



**NORTH LONDON FESTIVAL OF
MUSIC, SPEECH & DRAMA**

North London Festival of Music, Speech &
Drama

Syllabus for Speech & Drama competitions
on
Sunday 16th November 2025



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Adjudicators:

Vivienne Redford and Richard Marquiss

Enter online via the website — www.northlondonfestival.org.uk.

The Closing Date for entries is **Friday 24th October 2025**.

The Festival would like to thank Susi Earnshaw and The Bull Theatre for hosting this year's competitions. The competitions will be at:
The Bull Theatre, 68 High Street, Chipping Barnet, Barnet EN5 5SJ -
only 400m from High Barnet Tube

thebulltheatre68@gmail.com

There is a car park in Moxon Street directly behind the theatre. There is no charge to park there on Sundays.

Enter via our "Play & Perform" site, which can be accessed from the Speech & Drama page of the Festival's website — northlondonfestival.org.uk.

For all enquiries regarding syllabus and timing please do not hesitate to contact the Festival via rmtreasurer.nlf@gmail.com. We can't wait to see you all perform in November!!

For each class, the entry age is strictly that on **1 September 2025**.

Candidates must provide a clean copy, handwritten or typed **not** photocopied, of their prose or script for the Adjudicator. Copies of set verse are included in this syllabus.

All performers will receive a certificate from the Festival and the winner of each class will receive a £25 book token as well as a medal. We are hoping also to be able to provide some books and holiday camp vouchers as prizes.

If you have any queries, please always feel free to email the Festival at rmtreasurer.nlf@gmail.com.

Vivienne Redford

Vivienne has studied Speech and Drama since the age of four and has been teaching the subject since 1980. She is Head of Speech and Drama at a large independent girl's school in Bedford. She is also the Principal of the Redford School of Speech and Drama, established in 1982, training children and adults of all ages in all aspects of the performing arts and communication. Many of her former students perform in TV, film, and theatre around the world and in major West End productions, the Globe, the RSC, and the National Theatre. Others are pursuing careers as teachers of Speech and Drama, Theatre Directors, and Technicians.

Vivienne has produced and directed a diverse range of musical and theatrical productions and particularly enjoys writing and devising original and creative theatre with her senior students. For the past twenty years, she has organised and directed a widely acclaimed summer school for students aged 7 to 21, which culminates in a commissioned play written for, and performed by, the students who attend.

Vivienne is an examiner for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, a member of the Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama and an Adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals travelling extensively throughout the UK, Ireland, and the Channel Islands. She is currently a Speech & Drama representative on the Adjudicators Council.

She has recently been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts in recognition of her extensive work in Speech & Drama, particularly with young people.

She is a former secretary and now a Vice-President of the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama which has given her a clear understanding and insight into the work, energy, and commitment that Festival organisers, teachers and pupils put into making their Festivals a success.

When not working (which is a rare occurrence) Vivienne enjoys seeing as much theatre as possible, reading, particularly books for children and young adults, cooking and relishes spending time with her family.

Richard Marquiss – Drama Adjudicator & Theatre Educator

Richard began performing at the age of 12 in his hometown of Lancashire, earning a scholarship to train at Millington's Dance Academy. At 20, he swapped the northern air for London, where he continued his training at Richmond Drama School, graduating in 2008.

Since then, Richard has performed in numerous UK touring theatre productions, including pantomimes, classical adaptations, and family stage shows. He has featured in music videos and starred in the national theatre tour of *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*, playing the leading role of the Old Lady. His screen work includes commercials for brands such as The London Dungeons and McDonald's, among others.

In 2013, Richard took a step back from performing to establish the Candice Conway Theatre School, a decision he calls the best he's ever made. Sharing his knowledge and passion with aspiring young performers has become one of the most fulfilling parts of his career.

Alongside teaching, Richard has also worked for many years as a drama adjudicator. He brings a wealth of experience in theatrical performance and critique, with a deep commitment to nurturing talent and helping performers of all ages grow in skill and confidence.

Dan Collins was the Administrator of the Speech & Drama section of the Festival, but sadly, he passed away in April 2024. Over recent years he put so much energy, time, enthusiasm, skill, joy, and care into his organising of the Speech & Drama classes, giving many young people opportunities to develop their talents. He is greatly missed. We are proud that we will award the **Dan Collins Trophy** to a performer demonstrating exceptional flair and entertainment.

All verse speaking to be performed from memory. All verse speaking copy is included in this syllabus. For each class, the entry age is strictly that on **1 September 2025**.

