Speech & Drama Syllabus

Please address any queries to the class convenor:

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Date: Friday 19th February 2027

Attention Speech and Drama competitors. Please check out the Millennium Competitions as you may wish to participate.

The Forest School Trophy will be awarded for the most outstanding Speech and Drama performance in the 11-18 age group, as decided by the adjudicator. If the adjudicator feels that the winner was exceptional, then they will be eligible to receive a prize of £100 in further recognition of their achievement. The winner will be asked to perform again during the final evening of the festival, Saturday 20th February 2027.

The Dacia Stevens Award will be awarded to the most promising Speech and Drama performer as judged by the adjudicator and will also be asked to perform again during the final evening of the festival, Saturday 20th February 2027.

All pieces must be performed from memory, unless stated to the contrary.

Costume is optional and no marks are awarded for it. Simple props are permitted; chairs and small tables will be provided.

Competitors must adhere carefully to the time limits.

Verse speaking classes may incorporate occasional gestures in performance where deemed appropriate.

Clear copies of all pieces must be provided for the adjudicator

Adjudicator

George Logan

MA, Med, PGCE, FRSA, LGSM, LTCL, LLAM, LLCM, ANEA, ADB

Born in Northern Ireland, George became an adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals in 1983. Much of his career has been in education, working until 2015 mainly in the regulation and inspection of schools and children's services in the UK, both maintained and independent. He is currently an accredited consultant in the UAE, where he leads reviews of multi-curriculum international schools.

He became an examiner initially for the Poetry Society and, in 1989, for the Guildhall School (later

Trinity-Guildhall, now Trinity College London) and examines widely across the British Isles and overseas in speech, drama and musical theatre. In 2025, he examined in Singapore, Sri Lanka and Mumbai. He also works as a moderator, and examiner-trainer for Trinity College. He has adjudicated at festivals across the UK and Ireland and is a regular visitor to the Hong Kong Schools Festival. George is delighted to be renewing acquaintance with the Stratford and East London Festival in 2027!

Speech & Drama Challenge Classes

Class	Age	Time	Fee
601 Senior Challenge (15 yrs and over) Award: VoiceSpace Cup Competitors will choose two pieces, based on a theme, which can be performed in any order; the whole recital not to exceed 10 minutes. A brief introduction should be given with an appropriate link between each piece. The adjudicator will give credit for the quality of the performance, the content and choice of the programme. 1. Verse 2. EITHER: a piece of prose OR a speech from a play OR a devised speech	15 and over	Up to 10 mins	£11.00
602 Junior Challenge (14 yrs and under) Award: Newham Chamber of Commerce Shield Competitors will choose two pieces, based on a theme, which can be performed in any order; the whole recital not to exceed 8 minutes. A brief introduction should be given with an appropriate link between each piece. The adjudicator will give credit for the quality of the performance, the content and choice of the programme. 1. Verse 2. EITHER: a piece of prose OR a speech from a play OR a devised speech	14 and under	Up to 8 mins	£11.00
604 Poetry Writing and Performance (15 yrs and under) Award: Elizabeth Prade Poetry Cup Competitors are required to perform a poem that they have written. The poem must be written in one of the following styles: narrative, sonnet or lyric. For the purposes of this competition, a lyric is defined as the thoughts and feelings (moods, meditations) of a single voice, not necessarily that of the poet. Marks will be awarded for both content and delivery.	15 and under	Up to 6 mins	£9.00

Humorous Solo

Competitors are required to perform from memory a piece of Humorous Verse of their own choice

Class	Age	Time	Fee
605 Humorous Solo (13 yrs and over) Award: Olive Allen Cup	13 and over	Up to 3 mins	£9.00
607 Humorous Solo (9 to 12 yrs) Award: Humorous Solo Cup	Between 9 and 12	Up to 3 mins	£9.00
609 Humorous Solo (8 yrs and under) Award: Verse Speaking Cup	8 and under	Up to 2 mins	£9.00

Prose Speaking

Competitors are required to perform from memory a piece of prose of their own choice. The passage may be taken from any book of fact or fiction but MUST be age appropriate.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
610 Prose Speaking (13 yrs and over) Award: Edith and Dorothy Parnum Cup	13 and over	Up to 3 mins	£9.00
612 Prose Speaking (9 to 12 yrs) Award: Drama Cup	Between 9 and 12	Up to 2 mins	£9.00
614 Prose Speaking (8 yrs and under) Award: Wetherall Cup	8 and under	Up to 2 mins	£9.00

Verse Speaking

Competitors will select and perform from memory a LYRIC poem of their own choice. A lyric poem is defined as the thoughts and feelings (moods and meditations) of a single voice, not necessarily that of the poet. Poems chosen should be age-appropriate.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
615 Solo Verse Speaking (8 yrs and under) Award: Evelyn Hills Cup	8 and under	Up to 2 mins	£9.00
617 Solo Verse Speaking (9 to 12 yrs) Award: Plessey Trophy	Between 9 and 12	Up to 2 mins	£9.00
619 Solo Verse Speaking (13 yrs and over) Award: Leslie Pridham Cup	13 and over	Up to 3 mins	£9.00

Sight Reading

Competitors are required to read an age-appropriate book of their choice before the Festival.

