

St Oliver's claim Gr8 debate crown

The final of the 2014 Coke Zero Gr8 debate took place in Coca-Cola International services offices in Southgate which turned out to be a nail biting finish for the eventual winners, St Oliver's Community College who were up against Colaiste na Hinse, Laytown With the Rathmullan school taking the 2014 title.

This is the 7th year of the debate series, open to all schools in the north-east of Leinster that is broadcast on LMFM and sponsored by the Coca-Cola International services.

The final was a tense affair with the motion: "With Anglo-Irish relations at an all-time high, the time has come for the Republic of Ireland to join the Commonwealth" that saw both sides expressing strong and emotional opinions.

The debate chaired by LMFM's Gerry Kelly. Opened up with St Oliver's proposing the motion with captain Irene McDonnell, along with fellow team mates; Luke Carroll, Nikita Mulready and Muireann Mulholland making some poignant points throughout the debate.

Oisín Maloney the captain of Colaiste na Hinse, along with team mates Sophie Johnston, Matthew Gorman and Ciara Walsh, strongly opposed the motion.

Gerry Kelly congratulated both teams on making it to the final and also thanked the Drogheda Toastmaster judges who were so crucial to the success of the programme, in particular, Declan Collins, Niamh O'Brien, Mary Sweeney, Alfie Woods, and Lucy Crockford, Teachers David Hopkins of Colaiste na hinse and Barbara Carr of St Oliver's were thanked for preparing their teams.