

The Alexandra College

Festival of Poetry and Drama 2025

DramFest 2025



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DramFest 2025

Welcome to our 21st Alexandra College Festival of Poetry and Drama.

DramFest has been an annual event since 2004 and so this year we celebrate 21 wonderful years.

The festival was introduced to our busy drama year as a way of giving the students an opportunity to perform in front of an audience. The many competitions have allowed parents and friends to come and see what the girls have been working on throughout the year and have showcased some fantastic work.

This year Dramfest is part of our newly established MAD Festival in the college. This two week festival is designed to celebrate the arts in Alexandra College, placing the work of the Music, Art and Drama Departments front and centre. Our competition weekend (Feis) will take place over Saturday and Sunday the **1st and 2nd of March**. The competition timetable and competitor lists will be available one week prior to that. All students who take classes in Public Speaking and Speech and Drama in school will be taking part and we hope that as many parents, guardians and friends as possible, will come and watch the students perform. We would love to have your support.

This year, as previously, the first round of the competitions will take place over the full day on Saturday and then again on Sunday morning. Final rounds will begin once all the first-round competitions have taken place and then our awards ceremony will follow at 5.30pm on Sunday afternoon.

The competitions cover the following: solo drama, drama duologues, public speaking, poetry speaking, improv, Shakespeare, classical pieces and so on. This year we are delighted to be able to return again to our group entries, the 'unseen self-directed script competition' for 3rd – 6th years.

Our adjudicators this year are all highly experienced examiners and adjudicators and have worked both internationally and at home. We are delighted to welcome back Mrs. Maeve O'Donoghue as our head adjudicator and she will be joined by Ms. Anna Walker, Mrs. Evelyn O'Sullivan and Mrs. Frances Harney.

Please add the dates to your diary as we would love for you to come and join us over the two days and see the wonderful work the girls have been preparing.

Lynn Brehony Head of Department

Junior School Competitions

Entry to the Alexandra College Festival of Poetry and Drama 2025, is **optional** for Junior School drama and public speaking students, but we would encourage them to take part in this very enjoyable festival. It is a fantastic opportunity for parents to come and see them perform and is so good for developing their confidence.

At the end of each competition the adjudicator will award a first prize, second prize, third prize and highly commended (depending on the number in the competition). A report on their performance will be given to each entrant.

Entry forms must be filled in and returned, along with the correct entry fee, by **Wednesday 12th February**. Please place the money or cheque (cheques made out to Alexandra College) in an envelope with the student's name and class on the front, for the attention of their drama teacher.

All Junior School competitions and categories, cost €10 per entry. The cost of entry goes towards covering the adjudicators' fees, medals and certificates.

Junior School Competitions by Year

J2 Students

Category No. JS2/P

Poetry Speaking

Own Choice

The students will perform a poem of their own choosing from their recent drama exam.

J3 Students

Category No. JS3/P

Poetry Speaking

Own Choice

The students will perform a poem of their own choosing from their recent drama exam.

J4 Students

Category No. JS4/P

Poetry Speaking

Own Choice

The students will perform a poem of their own choosing from their recent drama exam.

Category No. JS4/5/M

Mime (*with J5*)

Own Choice

The students will perform a mime that they have created for their recent drama exam.

J5 Students

Category No. JS5/P **Poetry Speaking** Own Choice

The students will perform a poem from their recent drama or public speaking exam.

Category No. JS4/5/M **Mime (*with J4*)** Own Choice

The students will perform a mime that they have created for their recent drama exam.

Category No. JS5/6/D **Solo Drama (*with J6*)** Own Choice

The students will perform a piece of drama of their own choosing, from their recent drama exam.

Category No. JS5/6/PS **Public Speaking (*with J6*)** Own Choice

Students may deliver a speech about their favourite movie from their recent public speaking exam.

J6 Students

Category No. JS6/P **Poetry Speaking** Own Choice

The students will perform a poem from their recent drama or public speaking exam.

Category No. JS5/6/D **Solo Drama (*with J5*)** Own Choice

The students will perform a piece of drama of their own choosing, from their recent drama exam.

