

# Oxley College students debate their way to the top of the HICES finals



Oxley College's Year 6 debating team won the HICES state final in the Central Coast and were mentored by Year 11 students. Picture supplied.

A group of dedicated debaters have been awarded top accolades at a final in the junior division.

Year 6 students Sam Cottle, Hailey Law, Grace Kean, Daphne Hutchinson and Rory Shedden went to Central Coast Grammar to compete in the *Heads of Independent Co-Educational Schools (HICES)* state debating finals.

The team's coordinator of the spoken word Victoria Rintoul was proud of the students' efforts.

"Our Year 6 debaters are an incredible bunch," she said.

"They are open to taking on the challenges of debating - intellectual and emotional.

"The key to this team's success is due to the beautiful dynamic in a larger team."

That was not the only accolade the team left the final with - the school was given the Chapman Cup and named champions of the competition from 250 teams from across NSW.

The cup is the total tally from open, junior and senior debates, and was last awarded to the institution's senior team in 2019.

Hailey was named as the best speaker in the finals debate and Sam was the third overall best debater.





The students were coached by Year 11 students Breanna Billett, Tyra Beckett and Patrick Muldoon, and their teachers.

Teaching staff are proud of the older and younger grades working together to achieve a great result.

The *HICES* debating competition is organised across eight geographic regions for students from Year 5 to Year 12 in NSW.