ISA ARTS



ISA HANDWRITING COMPETITION

Open to KS1 - KS5

SCAN HERE

DEADLINE

Tuesday 27 April 2027

isaschools.org.uk | isaarts@isaschools.org.uk

Competition open to ISA Members Schools only

ISA Handwriting Competition 2027
Rules and Guidelines

This competition celebrates the visual art of handwriting. In an age that encourages the early adoption of keyboard skills, we wish to champion, nurture, and celebrate writing by hand.

Year Groups and Eligibility

Only schools whose Head is a Member with ISA are eligible to enter ISA competitions. Any pupils competing must be on the main school's admissions register on the date of the event.

Our year groups follow the UK National Curriculum. For guidance on selecting the correct year group for your student(s), please refer to the UK system here. When completing your application, please enter students according to the UK year group, even if your school uses a different age or stage structure.

Access and Inclusion

At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities as accessible as possible. We warmly welcome applications from all students, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities.

If a student (including those with an EHCP or on the SEND register) is working at a level that does not align with their chronological year group, or if your school prioritises developmental stages, skills, or personalised progression rather than fixed year groups, please do get in touch with us at the following email address hannah.lovegrove.campion@isaschools.org.uk. We are happy to discuss individual circumstances and advise on the most appropriate way to apply.

Accessible Formats

Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please let us know as early as possible if you require this, so we can provide the information in a format that works for you.

Judging Criteria

- Legibility – how easily the writing can be read and the formatting of the letters making them legible.
- Fluency – smoothness and flow of the writing. For the older years, has the writing style been defined and flow naturally.
- Competence – Spacing between letters and words, consistency of letter size, is it along a straight line.
- Accuracy and neatness.
- Correct punctuation – Capital letters and punctuation in the right place.
- For the older years, has the writing style been defined and flow naturally.

If you have any questions, please contact isaarts@isaschools.org.uk

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HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be submitted via the online form on the ISA website here by **Tuesday 27 April 2027** at the latest. Please note you will need to be logged in to your account to access the entry form.

- For individual entries, all files need to be submitted with the **school's name followed by** the **student's name e.g. SchoolName_JohnSmith.** This helps us identify clearly each student's entry that has been submitted.
- Entries must be submitted in either a **PDF** or **Word** format only.
- Students must use the templates available on our website. Teachers may print these for use. Each student must use one template only per entry, they cannot combine two together.
- Please only submit a clear photo/scan of the entry, ensure no children appear on the photo.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Schools can submit a **maximum of 10 entries in total, spread across all year groups from Year 1 to Year 13**. Cursive or non-cursive entries are welcome. We encourage schools to run a competition in house and submit their best entries.

Please see below the set poems for each age category**. Individual entries only, no groups**. Please note some year groups might be combined for judging process.

Rules

- Entries should be on one single sheet of **plain white A4 paper**, with a suitable margin.
- Line guides can be accessed on our website, if desired, but spacing should be planned to suit the individual pupil's handwriting.
- Each entry must include the school's name and pupil name and their category clearly written in the bottom right of the page.
- Handwriting can be in pencil or black or blue ink.
- Entries must include all the text from the poems below, including the title and the name of the author/poet if this is known.
- **AI generated entries will not be allowed in the competition.**
- Entries previously submitted to ISA Arts Competitions will not be accepted.
- All entries must be the students original work, which have never been published.

Poems for ISA Handwriting Competition 2027

Year 1 - 2: The Busy Bee

Buzz, buzz, busy bee,
Flying high from tree to tree,
Making honey, sweet and bright,
Working hard from morn till night

Year 3 – 4: A Little Seed

A little seed for me to sow
A little soil to make it grow
A little hole, a little pat,
A little wish, and that is that.
A little sun, a little shower,
A little while,
And then, a flower!

Year 5 – 6: The Eagle by Alfred Lord Tennyson

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Year 7 – 9: Excerpt of The Tyger by William Blake

Tyger, tyger, burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand dare seize the fire?

Year 10 – 13: The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.