

All Gold Award recipients would like to thank their coaches: Ms Zervakos, Dennis Webber, Luke McManus and Mr Balboa and last but not least, Mrs Spanyik, for their mentoring and guidance.

### **BEN CULLEN**

Ben started debating when he joined the College in Year 7 in 2017.

Since then, he's made the elimination rounds, the quarter finals twice, and in 2022 participated in the Year 12 CSDA grand-final.

He has debated with the other boys on stage today since Year 9 and together they've proven a formidable team.

Ben is a passionate third speaker and has relished the impromptu delivery and intellectual challenge this position presents. Over the years, he's become very good at attacking weaknesses in his opposition's arguments and at thinking on his feet.

Ben hopes to continue debating in some way in the future, and we wish him well with all his endeavours.

Congratulations Ben on your Gold Colour Award

### **MAX LEO**

Max started debating in Year 5. His favourite speaking position is 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker, which allows him to rebut, but also to develop and formulate arguments to shut down the opposition's case.

A major lesson learnt by Max through his debating career is that the debate is won in the prep room. A short individual brainstorming session, that developed lines of argument in a calm and calculated format, Max felt helped his team to be better equipped to broaden the scope of the topic as well as enhance the perspectives in their arguments.

Max knows, as all excellent debaters do, that this structured introduction to prep time allows for a greater variety of points to be unearthed and means that those who are less vocal in the prep room, also have the opportunity to express their opinions.

Max's highlight in his debating career has been reaching the Grand Final in this, his last year of debating.

Congratulations Max on an outstanding Debating career.

### **William Ramsbottom**

Will commenced debating in Year 7 and has matured as a debater, adopting the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker since Year 9.

The successes that he has enjoyed in debating include participating in the Finals Series three times throughout his career.

Will believes that a major lesson gained from being a part of this current team, was that listening is an equal, if not more valuable and constructive skill on a debate night: arguing your point is essential but having points that are developed through a team perspective is vital.

Will has enjoyed every dinner rush to Westfield, every prep room argument and every rebuttal. However, the highlight of Will's career in debating was seeing a crowd of his mates give up their Friday night to attend the Grand Final.

Congratulations on your Gold Award Will.

### **WILL STABER**

Will began his debating career in 2018, starting slightly later than his teammates.

He was a 'quick study' developing his skills on how to approach each debate through a conceptual lens and enjoyed unravelling the oppositions arguments point by point...a tremendous skill for a first speaker to have as they deconstruct the opposition and frame arguments for the second and third speakers, after their presentation.

Will has said himself, that he is naturally argumentative (we would say 'Critical Thinker') and he uses this trait to broaden a case to extend its arguments.

Will grew as a debater within an amazing team, reaching the grand final of the CSDA competition this year.

Will can be proud of what he has been able to achieve as a debater during his tenure at the college.