

## **Biographies for the Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 Public debate on the motion :**

### **“Britain is no longer a Christian country and should stop behaving as if it is”**

#### ***Speaking against the motion***

##### **The Revd Canon Dr Andrew Bishop, Residentiary Canon & Anglican Chaplain University of Surrey**



“Andrew Bishop is a Canon at Guildford Cathedral and Anglican Chaplain to the University of Surrey where he is also Coordinating Chaplain. He has served in a number of church roles in London, Hampshire and now Guildford. He has a particular interest in ‘faith in the public square’, in other words, engagement between people of different faith and belief, religious and non-religious and the place faith can play in public discourse in contemporary society.”

##### **Supported by George Chantry, Oxford University PPE student, ex Godalming College student**



'Expect no mercy from George, an Oxford P.P.E undergraduate, with scintillatingly independent views on just about everything. George studied Further Maths, History, Politics and Philosophy at Godalming Sixth Form College, and was president of their student union last year. George firmly opposes removing Christianity from British politics, and thinks Humanists fail to appreciate the positive impact it has on our society.'

#### ***Speaking for the motion***

##### **Andrew Copson, Chief Executive of the British Humanist Association**



Andrew Copson studied Classics and History at the University of Oxford and became Chief Executive in January 2010 of the British Humanist Association. He has written many articles for national newspapers and journals and has represented the BHA and Humanism extensively on television and radio programmes such as Newsnight, Sunday Morning Live and Radio 4's Today programme. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and an Associate of the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff University.

##### **Supported by Alex Marks Healy (Guildford County School Secular Society)**



Alex Healy is a Politics student at Guildford County School. He is the 2016 Model UN Best Debater Champion and a 2015 Rotary Club Public Speaking Semi-Finalist. Among his many interests he is a keen linguist, historian and a fantasy book novelist. He is initiating Guildford County School's first Secular Society using his experience of the highly successful Secular Society at Godalming College.

##### **Chairperson: Anthony Kirby, History and Politics Tutor Godalming College since 1987**

Anthony has a BA (Hons) First Class degree in Modern History from University College London. He has run the Student Union & managed Godalming College's debating & public speaking teams for many years. The college has twice reached the National Final of the prestigious Debating Matters competition run by the Institute of Ideas.