ISA ARTS



ISA SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUE COMPETITION

Open to KS2 - KS5
Final: Friday 22 January 2027
Sibford School, The Hill, Banbury, OX15 5QL

SCAN HERE

DEADLINE
Tuesday 10 November 2026

isaschools.org.uk | isaarts@isaschools.org.uk
Competition open to ISA Members Schools only

The Shakespeare Monologue Competition invites pupils from ISA members' schools to explore Shakespeare's plays and characters and test their acting abilities by performing a monologue. There is also the opportunity for students to write their own Shakespeare-inspired monologue.

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.

Competition Format

The first stage of this competition consists of an online qualification round. Successful entries will be invited to the final on **Friday 22 January 2027, Sibford School, The Hill, Banbury, OX15 5QL.**

Late cancellations cause considerable inconvenience to the organisers and prevent other schools from taking part. All entries received will be regarded as a definite commitment to attend the final if successful.

Judging criteria

- Organisation – being well prepared and knowing your material
- Vocal production – clarity, pitch, pace and articulation
- Performance – acting choices, movement, facial expressions
- Expressions and delivery – how well you communicate the feelings and motivations of the character

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

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be submitted via the online form on the ISA website here by **Tuesday 10 November 2026** at the latest. Please note you will need to be logged in to your account to access the entry form.

- For individual entries, students may state their name and school at the beginning of the recording to assist ISA in matching videos to entry forms. This is encouraged but not compulsory. If a school prefers, the student's name may be omitted provided that the video can still be clearly matched to the submitted entry form. The time limit will start from the beginning of the performance not at the start of the recording.

- **A working URL link must be given** for the video and accessible for at least 3 months, without a required password. ISA will not accept any files to download. Please ensure to check the sharing permissions with your school:

    - YouTube videos will need to be **unlisted**
    - Vimeo videos will need to be **unlisted** and **age rated**
    - Google Drive will need to be set to **anyone with the link**
    - OneDrive / SharePoint needs to be set with a **share link to anyone**

ISA recognises that competition entries may contain children's personal data, including video and audio recordings. Videos submitted for ISA competitions are used solely for judging purposes and are not published, distributed or shared beyond authorised ISA staff and appointed judges.

To manage a large volume of entries efficiently, ISA requests videos through unlisted or direct-link access rather than individual password protection. All appointed judges are required to sign a Confidentiality and Data Handling Agreement, which forms part of ISA's measures to safeguard children's personal data and ensure appropriate data protection.

Schools that require additional restrictions under their safeguarding, GDPR or internal data protection procedures are welcome to contact ISA. Schools remain responsible for ensuring that all necessary parental consents have been obtained and that their own safeguarding and data protection assessments have been completed before submission.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Schools can submit a **maximum of 4 entries in each category (Learnt Monologue or Original Monologue) across all year groups**. This means that schools may submit up to 4 entries for Learnt Monologue and 4 entries for Original Monologues, making **8 entries in total**.

We encourage schools to run a competition in house and submit their best monologues.

Please note: For judging purposes, the year groups might be combined.

A. **Learnt Monologue Category**
   Choose a monologue from any Shakespeare play, learn it by heart and perform it.

B. **Original Monologue Category**
   Write and perform an original monologue based on your favourite Shakespeare character.

Rules

- The maximum duration for each entry is **5 minutes**.
- **AI generated entries will not be allowed in the competition.**
- Students must perform the same monologue in both rounds.
- Entries previously submitted to ISA Arts Competitions will not be accepted.
- Maximum of 4 entries per category across all year groups – 8 entries in total.
- Each monologue must be **performed by one student only**.
- Each student can enter only one monologue in the competition.