

Highbridge Festival of The Arts

Affiliated to The British & International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech

Registered Charity No 284082

Speech & Drama Syllabus 2024

4 - 6 March 2024

Closing Date for entries 31 December 2023

Venue: The Princess Theatre & Arts Centre, Princess Street, Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1EH

There is no car parking at The Princess Theatre (except for Blue Badge Holders) – drop-off only

Nearest Car Park: Oxford Street, TA8 1EL (opposite Lidl)

Adjudicator: Eleanor McLeod MA(Ed), DipEd, LLAM(Hons)

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY TO THE MUSIC SECTION

General Regulations

1. The closing date for entries is **Sunday 31 December 2023**.
2. Entries should be made using the online form and will only be accepted if you accept these Conditions of Entry and make the required online card payment. If you are unable to access the online entry system, please contact the Speech & Drama Secretary via our Speech & Drama Contact Form on the website or phone her on 07921160239.
3. Entry fees are clearly stated within the Syllabus and on the online entry form and are dependent on either age or class.
4. You will receive an automated email acknowledging receipt of your entry once payment is complete.
5. Entry fees are non-refundable. This applies in all circumstances, including if you withdraw your entry at any time or you have entered a class to which you are not entitled. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry without explanation.
6. **Age will be calculated as of 1st September 2023**. It is your responsibility to ensure that you enter the correct class by age. Incorrect age may lead to disqualification, and, in cases of doubt, proof of age may be required.
7. Teachers and other interested parties must have no communication with the Adjudicator at any time.
8. The Adjudicator's decision is final, and no correspondence can be entered into regarding the decision given.

9. The Festival is bound by copyright law and cannot allow the use of any unauthorised photographic equipment or recording equipment of any kind or by any device, all of which are absolutely forbidden during performances and adjudications. Additionally, photographs of performers are not permitted within the auditoria at any time, without the express permission of the Festival organisers. Anyone disregarding this regulation will be asked to leave and may give cause for performances to be stopped and will be required to delete all images before leaving the building. The use of unauthorised recording equipment/cameras/electronic devices may also lead to disqualification of performers.
10. Electronic devices of any kind, e.g. laptops, tablets, iPADS, mobile phones, radios, personal CDplayers, MP3 players etc, may not be used in the auditoria during performances and adjudications. Anyone disregarding this regulation will be asked to leave and may give cause for performances to be stopped.
11. The Festival does not accept liability for the infringement of copyright, recording or performing rights out of any competitor's accompaniment or performance.
12. All performances using music from shows in current production are subject to copyright law. Songs from shows in current production may be performed as a concert item, i.e. with no costumes or movement, without the need for copyright permission. Where movement or costumes are included in a performance, copyright permission is required, and the Festival accepts these entries on the basis that the appropriate copyright permission has been sought. Performers or teachers with queries on how to obtain copyright permission for performance items, should contact Festivals House on 01625 428297 before submitting entries.
13. The Festival complies with the British and International Federations of Festivals National Standard of Marking System. Our adjudicator will mark to this common standard.
14. Certificates will be awarded to all entries. In addition, we will present medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the form of GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE.
15. Entrants are advised to take note of time allowances as failure to comply may lead to disqualification.
16. A detailed timetable will be emailed to entrants no later than two weeks prior to the Festival. **Please make sure that you check your SPAM/JUNK folder.**
17. The Festival Committee reserves the right to commence any class up to 15 minutes earlier than the published time.
18. The Festival is for Amateurs. An Amateur is someone who does not derive his/her livelihood from the branch of performance, defined by the class title, in which she/he seeks to enter the Festival. In any ensemble, all members must adhere to that principle.
19. Any complaints should be put in writing to the General Secretary, and will be fully investigated, subject to the payment of a deposit of £10, which will be refunded if the complaint is upheld.

20. Festival personnel are not prepared to accept abusive or threatening behaviour from entrants, their families & teachers or members of the audience, either in person, through our website or by other forms of communication. People behaving in this way will be asked to leave the venue and any entrant associated with them will be disqualified from the current Festival.
21. Unless otherwise stated all verse speaking should be learnt by heart. No actions/gestures needed with the set verse.

