

Speech & Drama Syllabus

Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama

Make your entries online at: www.bedfordshirefestival.org.uk



Speech and Drama

Selected performers from the Junior Speech & Drama classes will be eligible to compete for the Jane Whitbread Cup and selected performers from the Senior Speech and Drama Classes will be eligible to compete for the Borough of Bedford Challenge Bowl at the Gala Concert in the evening of Saturday 8th March. Performers will be notified before the event if they have been selected to perform and should hold themselves available to compete if asked. Those who perform at the Gala Concert qualify to be considered for the Woodfine Lousada Speech and Drama Sponsorship Prize of £250. This is awarded to the most outstanding Speech and Drama performance at the Gala Concert.

Performers of 'own choice' pieces are responsible for any royalties payable. Titles and writers' details must be submitted by Friday 16th January on the entry portal. A copy of the text for 'own choice' pieces must be supplied for the adjudicator's use and handed to the Performers' Steward before the class begins. Performers not providing a copy for the adjudicator as outlined above, will be permitted to perform and will receive written comments, but the performance may not be marked or be eligible for any prize.

Verse Speaking

Please note: The 'own choice' selections presented in Verse Solo, Verse Duet and Group Verse Speaking Classes should not be taken from plays, novels or song lyrics and must be by a published author. Emphasis in all verse solo classes must be on the spoken word, no props may be used. Selections must not be included in any current examination syllabus.

Class 297 Verse Speaking Solo - Year R; entry fee £10.00

Performers will receive feedback but this is a non-competitive class to welcome new performers to the Festival. Performers should prepare a short poem for performance. Performers should prepare to perform alone, but if parental (or similar) presence onstage is needed, this is permitted.

Own choice of my favourite poem

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 298 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 1; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem on the theme Animals

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 299 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 2; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem on the theme Things I like or don't like

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 300 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 3; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem on the theme School

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 301 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 4; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem on the theme *Dragons, Unicorns and Dinosaurs*

(Time limit 3 minutes)

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Class 302 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 5; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem on the theme Being Outside

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 303 Verse Speaking - Year 6; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem on the theme All Things Strange and Scary

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 304 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 7; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem from *The Poetry Store* compiled by Paul Cookson

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 305 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 8; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem on the theme Families

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 306 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 9; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem by Leonard Clark, Phoebe Hesketh or Gareth Owen

(Time limit 4 minutes)

Class 307 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 10-11; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem (Time limit 5 minutes)

Class 308 Verse Speaking Solo - Year 12 & over; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a poem (Time limit 5 minutes)

Class 309 Sonnet Class Solo - any age; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a sonnet (Time limit 4 minutes)



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Slam Poetry

Poems can be about any subject but must be the original work of the performer. No props may be used when performing the poem. No musical accompaniment of musical instruments may be used but the poet is allowed to sing, clap, hum, or make noise with the mouth or other body parts. Poets may perform on their own or in groups but the entry is classified as one performance. Composition and performance are considered holistically by the adjudicator; poems need not be submitted in advance of the class

(Time limit 4 minutes) Entry Fee £10

Class 310 Slam Poetry - Years 7 – 9

Class 311 Slam Poetry – Years 10-13

Verse Speaking - Duets

The emphasis in all verse duet classes must be on the spoken word.

Class 312 Verse Speaking Duet - Year 4 & under; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a poem to be presented by two performers

Unison speaking not essential

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 313 Verse Speaking Duet - Year 5; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a poem to be presented by two performers

Unison speaking not essential

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 314 Verse Speaking Duet - Year 6; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a poem to be presented by two performers

Unison speaking not essential

(Time limit 4 minutes)

Class 315 Verse Speaking Duet - Year 7; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a poem to be presented by two performers

Unison speaking not essential

(Time limit 6 minutes)

Class 316 Verse Speaking Duet - Year 8; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a poem to be presented by two performers

Unison speaking not essential

(Time limit 6 minutes)

Class 317 Verse Speaking Duet - Year 9-10; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a poem to be presented by two performers

Unison speaking not essential

(Time limit 6 minutes)



Class 318 Verse Speaking Duet - Year 11 & over; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a poem to be presented by two performers

Unison speaking not essential

(Time limit 6 minutes)

Class 319 Verse Speaking Duet - any combination of ages; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a poem to be presented by two performers

Unison speaking not essential. This class is open to adult and junior performers.

