

Press Release February 2016

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPION GEORGE SAYS THE SECRET IS TO LISTEN**

“If you want to speak well, you have to listen well,” was the winning message from St. Ambrose College public speaking champion George Ellison.

Would be politician George, 18, from Baguley won the North-West regional heats of the Catenean's annual public speaking competition staged at the Manchester Conference Hall.

George, who got two A\*s and six As in his GCSEs and is studying Politics, History and Philosophy in the Hale Barns Catholic grammar's school's sixth form, said: “My argument was that if there is no one there to listen, it doesn't matter how well you speak; you have to do both.”

The logic impressed some of Manchester's most seasoned Catholic business people who will have listened to speech after speech during their careers making George the winner from young speakers from 14 Catholic schools across the region.



George, who is applying to study Politics at Edinburgh University, will now speak at the national Catenean Catholic schools public speaking finals in September, and before that at the National Schools' competition in Cambridge and at Manchester University's own event.

George picked out both Jeremy Corbyn and David Cameron as two of today's best speakers but said: “Corbyn speaks simply and plainly but with conviction and of all the leaders of the last 20 years he is the most relatable,” adding, “Cameron is simply a very polished P.R man.”

Not forgetting the local scene, he added; “But best of all is my own M.P. Mike Kane who represents Sale and Wythenshawe East. When he speaks, I listen.”

Nick Tollitt, Deputy Faculty Leader for English and Drama at St. Ambrose, who runs the College's Debating Society, said: “George has been speaking at the club since he was 11-years-old and it has been interesting to see how his views have evolved during that period.”

George concluded: “Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking would not be an opening line I would ever use, all I would advise any public speaker is to have a strong script, practise, practise and practise and be natural. Don't start thinking about speaking fast or slow, just let it flow.”

St. Ambrose College Principal James Keulemans said: “The Cateneans make a wonderful contribution to education both locally and nationally and we are very grateful they give our young speakers such a discerning audience.”