

DEBATEBOX

Debate Mate aims to empower confident young people to use their voice to advocate for themselves and their communities. Muhammad Ali embodies this sentiment; he was not only a disciplined fighter in the ring, but also a skilled wordsmith who was able to defeat his opponents verbally, alert a generation to the social injustices of his time and charm nations around the world into calling him their champion.

We work to build our students' confidence to voice their opinions and to stand up to challenges they face. Hence, in February we launched our successful DebateBox programme, delivered in conjunction with the Harrow Club. Our curriculum focuses on the parallels between debating and boxing: learning to debate rather than simply argue and to box rather than fight.

The pilot started successfully at Phoenix Academy, focussing on two target groups – one comprising of year 7 students transitioning into secondary school and the other solely young women in year 8.



Sessions consisted of one hour of debating, followed by one hour of boxing. As always, the students did an incredible job of building their persuasion skills during the debating lessons. Furthermore, it was a pleasure to see how enthusiastically the students took to their boxing sessions delivered by the London Sports Trust.

Unfortunately, after five weeks, the programme is temporarily on hold. However, once DebateBox is able to resume we are confident it will continue to facilitate students' development both physically and mentally.