



# ISA

MUSICAL  
THEATRE  
COMPETITION



Open to KS2 - KS5  
Final: Thursday 30 April 2026  
Gosfield School, CO9 1PF

## DEADLINE

Tuesday 27 January 2026

Competition open to ISA Members' schools only  
Visit the ISA website for more information

[isaschools.org.uk](https://isaschools.org.uk) | [isaarts@isaschools.org.uk](mailto:isaarts@isaschools.org.uk)

ISA  
ARTS

The ISA Musical Theatre Competition gives students the opportunity to practice their performance skills inspired by their favourite musicals. The competition involves a online qualification round. Successful candidates will be invited to the final and will be able to demonstrate their singing and acting skills to a live audience.

### 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 are based on the UK national curriculum, for more information and to check the correct year group for your students see [here](#). Please ensure you enter pupils according to the UK system, even if your own school's age group system differs.

At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities accessible, we welcome applications from all pupils, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities. If your pupil(s), those with an EHCP or on the school's SEND register, are working at a level that differs from their age group's key stage, or if your school or student focuses on development and skills rather than year groups, please contact us.

Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please notify us at the earliest opportunity so we can provide the document accordingly, if required.

### Year Groups

Schools can enter a maximum of four entries per year group. Solo or duet performances only. We encourage schools to run their own competition in house and submit their successful entries in the competition.

(Please note that some year groups might be combined for the judging process).

- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6
- Year 7
- Year 8
- Year 9
- Year 10
- Year 11
- Year 12
- Year 13

### How to enter

Entries must be submitted via our online form on our website [here](#) by Tuesday 27 January 2026.

- Schools are invited to record a video of their entries and submit them via the online form on the ISA website, following the guidelines below.
- A working URL link must be given for the video (e.g., to YouTube or Vimeo). ISA won't accept any file to download, WeTransfer links, or broken links.
- Please make sure that your videos are accessible to view by anyone with the link. 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' and OneDrive needs to be set with 'share link' to 'anyone'.
- The maximum duration for each entry is 3min30.
- ISA suggests running a competition in-house and submitting your best entries.

### Competition Format

#### **1 Online Qualification Round**

- The first stage of this competition consists of an online qualification round.
- Entrants must ensure availability for the final for the entire day if they qualify. Last minute cancellations cause considerable inconvenience to the organisers and prevent other schools from taking part. All submissions will be considered a firm commitment to attend the final if selected.

#### **2 The Final**

Finalists will be invited at **Gosfield School, CO9 1PF on Thursday 30 April 2026** for the final. Schools will be asked to email the following information before the event.

- Title of piece
- Music in mp3 file format. Backing tracks or live piano accompaniment accepted (no other accompaniment is allowed).
- Length of the performance. (maximum 3min30)
- Total number of attendees, including staff and audience.
- Number of coaches/minibuses/cars etc expected at the event and ETA.

### Judging criteria

- Quality of tone
- Technique
- Interpretation
- Dynamics
- Stage Presence

### Rules and General Information

- Pupils can take part as a solo performer or in a duet only.
- No self-composed songs are permitted in the competition.
- Each performance can last no longer than 3min30.
- Students may come in costume if they wish, however please be mindful that you might have to wear a belt for the microphones.
- All performers must attend the entire day, awards will be given at the end of the day. We encourage teachers, family and friends to come along to support the participants and watch the performances.
- You must have obtained appropriate permissions from your Head/HoD for pupil and staff absence from school, including appropriate cover for staff and any associated costs.
- You must provide your own accompanist if required.

### Tips for performers

- Character, context and clarity are all important to make your song come alive!
- Make sure you warm yourself up before you perform. Try humming to warm up your voice, drink lots of water, and stretch to loosen your muscles and joints to engage the whole body.
- Research your character and their journey in the Musical you have chosen. Are they good or evil? Are they content or miserable? Really throw caution to the wind and *become* your character for four minutes in front of the camera.
- If performing a duet, work together to understand the relationship between your characters.
- See if you can find examples on YouTube of other actors performing your song. What do you like about their performance? What would you change about it?

If you have any questions, please contact [isaarts@isaschools.org.uk](mailto:isaarts@isaschools.org.uk)