Safeguarding & Equal Opportunities

22. The Festival's Safeguarding Policy and approach to Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone is published later in this Syllabus and in the Timetable and on our website. By submitting an entry all parents/guardians/carers and teachers of entrants under 18 (or vulnerable adults of any age) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the Festival and that they have read the Festival's Safeguarding documents.
23. For the duration of the Festival all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own child/pupils. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibility to an identified adult and ensure children/pupils are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Festival venues, practice and changing areas that may be provided.
24. Entrants will be required to register on arrival at the venue. All entrants under the age of 18 and vulnerable adults will be required to provide emergency contact details when they sign in (either the name of the responsible person accompanying them or a contact telephone number).
25. Age-appropriate entries. Parents and/or tutors and teachers have the responsibility to ensure that the music/song chosen is appropriate to the child's age and that any costumes are appropriate to the child's age. If the adjudicator feels these are inappropriate, she/he has the right to stop the performance.
26. The Festival assumes that parents/carers have obtained the necessary authorisation from schools for entrants to be absent from school to take part.
27. The Festival aims to ensure that no person attending the Festival is disadvantaged. If you have a disability as defined by the Equalities Act 2010 or have any specific accessibility needs, please contact us before making an entry, or in advance if attending as a member of the audience, so that we can consider & advise what reasonable adjustments can be made.
28. The Festival takes no responsibility for photographs taken by parents/guardians of their own child/children once performances and adjudications have been completed and their subsequent use. The Festival assumes that parents/guardians are aware of the inherent risks of using photographs of children on social media.

Data Protection

29. The information provided on your entry form will be used by Highbridge Festival to facilitate the administration of the Festival, the compilation of the timetable/programme and the production of

certificates and adjudicator sheets. Only your name will appear in the programme and on certificates and adjudicator sheets. Names of medal winners will appear in the local press and on our website. We may use your email address to contact you with information about future festivals. Your personal details will not be shared with any other organisation or persons, unless required to do so by law. By submitting your entry, you confirm that you give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the Festival to hold your personal data and use it as detailed above. A copy of our Privacy Policy is available on this website.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech (BIFF) works for amateur festivals everywhere to help create thousands of educational performance opportunities for children and young people each year.

The Federation and our member Festivals are committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind.

We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our Board of Trustees, paid staff, Adjudicator members, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the Federation and our member Festivals. It has been drawn up on the basis of relevant law and guidance that seeks to protect children and young people, and its purpose is to set out the overarching principles that guide our approach.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our festivals, including the children of festival members
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Federation Head of Safeguarding and, for each festival, at least one Festival Safeguarding Officer
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers

- working within the legislation and guidance that specifically addresses the needs of young performers (specifically, the Children and Young People Acts 1933 and 1963, and the Children (Performance and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014
- adopting a safe and balanced approach to the issue of creating and using photography and images of children and young people at our festivals and in our communications
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

CREATING SAFER FESTIVALS FOR EVERYONE

The Federation and its member Festivals use the following policies and procedures to provide safer festivals for everyone:

1. A single, definitive Child Protection Policy adopted by all Federation Festivals.
2. One or more designated Festival Safeguarding Officers (FSO) appointed for each Federation Festival:
Names: Clare Catcheside & Pat Payton Telephone: 01278 793813
3. Best practice advice in the form of Safe Working Practice leaflet, Festival Child Protection leaflet, and any other guidance produced by the Federation. This advice is supported by support and training for all Festival staff and volunteers. Guidance includes clear reporting procedures for anyone with a concern about a child.
4. Appropriate recruitment and induction procedures for all new staff and volunteers responsible for providing safe environments for everyone attending/performing at a Federation Festival.
5. All Festival personnel wear a badge to identify their roles. All teachers/parents/guardians/carers are asked to report all incidents of any nature to anyone wearing a Festival badge. All reported incidents will be handled in accordance with the Safe Working Practice and Festival Child Protection best practice advice. In addition, we will ensure the availability of a quiet area / room where concerns can be expressed in private.
6. For the duration of a Festival all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Festival venues, practice and changing areas that may be provided. The Festival cannot take any responsibility for property left unattended.