	Verse Speaking	Time (mins)	Fee £
902	Verse Speaking - Year 3, 7-8 years. <i>Little Boy Blue</i> by Darren Sardelli or <i>I am Tired of Being Little</i> by Jack Prelutsky or <i>Tea With Aunty Mabel</i> by Jeanne Willis	N/A	12.00
903	Verse Speaking - Year 4, 8-9 years. <i>Grounded</i> by Eric Finney or <i>Spider in the Classroom</i> by Anita Loughrey or <i>The Colours Live</i> by Mary O'Neill	N/A	12.00
904	Verse Speaking - Year 5, 9-10 years. <i>The School Caretaker</i> by Brian Pattern or <i>The Creature in the Classroom</i> by Jack Prelutsky or <i>Football in the Rain</i> by David Orme	N/A	12.00

All own choice verse speaking may be acted but must be performed from memory. Please note that for own choice verse speaking no poems from the current LAMDA verse and prose anthology will be allowed or adjudicated if entered. (Please name the poem to be performed on the entry form.)

For each class, the entry age is strictly that on **1 September 2025**.

Verse Speaking - Own Choice		Time (mins)	Fee £
906	Year 1, 5-6 years.	2	12.00
907	Year 2, 6-7 years.	2	12.00
908	Year 3, 7-8 years.	3	12.00
909	Year 4, 8-9 years.	3	12.00
910	Year 5, 9-10 years.	3	12.00
911	Year 6, 10-11 years.	3	12.00
912	Year 7, 11-12 years.	3	12.00

Performance

An extract from any play, novel, film, radio, or TV script written after 1910 to be performed from memory.		Time (mins)	Fee £
914	Solo Modern Acting - Years 5 & 6, 9-11 years.	3	12.00
916	Solo Modern Acting - Years 7 & 8, 11-13 years.	4	12.00
918	Solo Modern Acting - Years 9 & 10, 13-15 years.	4	12.00

Prose Reading Own Choice

An extract chosen from a book of candidate's own choice to be read aloud.		Time (mins)	Fee £
920	Prose Reading - Year 4, 8 - 9 years.	2	12.00
921	Prose Reading - Year 5, 9 - 10 years.	2	12.00
922	Prose Reading - Year 6, 10 - 11 years.	3	12.00

Notes for Teachers, Performers and Parents

1. Time limits given are the maximum allowed and will be strictly adhered to. The Adjudicator will stop adjudicating 10 seconds over the allotted time and the performance may be stopped. Unless otherwise specified, we will allow 2 minutes setting up time per group. If you go over this time it will be deducted from your allotted performance time.
2. Copies of pieces to be performed should be submitted to the Adjudicator before the start of the class. These should be handwritten or typed, not photocopied.
3. All candidates are reminded that they are creating a performance. They should announce their pieces to the audience clearly and present themselves appropriately.
4. Simple costumes, make-up, and props can be used, but no extra marks will be awarded for these. Chairs and tables will be available at the venue, and there are changing facilities within the building.
5. In all Group competitions the age of the oldest competitor determines which class to enter. Age limits refer to the child's age on 1st September 2025.
6. Volunteers are always needed to help on the day. If you are interested and can spare some time, please contact rmtreasurer.nlf@gmail.com.

Set Poems for North London Festival 2025

Class 902 - Year 3: *Little Boy Blue* by Darren Sardelli

Little Boy Blue, please cover your nose.
You sneezed on Miss Muffet and
ruined her clothes.
You sprayed Mother Hubbard, and
now she is sick.
You put out the fire on Jack's candlestick.
Your sneeze is the reason why
Humpty fell down.
You drenched Yankee Doodle when
he came to town.
The blind mice are angry!
The sheep are upset!
From now on, use a tissue so no one gets wet!

Class 902 - Year 3: *I am Tired of Being Little* by Jack Prelutsky

I am tired of being little,
I am sick of being thin,
I wish that I were giant size,
with whiskers on my chin.

No one would dare to tease me,
or to take away my toys,
for I would be much bigger
than the biggest bigger boys.

My folks would pay attention
to everything I said,
they couldn't make me eat my peas
or tell me, "Go to bed!"

I'd never be afraid again
if I were ten-foot-three,
I wish that I were giant size,
instead of small like me.

Class 902 - Year 3: *Tea With Aunty Mabel* by Jeanne Willis

If you ever go to tea with my Aunty Mabel,
Never put your elbows on the dining room table,
Always wipe your shoes if you've been in the garden,
Don't ever burp. If you do, say pardon.

Don't put your feet on the new settee,
If she offers you a sugar lump, don't take three.
Don't dunk your biscuits, don't make crumbs,
Don't bite nails and don't suck thumbs.

