

**Education Department**

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**Our Ref:** JMcG/TM

**Date:** 29 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Oxford Union Schools Debating Competition 2020 – Regional Heat**

I am writing with information about the forthcoming trip to the Oxford Union Schools Debating Competition Regional Heat on Monday 3 February 2020. Stewart's Melville College in Edinburgh are hosting this year's Scottish heat. Four teams of two students will represent Mearns Castle High this year.

I am now able to provide you with more details of the travel itinerary and the itinerary for the competition itself.

We will be travelling by minibus. The bus will leave Mearns Castle at 3pm. The competition starts at 4.30pm. There will be two short preparation debates before the judges make the announcement about the qualifying teams. The evening should be completed by no later than 8.30pm. The bus should arrive back at the school car park between 9.30-10.00pm. These times may vary. However, I will ensure that all parents and carers are informed by the pupils about our estimated time of arrival when we leave Edinburgh.

The school has agreed to meet part of the cost of the bus. The pupils are being asked to pay £5 towards the remaining balance. This item has been added to your Parent Pay account and is due for payment as soon as possible. Pupils should bring some food and drink to have once we reach the venue as there will be no food provided by the organisers.

I will leave a contact mobile number that you can call if you need to get in touch or in the case of an emergency. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any further enquiries.

Yours sincerely

John McGowne  
History Department/Debating Coach

Mobile: 07791 499 781