

# CHESTER FESTIVAL *of* PERFORMING ARTS



*Registered Charity No. 1103517  
Affiliated to Making Music*

## SPEECH & DRAMA FESTIVAL Saturday, 14th March, 2026 SYLLABUS

***Last date for entries: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026***

***Affiliated to Making Music***



**SUPPORTING &  
CHAMPIONING  
VOLUNTARY MUSIC**

# CHESTER FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

## PRESIDENT:

Lady Rose Cholmondeley

## VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mrs Sue Fisher

## OFFICERS:

Chairman: Mrs. D. Rooney  
Vice-Chairman: Mrs W.Morris  
Treasurer: Mrs. L.Moyes  
Secretary: Mr, P. Moyes

## COMMITTEE:

Mr J. Banks, Mr S Bate, Mrs. C Faithfull,  
Mrs. W. Morris, Mrs. L. Moyes  
Mr. P Moyes, Mrs. D. Rooney,

## SPEECH & DRAMA SECRETARY:

Mrs C.Faithfull,  
Holly Bank Cottage,  
Cross O'Th'Hill,  
Malpas, Cheshire. SY14 8DQ  
Tel: 01948 860422/07872 050592  
cfaithfull@btinternet.com

## TROPHY SECRETARY:

Mrs. W. Morris,  
65 Pearl Lane,  
Vicars Cross,  
Chester. CH3 5NU.  
Tel: 01244-319422/07708 755712

**CHESTER FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS**

**SPEECH AND DRAMA FESTIVAL 2026**

**THE QUEEN'S SENIOR SCHOOL, CHESTER**

**SATURDAY MARCH 14<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**ADJUDICATORS**

TINA DOYLE, MNATD, FNEA

ELLEN EDWIN-SCOTT, MA

LOVEDAY INGRAM, MA

KIM ISMAY, BA (hons) FNEA, ANEA

SUSAN MACKAY, ALAM, LLAM,

## **Chester Festival of Performing Arts**

is pleased to announce that it has entered into an agreement with the Author's Licensing and Collecting Society.

This means that entrants do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or solo dramatic items to a time limit of 10 minutes.

Dramatic items must be announced with title and author at the time of performance to qualify for copyright indemnity, and the performer must not change the words or gender of the character.

Performers and teachers will be delighted to know that their participation in this festival means that authors will be directly reimbursed as a consequence of their works being performed at this festival.

Duologues and group dramatic activities are not covered by this agreement, and copyright for these items should be sought by performers at the time of entry.

Chester Festival of Performing Arts  
is a charitable company limited by guarantee  
incorporated in 2004 as an  
Association not for profit  
Registered Charity No.1103517  
Registered Office: 27 Bryn Awelon, Mold, Flintshire CH7 1LT

## **RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

ALL COMPETITORS WILL BE ASSUMED TO HAVE READ AND AGREED TO  
ABIDE BY THESE CONDITIONS.  
PLEASE TAKE CAREFUL NOTE:

1. Last date for entries. Please note that it will not be possible to accept entries after the date printed on the front cover of this syllabus stating last date for entries. Official entry forms must be used.
2. Acknowledgment of entries cannot be given separately from the timing/admission cards which are sent to all competitors just before the Festival.
3. All Challenge Trophies and Shields are the property of the Chester Festival of Performing Arts and are held by winners for eleven months. They must be cleaned, adequately packed and returned to the following address NOT LATER THAN FOUR WEEKS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF COMPETITION to:

MRS W. MORRIS,  
65 PEARL LANE,  
VICARS CROSS,  
CHESTER CH3 5NU  
TEL: 01244 319422/07708 755712

(IF POSTING REGISTERED POST MUST BE USED)

Winners are asked to include the trophy on their house contents insurance.  
No trophies can be taken outside the British Isles.

4. The decision of the Adjudicator shall be final.
5. Certificates will be awarded to all competitors with 75 or more marks. Cups and Awards will be given where applicable to winners who attain COMMENDED or higher.
6. The Committee reserves the right to appoint additional adjudicators and to alter, modify or cancel any arrangements in the syllabus as may be necessary.
7. A copy of the Own Choice item must be given to the Adjudicator before the performance.
8. A copy of the adjudicators' comments will be available to all competitors and should be collected from the secretary's desk together with copies of pieces. The Society does not hold itself responsible for copies left behind.
9. Competitors not answering to their number when called will be called again at the end of the class.

