ISA ARTS



ISA A CAPPELLA COMPETITION

Open to all ages
Wednesday 3 March 2027
Leighton Park School, Reading, RG2 7DE

SCAN HERE

DEADLINE
Wednesday 16 December 2026

Limited availability

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

ISA A Cappella Competition 2027
Rules and Guidelines

Open to all ages, the ISA A Cappella Competition challenges singers to work together to produce an unaccompanied vocal performance. This in-person event provides an opportunity for pupils to perform to an audience and watch their fellow vocalists.

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

- Balance & Blend
- Dynamics & Energy
- Rhythm
- Intonation
- Arrangement & Interpretation

Performances must emphasise the a cappella nature of the event. Competitors are encouraged to incorporate techniques such as beatboxing, body percussion, vocal percussion, and other vocal sound effects to create rhythm and accompaniment. The focus should remain on producing all musical elements using only the performers' voices and bodies, with no instrumental accompaniment.

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 **Wednesday 16 December 2026** at the latest. Please note you will need to be logged in to your account to access the entry form.

Schools will be invited to attend the event, which will take place on **Wednesday 3 March 2027, Leighton Park School, Reading, RG2 7DE.** Before submitting any entry, please ensure that you are able to attend the event.

Please note: Entry numbers are limited and will be first come, first served. Due to the limited capacity of the theatre, audience members are unfortunately unable to attend the event.

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.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Schools can submit a **maximum of 1 entry per category (Junior, Middle & Senior) across all year groups**. Therefore, all schools can submit **3 entries in total**.

The competition is open to all ages. **Maximum 20 students per group**. Entries are welcome from any kind of singing group, including ensembles, choirs and barbershop quartets. Must be a group no individuals.

Please note, groups with mixed ages must be entered into the age category of the oldest student.

- **Junior** (EYFS – Year 6)
- **Middle** (Year 7 – 9)
- **Senior** (10 – 13)

Rules

- The maximum duration for each performance is **5 minutes.**
- Each performance should only use the voice; no instruments are allowed.
- You may have a conductor if required.
- Any genre of song is allowed.
- Original song is allowed.
- You can perform one song in its entirety or a mash-up of different songs.
- You may use a pitch pipe if needed.
- Entries previously submitted to ISA Arts Competitions will not be accepted.