

140th Wenlock Olympian Games



The Edge Arts Centre at William Brookes School, Farley Road, Much Wenlock, TF13 6NB

Speech and Drama
(including Primary Choral Speaking)

Saturday 14th March 2026



Closing date for entries: 27th February 2026

<http://www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk/live-arts-festival>

Facebook: Wenlock Olympian Live Arts Festival



SPEECH and DRAMA

Speech and Drama is a competitive discipline of Live Arts and part of the 140th Wenlock Olympian Games 2026.

The lead organiser of Speech and Drama is Claire Forrester ('the organiser'), for the Wenlock Olympian Live Arts Subcommittee, on behalf of the Wenlock Olympian Society (referred to as 'we').

Closing date for entries is Friday 27th February 2026

Post to:

Mrs Claire Forrester
Live Arts Speech and Drama Lead
Hathaway Cottage, 2 Smithfield Road
Much Wenlock, TF13 6BG

The first section of the day will start at 11am and the last section will be complete no later than 6pm (subject to entries).

Live Arts Rules and Conditions

1. All entries are to be processed digitally through Wufoo via the Live Arts website.
2. Please send hard copies of all work that will be performed, to the above address.
3. **No photography/ video recording will be allowed at Live Arts** (except by the appointed Live Arts representative). This is a requirement of the British and International Federation of Festivals ("BIFF") of which Live Arts is a full member.
<https://www.federationoffestivals.org.uk/>
4. Competitors must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.
5. A performance time limit is indicated for each class. Performances exceeding this time may be stopped.
6. The organiser reserves the right to refuse the use of any electrical equipment.
7. The organiser reserves the right to combine or reorganise classes depending on the number of entries received.
8. **Entry Fees:**
Individual entry = £7.00
Duo entry = £10.00

Choral Speaking (maximum entry of 20 performers)

5 to 8 performers = £24.00
9 to 19 performers = £28.00
20 performers = £32.00

**Entry Fee Payments:**

All payments are to be made online using Wufoo. Should any problems occur when processing your entry fee, please email: liveartsspeechanddrama@gmail.com

For **Choral Speaking** entries please use the appropriate School Name instead of Surname.

Age Groups:

'Year', means school year, not age:

Primary – Competitors from year 1 to Year 6

Senior – Competitors from Year 7 to Year 13 /First form to upper sixth

Competitors must be aged 18 or under on 31st August 2026.

9. No adults can compete in any event, except for Choral Speaking, when an adult may take part only as a conductor.
10. Competitors will be notified of the time of their classes by no later than 1st March 2026.
11. Please contact the organiser if you have not received entry information by 2nd March 2026
12. Competitors will have their initial and surname printed in the official programmes for sale at the Live Arts Festival, unless an anonymity request is received by the Safeguarding Lead Carole Nicholls safeguarding@wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk In line with the Data Protection policy, no personal information will be shared with third parties under any circumstance.
13. The organiser regrets that no changes can be made to competition timings once the programme has been finalised, so please ensure competitor's availability to compete on the 14th March 2026 before entering. Entry fees will only be reimbursed at the discretion of the organiser.

14. Prizes:

Each competitor (excluding Choral Speaking) will be awarded a participation certificate. Choral Speaking groups will be awarded one group participation certificate.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Wenlock Olympian medals will be awarded to the winners in each class (unless otherwise stated in the Schedule). In the event that 3 Gold medals are awarded, silver and bronze medals will not be awarded, if 2 Silver medals are awarded a Bronze medal will not be awarded, but multiple Bronze medals may be awarded following 1 Gold medal and 1 Silver medal. In the Group Choral Speaking section, where relevant, one Gold, Silver and Bronze will be awarded with the corresponding participation certificate. All other performers in the winning groups will receive a medal, which must be collected by the teacher at the end of the festival.