(Time limit 6 minutes)

Dramatic Solos, Duologues and Dramatic Scenes

In classes 318 to 330 and 402-403 costume should not be worn, although long practice skirts may be worn together with small items such as hats and shawls. Token properties may be used. The use of naked flames is prohibited. Scenes should be from published plays, film scripts or TV scripts or, alternatively, adaptations from books may be used. Monologues and duologues may be used but scenes written for a particular performer or included in any current exam syllabus are not acceptable. **Scenes (or sketches) from TV shows are not allowed.** Scenes from Shakespeare may not be performed in classes 318 to 327.

Teachers and performers are requested to be aware of the sensitivity of the audience regarding the content of the scenes. Language likely to cause offence MUST NOT be included. Subject matter and language should comply with the Festival's Safeguarding and Equal Opportunity Policies. Performances may be stopped if deemed unsuitable.

Performers are asked to take note of the time limits in these classes. The time taken for introductions and setting and striking of props is included within these limits. Performances that are over time will receive adjudicator comments only and will not be placed.

Class 320 Dramatic Solo - Year 5-6; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a scene (Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 321 Dramatic Solo - Year 7-8; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a scene (Time limit 4 minutes)

Class 322 Dramatic Solo - Year 9-10; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a scene (Time limit 5 minutes)

Class 323 Dramatic Solo - Year 11 & over; entry fee £13.00

Own choice of a scene (Time limit 6 minutes)



Class 324 Duologues - Year 5-6; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a scene (Time limit 5 minutes)

Class 325 Duologues - Year 7-8; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a scene (Time limit 6 minutes)

Class 326 Duologues - Year 9-10; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a scene (Time limit 7 minutes)

Class 327 Duologues - Year 11 & over; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a scene (Time limit 7 minutes)

Class 328 Duologues - Any combination of ages; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a scene. This class is open to both adult and junior performers.

(Time limit 8 minutes)

Class 329 Dramatic Scene - Year 5-7; entry fee £22.00

Own choice of a scene for three or more performers

(Time limit 10 minutes)

Class 330 Dramatic Scene - Year 8-10; entry fee £22.00

Own choice of a scene for three or more performers

(Time limit 8 minutes)

Class 331 Dramatic Scene - Year 11 & over; entry fee £22.00

Own choice of a scene for three or more performers

(Time limit 10 minutes)

Shakespeare

Class 332 Shakespeare Solo - Year 8-10; entry fee £10.00

An extract from any Shakespeare play

(Time limit 4 minutes)

Class 333 Shakespeare Solo - Year 11 & over; entry fee £13.00

An extract from any Shakespeare play

(Time limit 5 minutes)

Class 334 Shakespeare Duologue – Years 8 to 10; entry fee £15.00

An extract from any Shakespeare play

(Time limit 7 minutes)

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Class 335 Shakespeare Duologue – Year 11 and over; entry fee £15.00 An extract from any Shakespeare play

(Time limit 7 minutes)



Mime

Performers are to perform a mime on their own choice of theme. The title is to be chosen and announced by the performer. The use of music is permitted. The use of stage or hand properties is not allowed.

(Time limit 4 minutes)

Class 336	Solo Mime – Years 6 & Under; entry fee £10.00
Class 337	Solo Mime – Years 7 to 13; entry fee £10.00
Class 338	Duo Mime – Years 6 & Under; entry fee £15.00
Class 339	Duo Mime – Years 7 to 13; entry fee £15.00
Class 340	Group Mime – Years 6 & Under; entry fee £22.00
Class 341	Group Mime – Years 7 to 13; entry fee £22.00



Group Creative Performance

Class 342 Creative Performance - Year 7 & under; entry fee £24.00

Groups to devise a piece of work on a theme of their own choice.

(Time limit for groups of 10 or less is 10 minutes) (Time limit for groups of 11 or more is 15 minutes)

Class 343 Creative Performance - Year 8-10; entry fee £24.00

Groups to devise a piece of work on a theme of their own choice.

(Time limit for groups of 10 or less is 10 minutes) (Time limit for groups of 11 or more is 15 minutes)

Class 344 Creative Performance - Year 11 & over; entry fee £29.50

Groups to devise a piece of work on a theme of their own choice.

(Time limit for groups of 10 or less is 10 minutes) (Time limit for groups of 11 or more is 15 minutes)

Class 345 Creative Performance – any combination of ages; entry fee £29.50

Groups to devise a piece of work on a theme of their own choice.

