

Interschool English Debate

School Year 2025 – 2026

GYMNASIO DROSHIAS LARNAKAS

“Fast Fashion causes more harm than good”

On Thursday, 19 February 2026, the annual English debate of Droshia Larnaka Gymnasium was successfully held at the school's “Kyrenia” Theatre Hall. The topic of this year's debate was: *“Fast Fashion causes more harm than good”*.

The English debate has become a well-established tradition at the school, as it has been organised annually since 2022. Over the years, the event has offered students a valuable platform to develop their public speaking, critical thinking and argumentative skills in English, while encouraging active participation, collaboration and respectful dialogue.

The topic proved to be highly relevant and thought-provoking, as fast fashion is a phenomenon that strongly affects modern society. Through their arguments, students explored the environmental, social and economic dimensions of the fashion industry, analysing both its harmful consequences and its potential benefits.

Team 1 (the proposing team) argued that fast fashion causes more harm than good, focusing on the environmental impact of mass production, the waste of natural resources and the social consequences associated with the industry. On the other hand, Team 2 (the opposing team) argued that the benefits outweigh the disadvantages, emphasising the industry's contribution to economic activity, the affordability of products and the importance of consumer responsibility.

Team 1 consisted of Andreana Eliza Michaelides (Team Leader), Odysseas Dalias (Deputy Leader), Rafal Abbas, Lia Konnaridi, Chrysovalantis Georgiou, Menelaos Syrimis and Stavros Chimonides. The team's interns were Alexandra Andreou, Stefania Andreou and Ioannis Georgiou.

Team 2 consisted of Electra Kakoulli (Team Leader), Asterios Kyriakou (Deputy Leader), Andriana Eliadi, Marina Panayiotou, Despina Themistokleous, Panayiotis Koumas and Danae Stylianou. The team's interns were Marianthi Zarinta, Panayiota Costa, Elli Serafeim and Christina Boukova.

The presenters of the event were third-year students Katerina Daskalaki and Marina Constantinou, who successfully coordinated the flow of the debate and contributed to the creation of a well-organised and dynamic atmosphere.

The preparation and guidance of both teams, as well as the organisation of the event, were undertaken by the school's English teacher, Ms Elena Kalli. The judging panel consisted of Father Varnavas Mishi (Chairperson of the Committee), Mr Grigoris Michaeloudes and Ms Polina Chatzigianni Mackay, who evaluated the quality of the arguments, speech structure, language competence and the overall presentation of the teams.

The students presented mature, well-documented and structured arguments, demonstrating critical thinking, confidence and respect for different opinions. Through this process, they developed important skills such as teamwork, responsibility, time management and the effective handling of counterarguments.

Following the completion of the debate and the evaluation process by the judging panel, Team 1 – FOR was declared the winner of this year's school debate competition after a highly balanced and high-level contest.

The event was honoured by the presence of Dr Chrysanthi Nikodimou - Pasiardi, English Language Inspector, Ms Antia Mavromatti, English Language Advisor, and Mr Pavlos Iasonides, President of the Parents' Association of the school. At the end of the event, certificates of participation were awarded to all students in recognition of their effort, commitment and excellent participation.