7. We do not permit any unauthorised photography at our Federation Festivals. For further information on what is and is not authorised, please contact the Festival Safeguarding Officer or anyone wearing a festival badge. If any child, young person or parent/carer is concerned about any photography or recording taking place at an event, please contact the Festival Safeguarding Officer, who will be pleased to discuss this matter with you.
8. Some children and adults with support needs may need help in order to take part. If this is the case, we ask the responsible teachers/parents/guardians/carers to contact the Festival Organisers prior to arrival. The Festival aims to meet these needs wherever possible but must know beforehand in order to prepare support – or to advise that help cannot be provided on this occasion.
9. The Festival’s Child Protection Policy and its approach to Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone are published explicitly in our Syllabus, Programme and Website. By completing and signing the entry form all parents / guardians / carers and teachers of entrants under 18 (or adults of any age who may require additional support) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the Festival. Without consent the entry to the Festival cannot be accepted.

GUIDELINES FOR SPEECH & DRAMA ENTRIES

Individual entries:

All classes are open to all age groups, except for Classes 10 - 24 inclusive.

Unless otherwise stated, the following codes will apply & can be selected from the dropdown menus for the classes on the online entry form:

A – 5 and under	B – Year 1	C – Year 2	D – Year 3	E – Year 4
F – Year 5	G – Year 6	H – Year 7	I – Year 8	J – Year 9
K – Year 10	L – Year 11	M – Year 12	N – Year 13	O - Adult

Group entries:

If there is more than one entrant, the code will be determined by the oldest in the group. Should you need clarification, please contact the Drama Secretary.

For school groups, please indicate the Year Group of the entry so that they can be adjudicated appropriately.

Please be aware that some age groups may be adjudicated at the same time, depending on the number of entries.

Additional information for entrants

The Secretary will endeavour to place classes for Year 7 and over after 4:00pm so that disruption to schooling will be minimal.

It is possible to enter all classes in a non-competitive way. This means you will receive an adjudication only and no mark will be awarded. Please contact the Speech & Drama Secretary if you would like to enter in this way, as we would like to encourage people to enjoy being on stage.

SPEECH & DRAMA CLASSES 2024

VERSE SPEAKING

Set Verse Speaking

Fee for classes 10 - 24 is £4.50 per person

(Copies of all poems are available from the Secretary as versions can vary. Please request by email.)

If own choice is selected, then please provide a copy two weeks before the festival and together with details of the published source of the poem as we require this for our ALCS Licence.

CLASS	AGE	SET VERSE
10	Reception and Under	Own Choice
11	Year 1	Riddle by Judith Nicholls or Own Choice
12	Year 2	My Uncommon Senses by David Bateman or Own Choice
13	Year 3	Countdown by Jack Prelutsky or Own Choice
14	Year 4	Louder than a Clap of Thunder by Jack Prelutsky or Own Choice
15	Year 5	Ducks Ditty by Kenneth Grahame or Own Choice
16	Year 6	Mrs McQueen by Judith Nicholls or Own Choice
17	Year 7	Growing up Wes Magee or Own Choice
18	Year 8	The Bogus-Boo by James Reeves or Own Choice
19	Year 9	The Sorting Hat Song by J.K.Rowling or Own Choice
20	Year 10	Dover Beach by Matthew Arnold or Own Choice

21	Year 11	The Listeners by Walter De La Mare or Own Choice
22	Year 12	The Naming of Cats by T.S Eliot or Own Choice
23	Year 13	Caged Bird by Maya Angelou or Own Choice
24	Adult	Warning by Jenny Joseph or Own Choice

For the following classes please ensure that the Drama Secretary has 2 copies of all prepared work. One copy is for our prompt, who will assist, if necessary, the other is for the Adjudicator. The earlier the copies are received the better. Please write your name, class number and relevant code on each sheet. Thanking you in advance.

Original Poetry Class 25 £4.50 Max time 1 minute

Copies of all original poems must be sent to the Drama Secretary at least **2 weeks** before the Festival so that they can be sent to the Adjudicator.

Classic Poetry Class 26 £4.50 Max time 2 minutes

This class offers an opportunity to hear and enjoy poetry that has stood the test of time. **The poem should be well known and by a celebrated poet and a copy sent to the Secretary 2 weeks in advance.**

Choral Speech - DOROTHY REANEY TROPHY Class 27
Minimum of 3 voices Max time 3mins

Below are the preferred poems for you to choose from, however, other poems will be considered if agreed with the Speech & Drama Secretary in advance of the Festival:

From a Railway Carriage By Robert Louis Stevenson
or
Lines and Squares by AA Milne
or
Catch a Little Rhyme by Eve Merriam

Groups of 3 - 8 people £4.50 Groups over people 9-14 £6.50 Groups over 15 people £8.50

This trophy class is for groups of children of any ages and all groups may be adjudicated at the same time. The Trophy will be awarded to the group who, in the adjudicator's judgement, best captures the spirit of the choral piece.

