

SPEAK OUT IRELAND 2021

From the team that brought you the Matheson Junior Debating National Mace & the National Debating Championships comes [SPEAK OUT IRELAND 2021](#) – a brand new competition for all students in secondary school on the island of Ireland.

What is it?

Speak Out Ireland is a speech writing & performance competition that is going to give a platform to Ireland's young people to speak about issues that affect them.

Who can enter?

The competition is open to ALL students in Post- Primary School and there will be a Junior and a Senior category. This could also be a great Easter Project for your TY students so please feel free to forward on to your TY co-ordinator.

What can they win?

- Thanks to our amazing sponsors at Matheson we have a prize chest of over **€2000**.
- The winner will have their speech professionally recorded & produced and sent to National Media Outlets.
- The winners will receive a **cash prize** and a donation for the charity of their choice.

How do we register?

Any school that is interested in entering students (as few or as many as they like – it's free!) please complete the form found [HERE](#) by March 25th @6pm. All details on how to complete student entries, along with our judges' guidelines, will then be sent directly to you to share with your students. Final deadline for entries will be April 23rd and any tech advice needed will be provided.

The competition is done entirely online and needs no special equipment- just a smart phone, internet access and some passionate oratory.

What will your students need to do?

1. Write and record a powerful and passionate speech on any topic that they feel deserves a platform – education, climate change, gender inequality, homelessness, LGBTQ rights etc.*
2. Speeches should be recorded on camera so we can see their face.
3. Camera should be to its side/landscape.
4. Camera should be kept still.
5. You should speak clearly
6. Meet the time restrictions
 - a. Seniors: 4th-6th Year: Speeches are 5-7 minutes long
 - b. Juniors: 1st- 3rd Year: Speeches are 3-5 minutes long
7. Upload their speech to YouTube as an 'Unlisted' video by April 23rd.
8. Complete our "Guardian Consent Form" that will be sent to all registered schools.

Students can get writing straight away before schools have completed registration!

Who are we?

For 10 years the Matheson National Debating Organisers have provided a competitive platform for the island's best Junior and Senior debaters, running the largest debating competition in Ireland. With more than 500 competitors annually and working with the most experienced volunteer judges, we are proud to annually run Ireland's premier debating competitions. We look forward to celebrating our 11th year with your speakers come September!

We are looking for the voices of a generation and we want to be impressed.

Can't wait to hear from you.

Catherine Duplaa
Speak Out Ireland Convenor 2021
<https://speakoutirl.com/>

