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Dear Junior Premier Coach

Welcome to the Junior Premier Grade for 2011. Firstly, congratulations to Sacred Heart College for winning the WGT Wiggs Trophy in this grade last year, and to Hutt International Boys' School, who were runners-up. The final was an excellent debate, with well-prepared teams, a supportive and appreciative audience, and a very high standard of debating between the same two teams who battled out the Junior Certificate Final in 2009 (which HIBS won on that occasion).

This year 17 teams will compete for the WGT Wiggs Trophy in this grade, which means that there will be a BYE for one team in each round (does not affect the overall scoring). There will be FIVE debates in the round-robin section of the competition. Please observe all the deadlines and, if your team is hosting (affirmative, or on the left-hand side of the draw), please arrange times and adjudicators early and maintain contact with the opposing team. Defaults are unfair and unacceptable, and may result in offending schools being denied a place in the grade in 2012.

While I realise that finding adjudicators can be a problem at times, please do not leave this responsibility until the night before the debate. I would also encourage you to use senior students from a nearby neutral school rather than having a panel of two senior students from each of the teams taking part in the debate. Last year there were three occasions in the Junior Premier Grade where the student adjudicators could not agree and called a draw. Draws are not a part of debating protocol, and adjudicators are expected to defend their decisions in delivering their adjudication. To simply say that two adjudicators could not reach agreement is totally unhelpful to the young people taking part in the debate. If this occurs this year, I will expect the teams' coaches to step in and sort out a solution, as I will not accept a draw under any circumstances.

**Note:** We are continuing with the new system for the collection of results this year. WSU has created an easy to use online form for entering results. Simply log on to [www.wsu.co.nz](http://www.wsu.co.nz) to access this and fill it in.

After each debate, the coach of the winning team must fill out this form **by the end of the week**. Please be prompt in submitting your details – this is one of the largest delays in organising the grade and the new form has been designed to make submitting results much easier

If FOR WHATEVER REASON, the results form does not seem to be working then as an alternative please email your result to [results@wsu.co.nz](mailto:results@wsu.co.nz). As with last year, these emails should have the simple subject line as follows:

*“Jnr Prem Round [X]: [Team A] **beat** [Team B]”*

This is all that should be required for quick processing of results. In addition, a hard copy of the result sheet should be forwarded to me, either by fax to school (St Catherine’s College), or to my home address as soon as possible after each debate.

Please note the topic for the first round: “That the voting age should be lowered to 16”.

All the rules for this grade are outlined on the Wellington Speaking Union’s website. You will also find very useful coaching hints, especially regarding Impromptu and Limited Preparation debating – please take special note of these for the Limited Preparation round (Round Three) and the Impromptu round (Round Four). These will be reinforced when I send out topics for each of these rounds.

If you have any queries or concerns at any stage during the round-robin competition, please do not hesitate to contact me at any of the phone numbers above. However, I should advise you that I will be overseas from May 21<sup>st</sup> until July 29<sup>th</sup> this year. I will send out all the material for Rounds Three and Four before I leave, and I will monitor my emails regularly while I am away. In the event of any problems, Stephen Whittington will answer any queries for you.

Junior Premier is a serious grade for our top junior debaters and I am pleased to say that the grade has run very smoothly over the past few years. I am looking forward to another excellent year of debating, and I wish you and your debaters all the very best in all of the debates.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Ryan  
(Grade Convenor)

### Junior Premier Draw 2011

Round One		Round Two	
Affirmative	Negative	Affirmative	Negative
Sacred Heart	St Bernard’s	St Bernard’s	Hutt International
Hutt International	St Oran’s	St Oran’s	Chilton St James
Chilton St James	St Patrick’s Stream	St Patrick’s Stream	Sacred Heart
St Patrick’s Town	St Catherine’s	St Catherine’s	Wellington Girls’
Queen Margaret	Tawa College	Tawa College	Wellington College
Wellington College	Scots College	Scots College	St Mary’s
St Mary’s	Hutt Valley High	Hutt Valley High	Samuel Marsden
Samuel Marsden	Wellington East	Wellington East	St Patrick’s Town
Wellington Girls’	BYE	Queen Margaret	BYE

Round Three (Limited Prep)		Round Four (Impromptu)	
Affirmative	Negative	Hosts	Visitors
Sacred Heart	St Oran's	Sacred Heart	St Mary's
Hutt International	St Patrick's Stream	Hutt International	Chilton St James
Chilton St James	Hutt Valley High	St Catherine's	Queen Margaret
St Patrick's Town	Scots College	St Patrick's Town	Samuel Marsden
Queen Margaret	Wellington East	St Oran's	Tawa
Wellington College	St Catherine's	St Patrick's Stream	St Bernard's
Wellington Girls'	St Bernard's	Hutt Valley High	Scots College
Samuel Marsden	Tawa	Wellington Girls'	Wellington East
St Mary's	BYE	Wellington College	BYE

Round Five	
Affirmative	Negative
St Bernard's	Chilton
Scots College	Samuel Marsden
St Mary's	Wellington East
Hutt International	Hutt Valley High
Queen Margaret	Wellington College
Tawa	St Patrick's Town
St Oran's	St Patrick's Stream
Sacred Heart	Wellington Girls'
St Catherine's	BYE

## TOPICS

**Round One (23 March):** That we should lower the voting age to 16

**Round Two (18 May):** That e-books have rekindled reading

**Round Three (1 June):** Limited Preparation

**Round Four (15 June):** Impromptu

**Round Five (17 August):** That we should legalise commercial whaling

**Quarter-finals (31 August):** That sports people should only be allowed to play for their country of birth

**Semi-finals (21 September):** That Parliament should move to a four-year term

**Grand Final (9 November):** That we should prohibit NZ schools from offering alternatives to NCEA