If whole classes are being entered, please contact the Secretary directly to discuss the numbers and age ranges so that we make sure the adjudication is fair. This class is also open to groups of adults.

DRAMA

Shakespeare

Class 28

Solo £5.00

Duo £ 8.00

Group £ 12.00

This class offers the opportunity for you to showcase and present your favourite speech/scene from Shakespeare. Please contact the Speech & Drama Secretary to advise the length of your piece.

See what we can do

Class 29

Solo £5.00

Duo £8.00

Group £12.00

This class offers a welcome to new entrants with no experience of entering a festival or a school assembly play. Entrants can present any work they choose that is appropriate to this section of the Festival. All entrants will receive an adjudication but will be entered on a non-competitive basis and will not receive a mark.

Group Theme Drama

Class 30

Max time 15 mins

Groups of 3-8 people £5.00

Groups of 9-14 people £8.00

Groups of over 15 people £12.00

Theme: This must be clear throughout the piece.

Groups are expected to develop a performance using any combination from the following elements: verse, choral speaking, mime, prose, improvisation, movement, music.

Devised Drama

Class 31

Max time 15mins

Groups of 3-8 people £5.00

Groups of 9-14 people £8.00

Groups of over 15 people £12.00

Groups are expected to develop a performance using any combination from the following elements: verse, choral speaking, mime, prose, improvisation, movement, music.

This class is also intended to provide groups of 3 or more with an opportunity to present a dramatic piece of their own devising. This class could provide a platform for work being prepared for GCSE or A level Theatre Studies as well as drama groups.

5 mins allowed for striking and setting. Please give the Secretary a rough estimate of time **at least 2 weeks** before the Festival. Please be advised we do not have access to the full technical facilities of the Theatre, so please contact the Speech & Drama Secretary well in advance to discuss your needs.

Scripted scene/extract

Class 32

Max time 15mins

Solo £5.00

Duo £8.00

Group £12.00

Showcase your favourite scene from a play

5 mins allowed for striking and setting. Please give the Secretary a rough estimate of time **at least two weeks** before the Festival.

Original scripted play Class 33 Max time 20 mins

Solo £5.00 Duo £8.00 Group £12.00

Showcase your own play or scenes from the play to an audience. Have the adjudicator provide feedback on the structure and content of the play. You may ask to be marked solely on how it is written but can request feedback on the actors individually. This needs to be indicated to the Secretary at least one week before the Festival. All parties will receive a certificate for participating in this class.

Monologue scripted Class 34 £5.00 Max time 3 mins

Using a script by a published dramatist. A perfect showcase for your Monologue for your BTEC or GCSE Exam and receive helpful feedback for your final exams.

Duologue scripted Class 35 £8.00 Max time 3 mins

Using a script by a published dramatist. Come along and showcase an exam duologue or one you have always wanted to try from your favourite play.

Duologue devised Class 36 £8.00 Max time 3 mins

Original Short Story Class 37 £4.50 Max time 10 mins

This may be read by the entrant or their representative. You will be marked on the content of the piece as well as how it is presented on the day if you chose to read it aloud to the adjudicator.

Please ensure two copies reach the Drama Secretary **4 weeks** before the Festival.

Sonnets Class 38 £5.00

Public Speaking Class 39 Max 1 min for solo Max 2 mins for duo

Solo £5.00 Duo £8.00

This class is open to adults and children and offers the opportunity to use your persuasive language skills by showing your enthusiasm for the subject chosen, for example your favourite hobbies. The aim is to allow the audience to see the subject from your point of view with examples used and a structured beginning, middle and end to your speech. Your subject should not be controversial or contain offensive language. A copy of the piece should be sent to the Drama Secretary **one week** before the Festival.

GCSE/Btec/A-Level – Showcase. Class 40

Groups of 3-8 people £5.00 Groups of 9-14 people £8.00 Groups of over 15 people £12.00

Length of this piece will depend on the requirements of the Course and the availability of time in the Theatre, but where possible will be timetabled out of school time.

If you have any questions about the classes or how to enter them, please contact the Speech & Drama Secretary directly: dawnrosefestival@outlook.com