



Position Description

Position:	Debating Coach
Position Status:	Casual
Classification:	Level 2, in accordance with the Educational Services (Schools) General Staff Award 2020
Reports to:	Deputy Principal (Wellbeing). All positions in the College ultimately report to the Principal.

Presbyterian Ladies' College

Established in 1875, Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC) is a leading Christian independent school for girls from Kindergarten to Year 12, with onsite boarding available from Year 7.

The campus is situated in the east of Melbourne on a 16-hectare site, creating a unique environment of a school in a park.

Our core values, underpinned by our Christian Ethos, are Integrity, Empathy, Courage, Delight and Service, and these provide an enduring foundation for dynamic learning.

The College Mission is an outstanding education within a Christian context that:

- prioritises care
- promotes holistic development and growth
- personalises learning
- provides enriching opportunities
- perpetuates principled living and a service ethic
- prepares students for their time as scholars, thinkers, citizens, advocates, and leaders

Our consistently impressive academic results reflect the high-quality teaching, dedication of the students and visionary leadership for which the College has long been renowned.

We value and nurture the individual strengths and passions of the students. The personal development of our students is our priority with extensive age-appropriate care and wellbeing programs. Asian and European language studies are part of the curriculum from Prep to Year 12 with many students continuing foreign language study through either the Victorian Certificate of Education or the International Baccalaureate pathway.

The students' talents and interests are nurtured within a rich curriculum program, as well as through extensive co-curricular offerings.

Our ultimate goal is to develop girls who are fully prepared and will flourish in their life and work well beyond school as they contribute in meaningful ways to their community as scholars, thinkers, citizens, advocates and leaders.



Position Overview

The Debating Coach guides and mentors students on how to best prepare for their debates in the Debating Association of Victoria's Schools Competition. They encourage students to become critical thinkers who can articulate their views with confidence and engage with opposing ideas.

This position reports to the Deputy Principal (Wellbeing), with day-to-day direction provided by the Debating Coordinator.

The Debating Coach will be employed for the Senior Debating season, which involves attending debating nights to observe their allocated Grade. In addition to this, the Coach will be required to run a coaching session from 3.45pm-5.15pm a week prior to each round. This will be organised by the Debating Coordinator as required.

Key Responsibilities:

Examples of duties include but are not limited to:

- coaching and mentorship of the Years 9 to 12 Senior Debating teams a week prior to each debating round from 3.45pm-5.15pm
- supervision of Years 9 to 12 students on their debating competition evenings
- collaboration with other coaches to improve the standard of debating at PLC
- tailoring the coaching plans to be appropriate for the grade and skill level of the debaters
- providing regular feedback to the Debating Coordinator on results and individual performance of student teams
- promoting a culture of respect, fairness, and collaboration within teams

Other Duties

- as directed by Debating Coordinator

Key Relationships:

- Student Debaters
- Debating Coordinator
- Debaters Association of Victoria

Mandatory Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications:

- current Working with Children Check (Employee), essential
- current certification, or willingness to obtain certification, through PLC-run programs:
 - Asthma First Aid certificate
 - Anaphylaxis Management certificate
 - MARAMS - Protecting Children - Mandatory Reporting and Other Legal Obligations for Non-Government Schools (or equivalent)



Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- background knowledge of the Debating Association of Victoria debating guidelines
- ability to understand and model effective debating techniques
- ability to identify the skill level of students and deliver targeted coaching sessions

Key Attributes:

- effective communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to relate to people at all levels and from different cultural backgrounds
- commitment to child safety, demonstrating an understanding of appropriate behaviours when engaging with children with diverse needs and backgrounds
- sound written and verbal communication skills
- demonstrated initiative and focus on quality outcomes
- ability to work independently and collaboratively as required
- calm under pressure
- a warm, positive and considerate manner
- actively supports the College's mission, values and goals in all dealings with members of the school family and wider community

Dr Emma Burgess
Principal

February 2026

The purpose of this position description is to provide a general overview of the key responsibilities of the position and is not intended to represent the entirety of the position nor is it intended to be all-inclusive.