10. The sequence of class numbers in the syllabus does not necessarily indicate the order in the programme.
11. In the set pieces the stated edition must be used.
12. No piece may be used in more than one class.
13. No competitor or member of audience is permitted to approach the adjudicator during performance sessions.
14. All school groups must be adequately supervised.
15. Entry fees are to be paid in U.K. currency.

Bank Transfer to CHESTER FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS  
Sort Code: 30-91-92  
Account number: 28694468

16. In accordance with the Performing Rights Society rules, we cannot permit the recording of any performance by tape or video or any form of flash photography or digital equipment.

THE ACCURATE TIMING OF OWN CHOICE ITEMS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE RUNNING OF THE PROGRAMME. COMPETITORS WHO EXCEED THE TIME LIMIT WILL BE PENALISED. PLEASE KEEP TO STATED TIMES.

The British Federation of Music Festivals standard of marking will be used, viz:

FAIR	75 - 77
MODERATE	78 - 80
MERIT	81 - 83
COMMENDED	84 - 86
DISTINCTION	87 - 89
OUTSTANDING	90 +

**PARENTS AND TEACHERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE SAFETY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR BELONGINGS ARE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE FESTIVAL**

**ENTRY FORMS AND ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

MRS. C. FAITHFULL,  
HOLLY BANK COTTAGE,  
CROSS O' TH' HILL,  
MALPAS, SY14 8DQ.  
TEL: 01948 860422/07872 050592

**ENCLOSING S.A.E. FOR COMPETITION TIMING/ADMISSION CARDS.**

THE SPEECH AND DRAMA FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD AT  
**THE QUEEN'S SENIOR SCHOOL**  
**CITY WALLS RD, CH1 2NN**  
WHERE THERE ARE  
SOME GREAT PERFORMANCE SPACES.

THE MUSIC FESTIVAL WHICH WILL BE HELD ON MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> WILL ALSO  
USE THE SCHOOL ALONG WITH OTHER VENUES IN THE CITY.

**AN ADDITION TO OUR REGULAR SYLLABUS IS AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO PARTICIPATE IN A MASTERCLASS RUN BY ONE OF OUR VERY  
EXPERIENCED ADJUDICATORS FOR YOUNG ACTORS WHO ARE  
COMPETING IN OUR DRAMA CLASSES FOR YEARS NINE AND ABOVE.**

**THIS IS NON-COMPETTIVE AND WILL BE AN EXCITING AND ASPIRING  
INSIGHT INTO PREPARATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE**

## JUNIOR CLASSES

POEMS ARE READILY AVAILABLE OR CAN BE PROVIDED ON APPLICATION

		Entrance Fee:
CLASS 1	VERSE SPEAKING (Year 2 & below)  The Giggle Machine – Isabella Rosemont or The Furry Home – J.M.Westrup	£7.00
CLASS 2	VERSE SPEAKING (Year 2 & below) (Maximum time 1 minute)  Own Choice	£7.00
CLASS 3	VERSE SPEAKING (Year 3)  'The Magic Word' – Martin Gardener or Night Ride – Celia Warren	£7.00
CLASS 4	VERSE SPEAKING (Year 3) (Maximum time 2 minutes)  Own Choice	£7.00
CLASS 5	VERSE SPEAKING (Year 4)  Robot Kid – Patrick Chapman or Painting – Irene Rawnsley	£7.00
CLASS 6	VERSE SPEAKING (Year 4) (Maximum time 2 minutes)  Own Choice	£7.00



CLASS 13	PREPARED READING (Year 4) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  A passage from a favourite book	£7.00
CLASS 14	PREPARED READING (Year 5) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  A passage from a favourite book	£7.00
CLASS 15	PREPARED READING (Year 6) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  A passage from a favourite book	£7.00
CLASS 16	SPIRITUAL READING (Year 3 & 4) (Maximum time 2 minutes)  A reading with a spiritual theme from any source	£7.00
CLASS 17	SPIRITUAL READING (Years 5 & 6) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  A reading with a spiritual theme from any source	£7.00
CLASS 18	READING AT SIGHT (Years 3 & 4)	£7.00
CLASS 19	READING AT SIGHT (Years 5 & 6)	£7.00

CLASS 20 SOLO DRAMA (Years 3 & 4) £7.00  
(Maximum time 3 minutes)

Own choice

CLASS 21 SOLO DRAMA (Years 5 & 6) £7.00  
(Maximum time 3 minutes)

Own choice

IN GROUP ENTRIES OF FIVE OR MORE COMPETITORS PLEASE GIVE A  
GROUP NAME AS ONLY ONE CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

**PLEASE NOTE: COMPETITORS MAY ENTER ONLY ONCE IN ANY ONE CLASS**

CLASS 22 JUNIOR SCENES (Years 3 & 4) £10.00  
(Maximum time 5 minutes) up to 4 in group  
+ £1.50 for each  
additional member

Extract from play of own choice.  
Two or more competitors. Properties  
may be used but no costume or stage make-up to be worn.

