

21st May 2025,

Dear Parents / Carers,

Athelstan Festival of Speech and Debate (AFSAD): Thursday, 19th June 2025

We are very excited to be attending the Athelstan Festival of Speech and Debate festival; a collaboration between our five schools that aims to showcase students' talents, interests and generally celebrate the power of the spoken word.

The festival will give students in Year 7, 8 and 9 the chance to engage in healthy competition by entering one of four categories: Speech, Debate, Dramatic reading and Poetry Recital. Your child has expressed an interest in this event, and we are delighted that they are already engaged in planning and rehearsing their contribution. They will perform their pieces in heats with the finalists presenting their piece to a judging panel.

On Thursday 19th June, all students involved will meet at **8.30** and will take the school minibus to Bradon Forest (Swindon) to take part in the competition for the whole day. Students should be returned to school by **16:55** but the school will be updated continually with estimated timing.

Please note the following logistical arrangements for the day:

- Students will need to be in school for **8.30** at the **latest**. Please meet Miss Radcliffe **outside the school gates**.
- Please **complete the attached permission slip** and ask your son/daughter to return it to Miss Radcliffe by 6th June at the latest. Please also **complete the emergency contact detail and medical forms on ParentPay**.
- Students will need to attend in full school uniform. This includes both blazer and ties.
- We ask that students bring either a book to read or some homework to complete during any quiet moments in the day.
- We ask students to bring a packed lunch and snacks for during the day. If your child receives Free School Meals, we will provide lunch for them and we ask that your child lets Mrs Harris in the canteen know their packed lunch choice.
- All students will be representing their schools and so we expect them to model best behaviour throughout the day.
- We are live streaming the event so that friends and family can watch in real time online or watch later; a link will be shared nearer the time. By submitting this form back, you are giving permission for your child to be filmed on this link. The link will only be active for the finals, taking place from **13:45**. Should you require any further details, please do contact me and I would be happy to discuss this further.





Church Road, Lydney
Gloucestershire, GL15 5DZ
T: 01594 843202
E: info@thedeacademy.org
www.thedeacademy.org

Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

We hope that your child enjoys this opportunity, wish them luck in the competition and look forward to sharing our successes with you!

Yours faithfully,

Miss E Radcliffe
English Teacher

Athelstan Festival of Speech and Debate (AFSAD): Thursday, 19th June 2025 - Permission slip

I agree to allow/not allow (name of student) to attend the event at Bradon Forest on the 19th of June.

Name of Parent

Signed

Date

Please return to Miss Radcliffe by 6th June – Thank you



A company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, as The Athelstan Trust
Company No: 7699625