(Time limit for groups of 10 or less is 10 minutes) (Time limit for groups of 11 or more is 15 minutes)

Group Poem

In classes 345-350 costume should not be worn although long practice skirts may be worn together with small items such as hats and shawls. Token properties may be used.

Group Poem – Non-competitive

Entrants will receive verbal and written reports but these are non-competitive to build confidence and to allow the entrants to have fun presenting to an audience.

Class 346A Years 6 & Under; entry fee £22.00
Class 346B Years 7 & Over; entry fee £22.00

Class 347 Group Poem - Any combination of ages - entry fee £22.00

The group to present a poem of their own choice. Movement is permitted.

The group must consist of three or more performers.

(Time limit 10 minutes)

Class 348 Group Poem - Year 4 & under; entry fee £22.00

The group to present a poem of their own choice. Movement is permitted.

The group must consist of three or more performers.

(Time limit 6 minutes)

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Class 349 Group Poem - Year 5-6; entry fee £22.00

The group to present a poem of their own choice. Movement is permitted.

The group must consist of three or more performers.

(Time limit 8 minutes)

Class 350 Group Poem - Year 7-8; entry fee £22.00

The group to present a poem of their own choice. Movement is permitted.

The group must consist of three or more performers.

(Time limit 10 minutes)

Class 351 Group Poem - Year 9-10; entry fee £22.00

The group to present a poem of their own choice. Movement is permitted.

The group must consist of three or more performers.

(Time limit 10 minutes)

Class 352 Group Poem - Year 11 & over; entry fee £22.00

The group to present a poem of their own choice. Movement is permitted.

The group must consist of three or more performers.

(Time limit 10 minutes)





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Presentation

Class 353A Presentation - Year 5-8 year; entry fee £10.00

The entrant will give a talk not to exceed 5 minutes on a subject of their own choice. Notes may be used as prompts but must not be read.

A spontaneous effect should be aimed for. Visual aids may be used. If PowerPoint or similar is used, then all equipment must be provided and set up by the entrant. The striking and setting of these to be included in the time limit.

Class 353B Presentation - Year 9 & over; entry fee £10.00

The entrant will give a talk not to exceed 8 minutes on a subject of their own choice. Notes may be used as prompts but must not be read. A spontaneous effect should be aimed for. Visual aids may be used. If PowerPoint or similar is used, then all equipment must be provided and set up by the entrant. The striking and setting of these to be included in the time limit.

Business Pitch

Class 354A Business Pitch – Year 5 – 8; entry fee Solo £10.00 or Pair £15.00

Performers should prepare and deliver a short business pitch based on a product or project of their own choice. Whilst including facts and figures, the presentation should be persuasive and charismatic. The use of visual aids is encouraged. If PowerPoint or similar is used, then all equipment must be provided and set up by the entrant. The striking and setting of these to be included in the time limit. (Time limit 5 minutes)

Class 354B Business Pitch – Year 9 – 10; entry fee Solo £10.00 or Pair £15.00

Performers should prepare and deliver a short business pitch based on a product or project of their own choice. Whilst including facts and figures, the presentation should be persuasive and charismatic. The use of visual aids is encouraged. If PowerPoint or similar is used, then all equipment must be provided and set up by the entrant. The striking and setting of these to be included in the time limit. (Time limit 8 minutes)

Class 354C Business Pitch – Year 11 - 12; entry fee Solo £10.00 or Pair £15.00

Performers should prepare and deliver a short business pitch based on a product or project of their own choice. Whilst including facts and figures, the presentation should be persuasive and charismatic. The use of visual aids is encouraged. If PowerPoint or similar is used, then all equipment must be provided and set up by the entrant. The striking and setting of these to be included in the time limit. (Time limit 8 minutes)



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Public Speaking - Team of three

A team of three, a Chairman to introduce the Speaker, a Speaker to give a prepared speech on any subject of the team's own choice, and a Proposer of a vote of thanks. (Overall time limit 10 minutes)

Entry Fee £18.00

Class 355A Years 7 to 9

Class 355B Years 10 to 13

Write and Speak a Poem

The entrant is to write a poem on a theme of their own choice which they will read aloud at the Festival. A signature of a parent or guardian is required to verify that it is the student's unaided work. The title of the poem must be included on the entry form and a copy must be submitted to The Festival Secretary by email to: festival@bedfordshirefestival.org.uk by 1st February. Time limit for item 3 minutes. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Class 356 Write and Speak a Poem - Year 4-6; entry fee £10.00

Competitors to write a poem on a theme of their own choice.

