

RICHMOND UPON THAMES PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

www.richmondfestival.org.uk

SPEECH AND DRAMA SYLLABUS 2026

SECTION SECRETARY – LIZI COLE

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ADJUDICATOR: Frances Colyer



Frances trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London (Teacher's Diploma in Speech & Drama). She worked as an actress at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, Palace Theatre Watford, & Cork Opera House, Eire. She has undertaken Theatre-in-Education work at the Cockpit Theatre and the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry.

Frances has worked at the BBC as a presenter of the schools television programme "Merry Go Round" & BBC Radio programme "Discovery" and as a presenter/announcer for Border Television, Carlisle. Overseas posts include

English language teaching in Padua & Rome, Italy and she was a Visiting Fellow in Drama at the University of West Indies, Barbados.

She has recently retired from teaching speech & drama at Berkhamsted School and is still a LAMDA teacher and Speech adjudicator for The British & International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance & Speech and an examiner for The English Speaking Board and a member of Equity & S.T.S.D. She is willing to adjudicate online/virtual sessions at festivals.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Sunday 8th March 2026

Waldegrave School, Fifth Cross Rd, Twickenham TW2 5LH

ENTRY INFORMATION

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: Sunday 25th January 2026 (MIDNIGHT)

Late Entries will not be processed

Please use the Play and Perform online entry system which can be found by going to our website www.richmondfestival.org.uk

Entries sent in to Play and Perform will be acknowledged on receipt. If you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt, please contact the Section Secretary as soon as possible to ensure the application has arrived.

Fees are payable through the online system via Paypal.

Although we will try to run all classes, if sufficient entries are not received we reserve the right to cancel classes and return fees paid. Richmond upon Thames Performing Arts Festival will hold data solely for the purpose of running the Festival.

Please read this syllabus in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations for the Festival together with the Festival's Safeguarding Policy. Both documents are downloadable from the website.

SPECIAL AWARDS

YOUNG SPEECH & DRAMA PERFORMER OF THE YEAR

We are pleased to award a bursary of £100 for the YOUNG PERFORMER and £50 for the RUNNER-UP. The winner will also receive the Festival Challenge Trophy. To be eligible for this competition performers must be:

- In Year Groups 9 – 14 (equivalent)
- Have entered pieces in both a poetry section *and* an acting section – the eligible sections are:
POETRY - Own choice poetry OC8, OC9.
ACTING - Solo Acting SO4, SO5 or Classical Monologue CM3, CM4

ADJUDICATORS CHOICE

- Chosen by the adjudicator the winners must be available to perform at the Festival Showcase.
- Previous first-place winners of the award are not eligible.

The First prize will only be awarded if the performer reaches an Outstanding or Exceptional mark.

To be considered for this competition, please add the following information to the entry form: Young Performer Consideration, Date of Birth and School year, School or College

Additional Information

TIMETABLING: Notifications of time will be by email provided the email address is given correctly in the entry form and the whole timetable will be viewable on the website. This will be approximately three weeks before the date of the competition.

The Section Secretary will create a timetable of classes for the events and every effort will be made to comply with the applicant's requirements where they are reported well in advance of the festival.

Please note that requests for changes to the timetable which are made less than three weeks before the event will NOT be accepted under any circumstances.

TIME LIMITS: Time limits for each section are given and must be observed. The Time limit includes the whole performance. Performances may be stopped by the adjudicator if Time limits are exceeded. A performance exceeding the Time limit will be marked and adjudicated, but will not be eligible for a first prize or trophy. Performances may be stopped if they grossly exceed the Time limit. Competitors must arrive 15 minutes before the start time of their Section.

NOTIFICATIONS: Notifications will be by email only. Performers will be given approximately 2 weeks' notice of the date of their competition.

POETRY: All poems, monologues, duologues and solo acting pieces are to be memorised unless otherwise stated. Poetry should be recited without gestures or movement.

COSTUME: Costume is not allowed. Simple suggestions such as a long practice skirt or leggings are only permissible. Vital hand props are allowed. In mime classes, no props or costumes are allowed. Music is optional.

SCRIPTS: A copy of all pieces chosen must be available for the adjudicator. These must be labelled with the following information: Name of performer, Title, Author, Source/Publisher

CLASSES: Depending on the number of entries it may be necessary to combine or divide classes.

FEES

CLASS NAME	AGE	PRICE
All Solo classes	Reception	£5 for each entry
	Yrs 1 - 6	£7 for each entry
	Yrs. 7-11	£8 for each entry
	Yr 12 & Adults	£10 for each entry
Duologues	Age 15 & under	£10 for each item
	Age 16 & over	£12 for each item
All other Group classes		£15 for each group

OWN CHOICE POETRY

CODE	SCHOOL	SECTION	TIME
OCR	Reception & under	Own Choice, including humorous verse	1 minute
OC1	1	Own Choice, including humorous verse	1
OC2	2	Own Choice, including humorous verse	1 ½
OC3	3	Own Choice, including humorous verse	2
OC4	4	Own Choice, including humorous verse	3
OC5	5	Own Choice, including humorous verse	3
OC6	6	Own Choice, including humorous verse	3
OC7	7 and 8	Own Choice, including humorous verse	3 ½
OC8	9 and 10	Own Choice, including humorous verse	3 ½
OC9	11 to 13	Own Choice, including humorous verse	4
OC10	Adult	Own Choice, including humorous verse	4

PROSE READING

CODE	SCHOOL YEAR	SECTION	TIME
PR1	6 and under	A section from a book chosen by the performer suitable for their age.	3
PR2	7 to 9	A section from a book chosen by the performer suitable for their age.	3
PR3	10 and 11	A section from a book chosen by the performer suitable for their age.	3
PR3	12 and over	A section from a book chosen by the performer suitable for their age.	3

SOLO ACTING

Any works written after 1616. Please observe time limits in all acting classes

CODE	SCHOOL YEAR	SECTION	TIME
SO1	4 and under	Own Choice	3
SO2	6 and under	Own Choice	4
SO3	7 and 8	Own Choice	4
SO4	9 and 10	Own Choice	4
SO5	11 to 13	Own Choice	5
SO6	Adult	Own Choice	5

DUOLOGUE ACTING

Any works written after 1616. Please observe time limits in all acting classes

CODE	SCHOOL YEAR	SECTION	TIME
D1	3 and under	Own Choice	4
D2	4 to 6	Own Choice	4
D3	7 to 9	Own Choice	5
D4	10 to 13	Own Choice	5
D5	Adult	Own Choice	5

CLASSICAL SOLO ACTING

Any works written before 1616. Please observe time limits in all acting classes.

CODE	SCHOOL YEAR	SECTION	TIME
CM1	6 & under	Own Choice	3
CM2	7 and 8	Own Choice	4
CM3	9 and 10	Own Choice	4
CM4	11 to 13	Own Choice	4
CM5	Adult	Own Choice	4

CLASSICAL DUOLOGUE

Any works written before 1616. Please observe time limits in all acting classes

CODE	SCHOOL YEAR	SECTION	TIME
CD1	7 to 9	Own Choice	5
CD2	10 to 13	Own Choice	5

ACTED SCENES

Acted scenes which are stand-alone works or from full works and between 3 and 15 performers.

CODE	SCHOOL YEAR	SECTION	TIME
AS1	6 and under	Own Choice	10
AS2	7 to 13	Own Choice	10
AS3	Adult	Own Choice	10