Prizes (continued):

Special trophy awards will be given to the following:

- SPEECH AND DRAMA PERFORMER OF THE YEAR - PRIMARY
- SPEECH AND DRAMA PERFORMER OF THE YEAR - SENIOR

16. The decision of the adjudicator shall be **final** and binding.



Speech and Drama Specific Rules and Conditions

1. Categories:

There are 6 Speech and Drama categories in which to enter. Competitors can enter each category but must only enter once, according to their age group:

1. Choral Speaking (*Primary only*)
2. Verse Speaking
3. Reading for Performance
4. Creative Poetry Writing and Performance (Theme My favourite things)
5. Acting - Solo
6. Acting - Duologue

2. All selected repertoires must be performed in English.

3. Copyright Compliance:

As a full member of BIFF, Live Arts pays an annual copyright fee. Subsequently, Live Arts has entered into an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS). This means that performers do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or solo dramatic items performed to a time limit of 10 minutes. ACTING DUOLOGUES ARE NOT COVERED BY THIS AGREEMENT. Therefore, competitors are responsible for obtaining Performing Rights by application to the publishers and by payment of any stipulated fee before the date of the competition. If anyone is unsure what they need to do in this respect, they should call 01625 428297, the British & International Federation of Festivals, for advice.

To qualify for copyright indemnity:

- At the start of each competitor class the title of the work and the author's name **must** be announced. For all Acting competitions the character name must be announced also; and
- The competitor must not change any wording.

Competitors and teachers should know that their participation in Live Arts means that authors will be directly reimbursed as a consequence of their work being performed at the festival.

4. Capacity of the Venue - Choral Speaking Only:

Due to the capacity of the venue (both seating and car parking) and for Health & Safety reasons, a maximum of 5 groups can compete (with no more than 20 competitors in each group). Entry to the Choral Speaking category is on a first-come-first-served basis. Contacts will be alerted immediately by the organiser if they cannot compete. Audience seating is limited and will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

5. Costume & Props:

Costume is permitted for all Acting classes.

The organiser can provide a small table and up to 2 chairs. Competitors must ensure to have warned the organiser in advance should they be required. For reasons of Health & Safety, please note that performers must not stand on them.



The organiser reserves the right to refuse any prop which they deem inappropriate or is deemed potentially harmful if not used appropriately. No electronic devices may be used unless required as a prop. If a device is to be used, it must be approved by the adjudicator before the start of the performance.

The adult(s) responsible for the performer(s) must always take full responsibility for the supply and safe operation of all props and in all circumstances within the venue.

Animals (except guide dogs) and pyrotechnics (including cigarettes and e-cigarettes) are not permitted within the venue.

1. Choral Speaking (Primary only)

IMPORTANT – See Speech and Drama Rules and Conditions

The selection must be published and age appropriate. The group should demonstrate:

- Vocal skills (to include audibility and clarity of diction)
- Use of body language (i.e. alignment, facial expressions and occasional gestures)
- Listening and interacting with one another

Small hand props are permitted but must be minimal. To comply with copyright indemnity:

- At the start of their performance, the group (either one or more) **must** announce their poem with the title and the author; and
- The group must not change the wording of the poem.

There is a **specific time allowance limit of 5 minutes** for the whole performance. The adjudicator reserves the right to deduct marks or stop a performance if the time limit is exceeded.

2. Verse Speaking

The competitor will recite one poem of their own choice from memory. The work must be published and age appropriate.

Primary (Up to and including Year 6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = Up to 2 minutes

Senior (Years 7-13/ First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = Up to 3 minutes



3. Reading for Performance

The competitor will:

- Read a passage of prose of their own choice (they must not memorise the reading but read it aloud from a book or folder)
- Announce the prose passage with the book's title and the author's name. The selection must be published and age appropriate.

Primary (Up to and including Year 6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = Up to 2 minutes

Senior (Years 7-13/First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = Up to 3 minutes

4. Creative Poetry Writing and Performance

The solo competitor will:

- Perform solo their own piece of written work from memory
- Announce the title

Primary (Up to and including Year 6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = up to 2 minutes

Senior (Years 7-13/ First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = up to 3 minutes

5. Acting - Solo

The solo competitor will:

- Perform either a sonnet or solo scene/monologue
- Announce the sonnet number or title of the play; and (monologue only) the character's

Primary (up to and including year 6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = a minimum of 2 minutes and no more than 3 minutes

Senior (Years 7-13/ First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = a minimum of 3 minutes no more than 5 minutes



6. Acting – Duologue Scene

The two (duologue) competitors will:

- Perform a duologue scene from memory.
- Announce the title of the play/book and the playwright/author; and
- Announce individually the character's name.

The scene must be age-appropriate and be selected from either: a published play; or a screenplay; or a published collection of solo scenes; or adapted from the dialogue of a published novel.

Both duologue competitors are responsible for obtaining Performing Rights.

Primary (up to and including year6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = a minimum of 2 minutes and no more than 3 minutes

Senior (Years 7-13/ First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = a minimum of 3 minutes no more than 5 minutes