Class 357 Write and Speak a Poem - Year 7-8; entry fee £10.00

Competitors to write a poem on a theme of their own choice.

Class 358 Write and Speak a Poem - Year 9-10; entry fee £10.00

Competitors to write a poem on a theme of their own choice.

Class 359 Write and Speak a Poem - Year 11 & over; entry fee £13.00

Competitors to write a poem on a theme of their own choice.

Write and Read a Story

The entrant is to write a short story on a subject given which they will read aloud at the Festival. A signature of a parent or guardian is required to verify that it is the student's unaided work. A copy must be submitted to The Festival Secretary by email to: festival@bedfordshirefestival.org.uk) by 1st February. Stories should be a maximum of 4 minutes reading time. Performers may be stopped or penalised if this time limit it exceeded. Late submission will not be accepted.

Class 360	Write and Read a Story - Year 3-4; entry fee £10.00 Story to be written with the Opening line – "Do you believe in"
Class 361	Write and Read a Story - Year 5-6; entry fee £10.00 Story to be written with the title - The Empty Cage
Class 362	Write and Read a Story - Year 7-8; entry fee £10.00 Story to be written with the title - The Stepping Stones

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Class 363 Write and Read a Story - Year 9-11; entry fee £10.00

Story to be written with the title - Read All About It

Write and Perform a Monologue

The entrant is to write and perform an original dramatic monologue.

The use of small props and accessories is permitted but full costume should not be worn

Class 364 Years 7 to 9; entry fee £10.00

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 365 Years 10 to 11; entry fee £10.00

(Time limit 4 minutes)

Class 366 Years 12 & Over; entry fee £10.00

(Time limit 5 minutes)



Prepared Reading

Items in the Prepared Reading Classes 361-370 MUST be read aloud and not spoken from memory. **Performers are asked to take note of the time limits in these classes**. The time taken for introductions is included within these limits. Selections must not be included in any current examination syllabus. **Performers may be stopped or penalised if the time limit is exceeded and will not be eligible to be placed.**

Class 367 Prepared Reading - Year 2 & under; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a reading on the theme Cats and Dogs

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 368 Prepared Reading - Year 3; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a reading from the works of Dick King-Smith

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 369 Prepared Reading - Year 4; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a reading on the theme *Imaginary Places and Creatures*

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 370 Prepared Reading - Year 5; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a reading from any book by Eva Ibbotson

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 371 Prepared Reading - Year 6; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a reading on the theme Mystery and Suspense

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 372 Prepared Reading - Year 7; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a reading on the theme Watery Adventures

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 373 Prepared Reading - Year 8; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a reading on the theme Fear

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 374 Prepared Reading - Year 9; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a reading (Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 375 Prepared Reading - Year 10-11; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of a reading (Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 376 Prepared Reading - Year 12 & over; entry fee £13.00

Own choice of a reading (Time limit 3 minutes)

Religious Text Reading

Class 377A Reading from a Religious Text - Year 7 & under; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of any passage from a religious text of the candidate's own choice to be

read in English.

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 377B Reading from a Religious Text - Year 8 & over; entry fee £10.00

Own choice of any passage from a religious text of the candidate's own choice to be

read in English.

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Prose Reading Duets and Groups

Class 378 Prose Reading Duet - Year 6 & under; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a piece of prose from a novel to be read by two people.

Unison speaking not essential. This must be presented as prose, not drama.

(Time limit 5 minutes)

Class 379 Prose Reading Duet - Year 7-8; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a piece of prose from a novel to be read by two people.

Unison speaking not essential. This must be presented as prose, not drama.

(Time limit 5 minutes)



Class 380 Prose Reading Duet - Year 9-10; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a piece of prose from a novel to be read by two people.

Unison speaking not essential. This must be presented as prose, not drama.

(Time limit 5 minutes)

Class 381 Prose Reading Duet - Year 11 & over; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a piece of prose from a novel to be read by two people. Unison speaking not essential. This must be presented as prose, not drama. (Time limit 5 minutes)

Class 382 Prose Reading Duet - any combination of ages; entry fee £15.00

Own choice of a piece of prose to be read by two people.

Unison speaking not essential. This must be presented as prose, not drama.

