

By teaching debating through peer-to-peer mentoring, Debate Mate empowers and inspires participants and provides them with powerful role models to raise their aspirations.

### SOCIAL MISSION

The UK continues to have the lowest rate of social mobility amongst OECD countries (OECD, 2015). This means that children growing up in low-income households are less likely to achieve in school, to attend university, and to find productive employment as adults. By the age of seven, children growing up in poverty, those who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), are more than twice as likely as their better-off peers to be behind on expected reading levels.

Debate Mate was set up to overcome this problem in an innovative and cost-effective way. The advantages of debating are widespread and have been highlighted in a joint report by CfBT Education Trust, the English Speaking Union, and EdComs (Akerman and Neale, 2011). Beyond the values of debating, participation in an extra-curricular activity is also key to employment (Thompson, 2013). By providing a freely accessible extra-curricular programme, Debate Mate gives children from non-selective state schools the opportunity to participate in a competitive and aspiration-raising activity.

### WHO BENEFITS?

**SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS:** Improving speaking and listening attainment for students in years 5 to 10. Raising pupils' aspirations and expectations through sustained contact with successful university students. Fostering key employability skills such as critical thinking, leadership, teamwork, and effective communication.

**VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES:** Engaging with areas of high child poverty, with approximately 31% of the students participating in the programmes being eligible for FSM. Promoting social inclusion and equality, 10% of students have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and 33% have English as an Additional Language (EAL).

# Commercial and Financial Summary

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Year end (£)	2014	2015
Total Incoming Resources	1,315,337	1,095,410
Total Funds Carried Forward	13,376	23,258
Net Income	79,028	9,882
Fixed Assets	6,463	4,833
Cash Balances	63,925	231,140

## BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

The programme has grown by 27% since 2013 (220 schools in 2013-14 to 280 in 2015- 16 including 89 primary schools), encompassing London, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, the West Midlands, Leeds, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Debate Mate was approved to open a school by the Department for Education (DfE). The DfE also financially supported our expansion across the UK.

Debate Mate students and mentors were the subject of an 8-part prime-time television series that aired on Sky 1 in Spring 2015 titled Kings and Queens of Speech.

In 2016, Debate Mate designed a programme for the Office of the Prime Minister to promote debating and civic engagement in schools throughout the UK. David Cameron opened the final of Downing Street Debates at Number 10, in which eight Debate Mate students from across the country spoke.

A Debate Mate student, Ife Grillo, represented England at the World Schools Debating Championship in August 2016. England went on to win the competition, making Ife the first student from a non-selective state school to achieve this honour.

## Impact Assessment Matrix

### ECONOMIC IMPACT

	MEASUREMENT	REPORTED DATA
<b>None reported</b>	None reported	None reported

### SOCIAL IMPACT

	MEASUREMENT	REPORTED DATA
<b>Speaking and Listening</b>	Debate Mate programme accelerates students' progress in Speaking and Listening.	90% of teachers report accelerated progress
<b>Confidence and Self Esteem</b>	Students have more confidence giving opinions on current events and political issues.	85% of participants report progress
	Students are more comfortable speaking up in class.	83% of participants report progress
<b>Leadership</b>	Students have more confidence that others can count on them.	83% of participants report progress
	Students have more experience leading a team.	80% of participants report progress
<b>Teamwork and Self Management</b>	Students are more likely to put their ideas forward in a team environment.	88% of participants report progress
	Students are better able to work with someone whose opinions differ from theirs.	78% of participants report progress
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Students are better able to come up with opinions and arguments	90% of participants report progress
	Students are better able to respond to and respectfully disagree with the ideas of others	83% of participants report progress
<b>Resilience</b>	Students are more likely to finish what they begin.	83% of participants report progress
	Students are better able to come up with new ideas when old ones are challenged.	82% of participants report progress
<b>Aspirations</b>	Students gain skills and experiences that will help them to attend university.	84% of participants report progress

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

	MEASUREMENT	REPORTED DATA
<b>None reported</b>	None reported	None reported

### GOVERNANCE

	MEASUREMENT	REPORTED DATA
<b>None reported</b>	None reported	None reported

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