Don't rock the budgie, don't tease the peke,
Speak when you're spoken to or else don't speak.
Do as you're told and if you're not able,
Don't go to tea with my Aunty Mabel.

Class 903 - Year 4: *Grounded* by Eric Finney

Grounded by Dad:

That's not too bad.

He says: "It's just the kind of trouble
I got into as a lad.

Of course, that doesn't mean
I can ignore it.

You must take your punishment,
I can't withdraw it.

But I'll reduce it for a week
To seven days (funny joke!)

No – three days. And tonight
We'll watch the match together
And I'll treat you to a coke."

Grounded by Mum:

That's grim, that's glum.

No Saturday match, no phone calls,
No pocket money;

No way she'll ever change her mind –
It isn't funny.

She goes on and on
And won't leave it.

She really means it.

You'd better believe it.

Class 903 - Year 4: *Spider in the Classroom* by Anita Loughrey

Theres a spider in the classroom
Under Miss Blakes chair.
It's big and fat and hairy
And she doesn't know it's there.

I watch it roam the carpet
And imagine what she'll do.
I wonder, should I tell her
It's crawling around her shoe?

Miss Blake continues the story,
The spider continues to crawl.
It slowly creeps up the chair leg
Miss Blake hasn't noticed at all.

The eight hairy legs wiggle wildly
As it sneaks into the folds of her dress.
Miss Blake's still reading the story,
The spider climbs up to her chest.

She screams,
She shouts,
We leap about.
The spider shoots through the air.

There's a spider in the classroom,
Miss Blake is stood upon her chair.
We don't know where it has gone
But everyone knows it's there.

Class 903 - Year 4: *The Colours Live* by Mary O'Neill

The colours live
Between black and white
In a land that we
Know best by sight.

But knowing best
Isn't everything
For colours dance
And colours sing

And colours laugh
And colours cry
Turn off the light
And colours die,

And they make you feel
Every feeling there is
From the grumpiest grump
To the fizziest fizz.

And you and you and I
Know well
Each has a taste
And each has a smell
And each has a wonderful
Story to tell.

Class 904 - Year 5: *The School Caretaker* by Brian Pattern

In the corner of the playground
Down dark and slimy stairs,
Lived a monster with a big nose
Full of curly hairs.

He had a bunch of keyrings
Carved out of little boys,
He confiscated comics
And all our favourite toys.

He wore a greasy uniform,
Looked like an undertaker,
More scary than a horror film,
He was the school caretaker.

I left the school some years ago;
Saw him again the other day.
He looked rather sad and old
Shuffling on his way.

It's funny when you grow up
How grown-ups start growing down,
And the snarls upon their faces
Are no more than a frown.

In the corner of the playground
Down dark and slimy stairs,
Sit a lonely little man
With a nose full of curly hairs

Class 904 - Year 5: *The Creature in the Classroom* by Jack Prelutsky

It appeared inside our classroom
at a quarter after ten,
it gobbled up the blackboard,
three erasers and a pen.
It gobbled teacher's apple
and it bopped her with the core.
"How dare you!" she responded.
"You must leave us . . . there's the door."

The Creature didn't listen
but described an arabesque
as it gobbled all her pencils,
seven notebooks and her desk.
Teacher stated very calmly,
"Sir! You simply cannot stay,
I'll report you to the principal
unless you go away!"

But the thing continued eating,
it ate paper, swallowed ink,
as it gobbled up our homework
I believe I saw it wink.
Teacher finally lost her temper.
"OUT!" she shouted at the creature.
The creature hopped beside her
and GLOPP . . . it gobbled teacher.

Class 904 - Year 5: *Football in the Rain* by David Orme

It's drizzling.

'Football practice!'

'Oh, sir!

Do we have to?'

We look hopefully at Mr Tompkins,

But he says,

'Don't be such babies!'

So out we go.

It's raining harder.

We all start to moan,

'Can't we go in, sir?'

We're getting soaked!'

But Mr Tompkins is not impressed.

'Tough. Get on with it!'

He says, putting up his umbrella

And retreating to the touchline.

It's coming down in buckets.

There are puddles all over the pitch

And the rest is just mud.

Eddy falls over

And comes up looking like

The Mud Monster from Hell.

We all start falling over,

Because we all want to look like that.

It's really chucking it down.

Mr Tompkins gets rain in his whistle.

Gurgle-gurgle-PHEEEP!

'Everybody in!'

We start moaning again.

'Oh, sir!

Do we have to?'



NORTH LONDON FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, SPEECH & DRAMA

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For venues, a full list of competitions and an online entry form, visit

www.northlondonfestival.org.uk