CLASS 23 JUNIOR SCENES (Years 5 & 6) £10.00  
(Maximum time 5 minutes) up to 4 in group  
+ £1.50 for each  
additional member

Extract from play of own choice.  
Two or more competitors.  
Properties may be used but no  
costume or stage make-up to be worn.

CLASS 24 PREPARED ORIGINAL SCENE (Year 6 & below) £10.00  
(Maximum time 5 minutes) up to 4 in group  
+ £1.50 for each  
additional member

Lost and Found  
or  
The Lucky Number

This should be a scene on the given topic, devised by the group  
and given shape and direction for presentation to an audience.

CLASS 25	SOLO MIME (Years 3 & 4) (Maximum time 3 minutes)	£7.00
	Own choice	
CLASS 26	SOLO MIME (Years 5 & 6) (Maximum time 3 minutes)	£7.00
	Own choice	
CLASS 27	GROUP MIME (Years 3 & 4) (Maximum time 5 minutes)	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
	Own choice	
CLASS 28	GROUP MIME (Years 5 & 6) (Maximum time 5 minutes)	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
	Own choice	
CLASS 29	GROUP IMPROVISATION (Years 6 & below) (Maximum time 5 minutes)	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
	Title will be provided by the adjudicator (10 minutes preparation time)	

## SENIOR CLASSES

POEMS ARE READILY AVAILABLE OR CAN BE PROVIDED UPON APPLICATION

CLASS 40	VERSE SPEAKING (Years 7 and 8)	£8.00
	Chocs – Carol Ann Duffy or Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening – Robert Frost	

CLASS 41	OWN CHOICE VERSE SPEAKING (Year 7)  (Maximum time 2 minutes)	£8.00
CLASS 81	OWN CHOICE VERSE SPEAKING (Year 8)  (Maximum time 2 minutes)	£8.00
CLASS 42	VERSE SPEAKING (Years 9 &10)  Sally - Phoesbe Hesketh or Clouds – Elizabeth Jennings	£8.00
CLASS 43	OWN CHOICE VERSE SPEAKING (Years 9 & 10)  (Maximum time 2 minutes)	£8.00
CLASS 44	VERSE SPEAKING (Year 11 & above)  Careless Rambles – John Clare or Interruption at the Opera House – Brian Patten	£8.00
CLASS 45	OWN CHOICE VERSE SPEAKING (Year 11 & above)  (Maximum time 3 minutes)	£8.00
CLASS 46	POETRY READING CLASS (Year 11 & above))  OWN CHOICE. Two contrasting poems on the same theme TO BE READ. (Maximum time 5 minutes)	£8.00

COMPETITORS WILL READ A PASSAGE FROM A BOOK BY EITHER OF THE SET AUTHORS, BRIEFLY INTRODUCING THE READING. A COPY OF THE CHOSEN EXTRACT MUST BE PROVIDED FOR THE ADJUDICATOR. TIME LIMITS INCLUDE THE INTRODUCTION.

CLASS 47	PREPARED READING (Year 7) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  An extract from any work by  Michelle Harrison or Pari Thompson	£8.00
CLASS 48	PREPARED READING (Year 8) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  An extract from any work by  Jamila Gavin or Nathanael Lessore	£8.00
CLASS 49	PREPARED READING (Years 9 & 10) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  An extract from any work by  Ravena Guron or Jennifer Lynn Barnes	£8.00
CLASS 50	PREPARED READING (Year 11 & above) (Maximum time 4 minutes)  An extract from any work by  Amie Jordan or Laurie Lee	£8.00

