ISA DRAMA COMPETITION

Open to KS2 - KS5
Day 1 & 2: Tuesday 9 & Wednesday 10 February 2027,
Luckley House School, RG40 3EU

Day 3: Tuesday 27 April 2027,
King's High School Warwick, CV34 6YE

SCAN HERE

DEADLINE
Wednesday 9 December 2026

Limited availability

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

ISA Drama Competition 2027
Rules and Guidelines

The ISA Drama Competition is a yearly showcase of the performing arts. ISA schools from across the country come together to present their productions live. It's a unique opportunity for all pupils to perform and appreciate the theatrical talents of their peers.

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

- 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.

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

The competition is taking place over three days, which will take place on:

- **Tuesday 9 February 2027, Luckley House School, Luckley Road Wokingham, RG40 3EU**
- **Wednesday 10 February 2027, Luckley House School, Luckley Road Wokingham, RG40 3EU**
- **Tuesday 27 April 2027, King's High School Warwick, Banbury Road, Warwick CV34 6YE**

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.**

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 age category (Junior, Middle & Senior) across all year groups**. Therefore, all schools can submit **3 entries in total**.

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

Rules

- The maximum duration for each performance is **20 minutes** (no minimum time).
- There is no limit of group size for each entry.
- Any type of plays are acceptable (scripted or devised piece).
- **Plays generated with the support of AI will not be allowed in the competition.**
- 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.
- Use of microphones is not allowed.
- 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.
- Entries previously submitted to other ISA Arts Competitions will not be accepted.