

BBC Schools Questions & Answers Debate

The BBC's final Schools Questions & Answers debate of 2012 will take place next month on **Thursday 12th July**. The live programme will be the last chance for schools in the Norfolk area to take part in this year's project.

BBC News presenter **Jon Sopel** will chair our last debate on Thursday July 12th. The webcast will come from Barton Peveril Sixth Form College in Eastleigh, Hampshire.

Our debates are aimed at pupils aged 14 to 19 years old. The programme is broadcast live on the BBC website in the middle of the school day. It follows a format similar to Question Time on BBC One, with a panel of high-profile politicians, famous faces and a pupil from our host school debating the news issues of the week.

Our guests so far this year have included Universities Minister David Willets, Shadow Treasury Secretary Rachel Reeves, Respect MP George Galloway and the broadcaster Hardeep Singh Kohli.

Each debate is shown live online at 12.00 at www.bbc.co.uk/schoolsqanda. We have a high-quality video stream, suitable for a class group to watch on a large screen or interactive whiteboard. The programme is also broadcast on TV on the BBC Parliament channel on the Sunday after the webcast.

Alongside questions from the audience in the hall, Norfolk pupils can type their opinions on the unfolding debate on the live discussion page on our website. This will be moderated. A selection of comments will be read out by our presenter on air and put to the panel.

We want the webcasts to be a rewarding learning experience for all pupils. They should be particularly appropriate for those studying English, Politics, Sociology and related subjects.

Schools that want to be involved can contact 'paul.hastie@bbc.co.uk' for more information. We will email you with briefings on our debate panellists and provide a round-up of news discussion topics to help your pupils prepare. All schools taking part are credited afterwards on the BBC website.

Schools Questions & Answers is a politics and citizenship initiative run in partnership by the BBC and the Parliament's Education Service. Our host schools are the winners of our 2012 debate contest. We aim to launch the contest again for 2013 at the beginning of the next academic year. For more information and to watch clips of past programmes visit our website at www.bbc.co.uk/schoolsqanda.