CLASS 51	SPIRITUAL READING (Years 7 & 8) (Maximum time 3 minutes)	£8.00
	A Reading with a spiritual theme from any source	
CLASS 52	SPIRITUAL READING (Years 9 & 10) (Maximum time 3 minutes)	£7.00
	A Reading with a spiritual theme from any source	
CLASS 53	SPIRITUAL READING (Year 11 & above) (Maximum time 4 minutes)	£8.00
	A Reading with a spiritual theme from any source	
CLASS 54	READING AT SIGHT (Years 7 & 8)	£8.00
CLASS 55	READING AT SIGHT (Years 9 & 10)	£8.00
CLASS 56	READING AT SIGHT (Year 11 & above)	£8.00
CLASS 57	SOLO DRAMA (Years 7 & 8) (Maximum time 3 minutes)	£8.00
	Speech from any drama	
CLASS 58	SOLO DRAMA (Years 9 & 10) (Maximum time 3 minutes)	£8.00
	Speech from any drama	



CLASSES 63, 64 and 65 SHOULD BE SCENES ON THE GIVEN TOPIC, DEVISED BY THE GROUP AND GIVEN SHAPE AND DIRECTION FOR PRESENTATION TO AN AUDIENCE.

CLASS 63	PREPARED ORIGINAL SCENE (Years 7 & 8) (Maximum time 5 minutes)  At the Airport or 'I'm not supposed to lend it to anyone'	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
CLASS 64	PREPARED ORIGINAL SCENE (Years 9 & 10) (Maximum time 5 minutes)  'It's a Sign!' or 'The day my life changed forever.	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
CLASS 65	PREPARED ORIGINAL SCENE (years 11 & above) (Maximum time 5 minutes)  'Deeds Not Words' or The Image	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
CLASS 66	SOLO MIME (Years 7 & 8) (Maximum time 3 minutes)	£8.00
CLASS 67	Own Choice SOLO MIME (Years 9 & 10) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  Own Choice	£8.00

CLASS 68	SOLO MIME (Year 11 & above) (Maximum time 4 minutes)  Own Choice	£8.00
CLASS 69	GROUP MIME (Years 7 & 8) (Maximum time 5 minutes)  Own Choice	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
CLASS 70	GROUP MIME (Years 9 & 10) (Maximum time 5 minutes)  Own Choice	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
CLASS 71	GROUP MIME (Year 11 & above) (Maximum time 6 minutes)  Own Choice	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
CLASS 72	GROUP IMPROVISATION (Years 7 & 8) (Maximum time 5 minutes)  Title will be provided by the adjudicator (10 minutes preparation time)	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
CLASS 73	GROUP IMPROVISATION (Years 9 & 10) (Maximum time 5 minutes)  Title will be provided by the adjudicator (10 minutes preparation time)	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member

CLASS 74	GROUP IMPROVISATION (Year 11 & above) (Maximum time 6 minutes)  Title will be provided by the adjudicator (10 minutes preparation time)	£10.00 up to 4 in group + £1.50 for each additional member
CLASS 75	SOLO SHAKESPEARE SCENE (Years 7 & 8) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  Own choice of a speech from any play by Shakespeare	£8.00
CLASS 76	SOLO SHAKESPEARE SCENE (Years 9 & 10) (Maximum time 3 minutes)  Own choice of a speech from any play by Shakespeare	£8.00
CLASS 77	SOLO SHAKESPEARE SCENE (Year 11 & above) (Maximum time 4 minutes)  Own choice of a speech from any play by Shakespeare	£8.00
CLASS 78	SHAKESPEARE DUOLOGUE (Open) (Maximum time 6 minutes)  Any scene for two characters	£10.00
CLASS 79	CLASSICAL DUOLOGUE (Year 9 and over) (Maximum time 5 minutes)  A scene for two characters from any play written Before 1900	£10.00
CLASS 80	PUBLIC SPEAKING (Open) (Maximum time 5 minutes)  Own choice. Notes may be used, but speech must not be read.	£8.00

# **CHESTER FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS**

## **Speech & Drama Music**

The festival has existed for 90+ years and the two events attract many performers every year. For their continued success these performances depend entirely on: the commitment, time and effort of its volunteers, the generosity of donors, performer entry fees and box office takings. All contributions, whether in kind or to help keep the organisation financially viable, are most gratefully received.

If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact a member of the committee. Contact details are at the front of this document.

More information about the festival can be found on the website:

<https://chesterperformingarts.org.uk>

**Chester Festival of Performing Arts is listed with**

**Cheshire West  
Voluntary Arts Network**

Open  Concerts and Recitals

<https://www.open-concerts.co.uk>