The adjudicator will select a passage from this book to be read out loud. The title of the book chosen must be indicated on the entry form.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
621 Reading at Sight (13 yrs and over) Award: Sight-Reading Cup	13 and over		£9.00
623 Reading at Sight (9 to 12 yrs) Award: Lilian Blunt Cup	Between 9 and 12		£9.00
625 Reading at Sight (8 yrs and under) Award: Arthur Simkins Memorial Cup	8 and under		£9.00

Television News Presentation

Competitors are required to take the role of a television newsreader or a roving reporter, treating the adjudicator as the camera.

The content of the newscast is optional. Note cards may be used.

These two classes will be timetabled consecutively. The competitor gaining the highest mark will be awarded the Walter Tee Award; the winner of the remaining class will
receive a class winner's medal.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
627 Television Newsreader Presenter (12 yrs and over) Award: Walter Tee Award	12 and over	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
628 Television Newsreader Presentation (11 yrs and under) Award: Walter Tee Award	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00

Communication Skills

Competitors will give a talk on a topic of their own choosing. Cards may be used in these Classes as an aide memoir. However, marks will be deducted for over-use of notes. Simple visual aids may be incorporated.

These classes will be timetabled consecutively. The competitor gaining the highest mark will be awarded The Speech and Drama Cup; the winner of the other class will each receive a class winner's medal.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
629 Communication (14 yrs and over) Award: Speech and Drama Cup	14 and over	Up to 4 mins	£9.00
631 Communication (13 yrs and under) Award: Speech and Drama Cup	13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00

Storytelling

Competitors are required to talk or tell a story about an object which they have brought with them.

These classes will be timetabled consecutively. The competitor gaining the highest mark will be awarded the George Birtles Cup; the winner of the remaining class will receive a class winner's medal.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
632 Storytelling (13 yrs and over) Award: George Birtles Cup	13 and over	Up to 3 mins	£9.00
633 Storytelling (12 yrs and under) Award: George Birtles Cup	12 and under	Up to 2 mins	£9.00

Musical Theatre

Competitors are required to perform a song and a scene/speech as a sequence. These can come from any source and be presented in any order. However, there must be a smooth transition between the two elements as though performing in the context of musical theatre. An introduction must be included. Marks will be awarded for the choice of material as well as the overall performance. Costume/props may be used, but they will not be reflected in the marking. Remember to provide the adjudicator with copies of both the speech and the song.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
636 Solo Musical Theatre (13 yrs and over) Award: Romford YMCA Operatic Society Cup	13 and over	Up to 10 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
639 Solo Musical Theatre (12 yrs and under) Award: Jane Roberson Cup	12 and under	Up to 7 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00

Acting & Singing Pairs

Pairs will perform a scene and a song as a sequence that demonstrates the ability of both performers equally. A shared introduction must be included.

These classes will be timetabled consecutively with the pair gaining the highest mark being awarded the Anna Knight Cup; the winners of the remaining class will each receive a class winner's medal.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
640 Pairs Musical Theatre (13 yrs and over)	13 and over	Up to 10 mins	£12.00 per duo Accompanist £7.00
642 Pairs Musical Theatre (12 yrs and under)	12 and under	Up to 7 mins	£12.00 per duo Accompanist £7.00

Acting

Competitors are required to perform either a speech from a published play post 1900 or a devised speech; a brief introduction must be included.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
643 Solo Acting (13 yrs and over) Award: Frank Whitworth Challenge Cup	13 and over	Up to 5 mins	£9.00
646 Solo Acting (9 to 12 yrs) Award: Rosa Smith Memorial Cup	Between 9 and 12	Up to 3 mins	£9.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
648 Solo Acting (8 yrs and under) Award: Janet Cass Cup	8 and under	Up to 2 mins	£9.00

Classical Theatre

Competitors will perform a speech from a play written before 1900; a brief introduction must be included.

These classes will be timetabled consecutively with the competitor gaining the highest mark being awarded the Joan Oldfield Memorial Cup; the winner of the remaining class will receive a class winner's medal.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
649 Classical Theatre (14 yrs and over) Award: Joan Oldfield Memorial Cup	14 and over	Up to 5 mins	£9.00
650 Classical Theatre (13 yrs and under) Award: Joan Oldfield Memorial Cup	13 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00

Duologue

Competitors are required to perform a scene from any source, together with a brief shared introduction.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
651 Duologue (13 yrs and over) Award: Senior Duologue Shield	13 and over	Up to 10 mins	£12.00 per duo
652 Duologue (12 yrs and under)	12 and under	Up to 10 mins	£12.00 per duo