BEST FOUNDATION HOSTS THIRD TOURNAMENT OF THE 2025-2026 SEASON

On February 7th and 8th, 2026, BEST Foundation will host its annual Spring West Speech and Debate Tournament for high school students from schools in the Western region of Bulgaria. The tournament will be held in the charming capital, Sofia, in the building of 51st Secondary School "Elisaveta Bagryana". Students will compete in five events: World Schools Style Debate, Poetry and Prose interpretation, Duo interpretation, and Original Oratory.

After a two-month break, BEST is enthusiastic to welcome the new year by holding its third tournament of the 2025-2026 season for hundreds of students, teachers and other members of the community. The weekend is sure to be filled with great enthusiasm and impactful performances.

This year's regional tournaments continue to be supported by the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, America for Bulgaria Foundation, Lead By Example Foundation, Lachezar Tsotsorkov Foundation, Fulbright Bulgaria.

BEST Foundation is grateful to have the opportunity to maintain a group of judges, who have become an essential part of the success of our tournaments. Without their help and commitment, our students would not have the crucial means of improving their critical thinking skills and the delivery of their speeches. Several distinguished alumni and professionals were part of our team of devoted judges last year, including Filip Lyapov – Educational Advisor at Fulbright Bulgaria, who will also be taking part in the upcoming tournament.

Alice Docheva, a long-time member of the BEST Foundation community and a former participant, judge, and coach, shared her thoughts on the impact of BEST with us: "The energy, courage, and growth I see in students at BEST is unforgettable. BEST is more than a competition – it's a family that helps young people find their voice, develop their skills, and create memories and connections that last a lifetime".

The 2026 Spring West Tournament will be the first regional tournament of the spring season. Furthermore, for the first time in BEST's history the Spring West Tournament will be international, with high schools from the Balkan Peninsula traveling to Sofia to compete in the tournament. The BEST Foundation will continue to organise online events for students interested in improving their speech and debate skills, alongside preparing for the next regional tournament in March, organised for students from Eastern Bulgaria. The Spring East Tournament will be held on March 7th-8th in the coastal city of Burgas, in the building of High School "Petko Rosen". The 2025-2026 season will be completed with the National tournament in April.

About The BEST Foundation:

BEST stands for Bulgarian English Speech and Debate Tournaments. Established in 2013, BEST provides the English-language learners of Bulgaria an opportunity to come together and pursue personal growth through English language speech and debate. BEST aims to empower students to think critically, express themselves creatively, and create a dynamic community that truly cares about the success and the future of Bulgaria. BEST is proud to provide a platform for English-language speech and debate for students across the country.

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