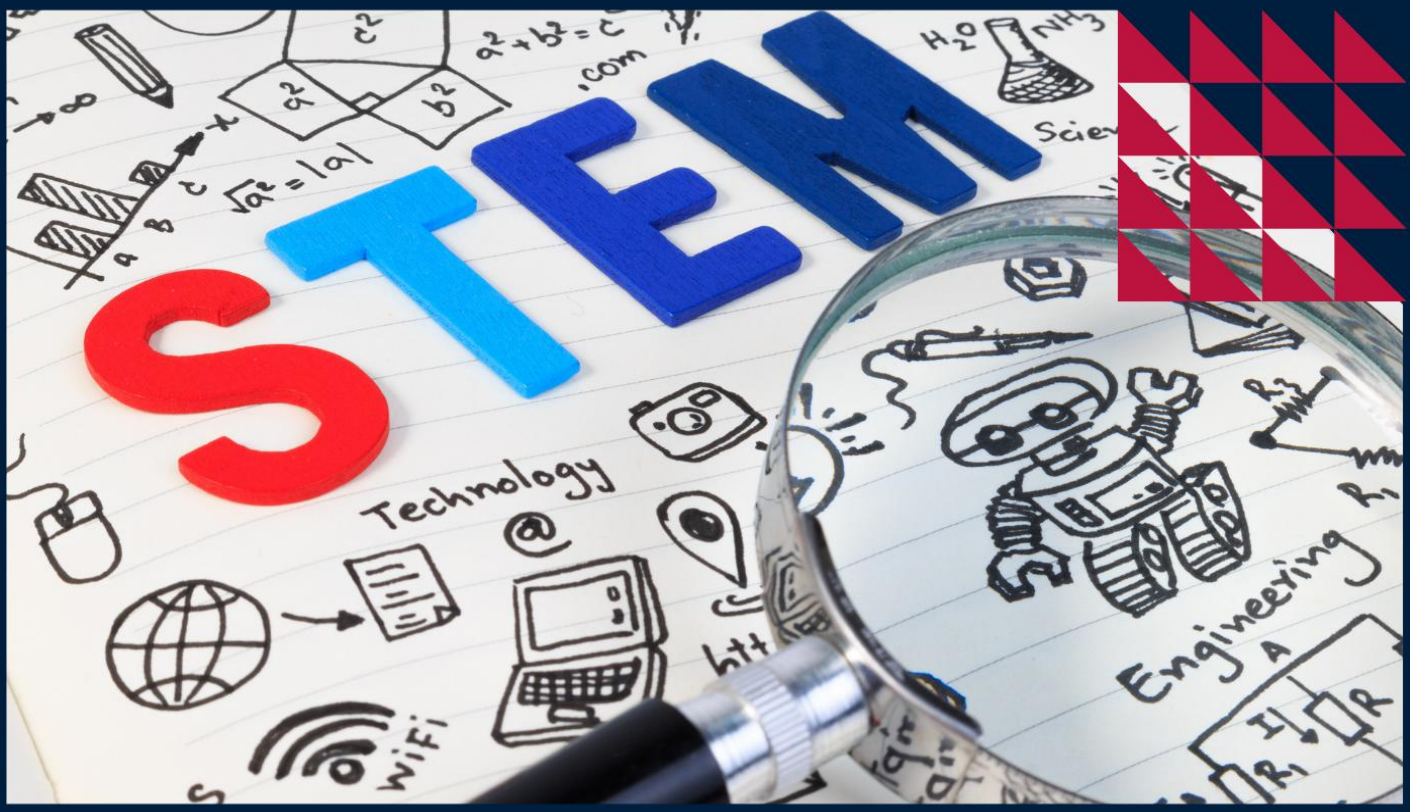
ISA ARTS



ISA STEM COMPETITION

SCAN HERE

Open to KS2 - KS5
Final: Thursday 11 March 2027
Crosfields School, Reading, RG2 9BL

DEADLINE
Thursday 21 January 2027

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

ISA STEM Competition 2027
Rules and Guidelines

The ISA STEM Competition encourages pupils at our members' schools to investigate and consider solutions to modern day problems. Pupils are presented with an opportunity to showcase and develop skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving

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 **Thursday 11 March 2027, Crosfields School, Reading, RG2 9BL.**

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.

General Guidance for the final

- Each finalist will be provided a table of 120cm (set of 2 tables together 60x60cm and 71cm height) per group.
- Tablecloths will not be provided, feel free to bring your own if you wish. (It can be your school's branding, plain or one created by your students).
- Teams are limited to one device for their presentation.
- Plug sockets at the venue are limited. Therefore, please ensure any devices are fully charged before use.
- You are welcome to bring display boards as long as they fit on the tables.

Judging criteria

- Creativity, originality and innovation
- Presentation and communication
- Procedure and results
- Effort and motivation

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be submitted via the online form on the ISA website here by **Thursday 21 January 2027** at the latest. Please note you will need to be logged in to your account to access the entry form.

- Entries must follow technical and creative requirements set out in these official rules and guidelines.
- **Please note: this competition involves an online qualification round and a final event in person.**
- For entries, all files need to be submitted with the **school's name followed by** the **project title e.g. SchoolName_ProjectTitle.** This helps us identify clearly each entry that has been submitted.
- **PDF Presentation to explain the following:** The project created. The problem that participants are trying to solve or investigate. The process, highlighting the stages, and introduce the design and the outcome.
- Videos to support the project are optional and cannot be separate files. They should be **no longer than 2 minutes** and **must be embedded via a link in the PDF document** to support the entry. **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 or links via SharePoint. 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 needs to be set with a **share link to anyone**

The videos are only for judging purposes and will not be shared elsewhere

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

ISA STEM Competition 2027
Rules and Guidelines

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Schools can submit a **maximum of 4 entries per age category below.** Therefore, all schools can submit **16 entries in total**.

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

- Junior (Year 3 – 4): **Paper rocket and launcher**
- Middle (Year 5 – 6): **Build tracks and tunnels under water**
- Middle (Year 7 – 9): **Static Electricity: make an object move without touching it**
  (Students are welcome to investigate a range of non-contact forces, not just static electricity)
- Senior (Year 10 – 13): **Create a non-verbal communication system**

Rules

- Entries can be individual, or a group of maximum six pupils.
- **AI generated entries will not be allowed in the competition.**
- Entries can be presented in any language, provided an English translation is given.
- Please note that teacher intervention is allowed if it's to help with dangerous tasks. However, teachers cannot offer suggestions.
- Entries previously submitted to ISA Arts Competitions will not be accepted.

General safety guidelines

Please note that the guidelines below are not a substitute for professional advice or common sense. Make sure to do enough research regarding health and safety before performing your project.

- Make sure no dangerous material is involved in your demonstration for yourself or for others.
- You cannot use animals, live ammunition, firearms or explosives, poisonous plants, or radioactive material.
- Make sure parts of the body are not placed in danger. Do not directly view the sun, infrared, or ultraviolet sources.
- Do not use food substances that have been subjected to possible contamination.
- Dress safely for your presentation if required (i.e., masks, gloves, apron, eye and/or ear protection, safety shield, etc.).
- Keep quantities of hazardous materials to a minimum and always have waste containers for the disposal of such materials.
- Comply with school or local fire and safety rules and regulations. Use caution when heating all forms of matter. Always have a fire extinguisher available.
- Check if certain elements of your demonstration require you to obtain any kind of permits.
- Students must consult teachers for advice and before practising the first demonstration.
- Projects that involve harming or injuring living organisms are not acceptable in this competition.