(Time limit 7 minutes)

Class 383 Prose Reading Group - any number of performers - any age; entry fee £22.00

Own choice of a piece of prose to be read by any number of performers. Unison speaking not essential. This must be presented as prose, not drama. (Time limit 7 minutes)

Class 384 Novice Class; entry fee £10.00

This is a non-competitive class for performers aged 12 and over who are taking part in a festival for the first time. Comments only will be given by the adjudicator.

Own choice of a poem

(Time limit 3 minutes)

Class 385 Reading to Children - Year 9 and over; entry fee £10.00

Performers to read an extract from a children's picture story book to an imagined audience of children aged 4 and under. A new class in which any member of the family is invited to take part.

Own choice of book (Time limit 3 minutes)



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Stand-up Comedy

Class 386 Years 6 & Under; entry fee £10.00

The performer should tell some of their favourite jokes to the audience. Credit will be given for personal branding, connection between jokes, timing and ability to engage an audience

(Time limit 2 minutes)

Class 387 Years 7 to 11; entry fee £10.00

The performer should deliver a short comedy set to the audience. This routine should be largely original but may feature jokes and elements from other comedians. Credit will be given for personal branding, spontaneity, segues between jokes, timing and ability to engage an audience.

(Time limit 4 minutes)

Class 388 Years 12 & over and Adults; entry fee £10.00

The performer should deliver a short comedy set to the audience. This routine should be largely original but may feature jokes and elements from other comedians. Credit will be given for personal branding, spontaneity, segues between jokes, timing and ability to engage with an audience.

Please refer to our rules and regulations if you wish to enter this class.

(Time limit 4 minutes)

Accessible Classes

These are non-competitive classes; verbal and written feedback will be given.

Classes are restricted to children and adults with Special Educational Needs. All classes are available to solo or duo entrants and may include acting, mime, and poetry and prose (which may be recited from memory or read). Performances may include music and movement. THERE ARE NO LIMITS.

(Time limit 5 minutes)

Solo entry fee £10.00, Duet entry fee £15.00

Class 389 Years 6 & Under
Class 390 Years 7 to 10
Class 391 Years 11 & Over



Acting Through Song

Class 420

A short, devised scene leading into own choice of song from any film or stage musical. The emphasis in these classes is on the portrayal of character and situation in a dramatic context. This will be adjudicated as an acting class, not a singing class.

Movement is allowed but costume is not permitted. The official accompanist will be available for classes 420-428.

Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 5-6 - Solo; entry fee £10.00

These classes will be eligible for the Speech & Drama prizes, The Borough of Bedford Challenge Bowl and the Jane Whitbread Cup at the Gala Concert on the final day of the Festival.

	(Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 421	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 5-6 - Pair; entry fee £15.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 422	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 5-6 - Group; entry fee £22.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 423	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 7-8 - Solo; entry fee £10.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 424	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 7-8 - Pair; entry fee £15.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 425	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 7-8 - Group; entry fee £22.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 426	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 9-10 - Solo; entry fee £13.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 427	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 9-10 - Pair; entry fee £15.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 428	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 9-10 - Group; entry fee £22.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 429	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 11 & over - Solo; entry fee £13.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 430	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 11 & over - Pair; entry fee £15.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)
Class 431	Scene from Musical Theatre - Year 11 & over - Group; entry fee £22.00 (Time limit 6 minutes)

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Combined Music, Speech & Drama Classes

Class 53 The Association of English Singers and Speakers' Trophy any age; entry fee £15.00

Entrants should perform a memorised programme of 10-12 minutes with a theme to include a spoken introduction, two songs written by an English composer and a piece of spoken poetry or prose. Both music and speech sections will be adjudicated equally. The Association of English Singers and Speakers' Trophy and Prize of £25

Class 157B Festival All-Rounder Class – Year 9 & below; entry fee £13.00

Entrants should perform a piece of music, either vocal or instrumental, and a piece of speech & drama. The two pieces should be linked in some way, for example by theme. Entrants should give a brief introduction explaining the reasons for choosing the two pieces and how they are linked. Both music and speech & drama sections will be adjudicated equally.

(Time limit for performance 10 minutes)

Class 157C Festival All-Rounder Class – Year 10 & over; entry fee £13.00

Entrants should perform a piece of music, either vocal or instrumental, and a piece of speech & drama. The two pieces should be linked in some way, for example by theme. Entrants should give a brief introduction explaining the reasons for choosing the two pieces and how they are linked. Both music and speech & drama sections will be adjudicated equally.

(Time limit for performance 10 minutes)