



ISA

Drama
Competition



Open to Year 3 to Year 13

Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 February 2026,
Luckley House School, RG40 3EU

Wednesday 29 April 2026
King's High School, Warwick, CV34 6YE

Spaces are limited, don't delay your entry

DEADLINE

Thursday 11 December 2025

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

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

ISA
ARTS

Our annual ISA Drama Competition gives pupils the opportunity to practice their acting skills, perform to a live audience, and watch plays by their peers.

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.

Open to year 3 to year 13. The minimum number of pupils per performance is 2. Spaces are limited for this event, so don't delay your entry.

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.

Competition Categories:

Schools can submit one entry per age category, so three entries in total. Performances must be 20 minutes maximum (no minimum time).

- Junior (Year 3 to Year 6)
- Middle (Year 7 to Year 9)
- Senior (Year 10 to Year 13)

How to enter

Entries must be submitted via the online entry form on the ISA website [here](#) by **Thursday 11 December 2025** at the latest.

Before submitting an entry, please ensure that you are able to attend the event. There are three dates for this competition, which will take place on:

Tuesday 10 February 2025, Luckley House School, RG40 3EU

Wednesday 11 February 2025, Luckley House School, RG40 3EU

Date TBC at King's High School, Warwick CV34 6YE

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.

Late cancellations mean that other schools miss out on opportunities and cause considerable inconvenience to the organisers. All entry should be regarded as a definite commitment to attend the event.

Please note: Entry numbers are limited and will be first come, first served.

- Schools will be asked to email the following information to isaarts@isaschools.org.uk
 - A full script unless devised piece.
 - Programme/cast list with photos of pupils to clearly show which character a pupil is playing. (please get relevant permissions for any photos)
 - Sound and lighting information clearly marked on the script. Use of strobe lighting must be informed to the host school and to the event organisers in advance; an announcement must be made prior to performance. More information about the lighting to follow.
 - Whether a piece is devised or published.
 - Any age restrictions or trigger warnings for each play prior to the competition.
 - Any unusual props, effects, or other items, are to be used, the organisers must be informed well in advance of the competition. Appropriate health and safety measures must be put in place by the competitors.
 - Audience numbers. Please note that space in both theatres is limited.
 - List of staff and pupil attending with number of vehicle expected (car, minibus, coach, ETA etc.)

Judging Criteria

- Acting
- Production
- Stage Presentation
- Endeavour, originality, attainment

The adjudicator has discretionary marks that can be awarded for any outstanding aspect such as acting, production, staging, costume etc. The adjudicator's decision is final.

Rules

- Setting and striking all scenery, furniture, stage props etc. is the responsibility of the performing crew. Five minutes may be added for setting the scene and five minutes for striking. Judging will stop after the time limit has been reached.
- If live music is used, all musicians must be pupils of the appropriate age group, apart from one adult accompanist, if desired.
- Stage effects which present a fire hazard will not be allowed. Effects such as smoke machines or the firing of guns must seek permission from ISA in advance.
- Schools must obtain the necessary performance licence and produce this prior to the competition (click [here](#) for the appropriate documents). In the case of unpublished or original plays a letter must be produced from the author allowing performance by the school on the specified date. No play will be allowed to enter the competition without this permission or without proof of payment of any royalty required by the author or the author's agent.
- A technician will be available to manage sound and lighting for each performance, although schools can choose to operate the equipment themselves if they wish.

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