Category No. JS5/6/PS **Public Speaking (*with J5*)** Own Choice

Students may deliver their formal or informal speech from their recent public speaking exam.

Senior School Competitions

All Drama and Public Speaking students *must* enter at least one competition, but *may* enter as many as they wish. It is not *compulsory* for 6th year students, although we would encourage them to enter as they have a number of pieces in their repertoire from this year's Certificate Exam, that would be wonderful entries.

First and second year students will compete against other students in their year groups. Other year groups may be combined eg: 3rd/TY or 5th/6th etc, depending on the number of entrants in each competition. If entries are large for some competitions, they will be divided into two eg: '2nd Year Solo Drama Groups A & B'. At the end of each competition the adjudicator will award a first prize, second prize, third prize and highly commended (depending on the number in the category). A report on the competitor's performance will be given to each entrant in the case of solo competitions, or one report to the group or pair in the case of duologues and group improv or scenes.

As with last year's DramFest, there will be a number of competitions where students who place first or second in their competitions will be asked to go forward to compete in a competition final. In the case of the comedy prize final, competitors for these final rounds are *nominated by the adjudicators of each competition*. From these finals we will award our overall festival prizes.

Entry forms must be filled in and returned to their drama or public speaking teacher, along with the correct entry fee, by **Wednesday 5th February**. Please place the money in an envelope with the student's name and year on the front, for attention of their drama/public speaking teacher.

****Poetry Speaking Competitions, Solo and Duo Drama and Prepared Speech competitions, cost €12 per entry.***

****Group Improv and Group Unseen Scripted competitions cost €5 per member of the group.***

The cost of entry goes towards covering the adjudicators' fees and the purchase of certificates, medals and overall awards.

Details of the overall awards are given on the next page.

Festival 2025 Overall Awards

Junior Poetry Prize:	Years 1-3 Awarded to a student in 1 st to 3 rd year for exemplary poetry speaking
Junior Solo Drama Prize:	Years 1-3 Awarded to a student in 1 st to 3 rd year for her performance of a drama solo.
Junior Drama Duo Prize:	Years 1-3 Awarded to a pair of students for their performance in a duologue competition.
Junior Comedy Prize:	Years 1-3 Awarded to any person or group from 1 st -3 rd year, for a comedy performance in poetry speaking, solo drama, or drama duologue.
Junior Adjudicators Prize:	Years 1-3 for <i>any</i> performance/performer that the adjudicators wish to highlight.
Junior Shakespeare Prize:	This award is presented to the winner of the Junior Shakespeare Competition
Junior Public Speaker:	Years 1-3 Awarded to the best overall speaker
Senior Poetry Prize:	Years 4-6 Awarded to a student in 4 th to 6 th year for exemplary poetry speaking.
Senior Solo Drama Prize:	Years 4-6 Awarded to a student/students in 4 th to 6 th year for their performance of a drama solo.
Senior Drama Duo Prize:	Years 4-6 Awarded to a pair of students for their performance in a duologue competition
Senior Comedy Prize:	Years 4-6 Awarded to any person or group from 4 th to 6 th year, for performance in poetry speaking, solo drama or drama duologue.
Senior Adjudicators Prize:	Years 4-6 for <i>any</i> performance that the adjudicators wish to highlight.
Shakespeare Cup:	This cup is awarded to the winner of The Senior Shakespeare Competition.

LSMD Shield:

Senior Public Speaking Prize, years 4-6.

The Pat McHugh Cup for Outstanding Performance

This is our top prize for the student who has stood out to the adjudicators over the two days of competitions.

First Year Competitions

Comp. No. SS1/P	Poetry Speaking	Set Poetry Selections
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There are three **set poems** of which you must choose one to learn for the competition. These set poems are for both Speech and Drama *and* Public Speaking students.

1. The Day I Got My Finger Stuck Up My Nose by Brian Patten
2. The Land Of Blue by Laura Much
3. Amelia Earhart by Mandy Coe

Comp. No. SS1/D	Solo Drama	Own Choice
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Time limit for this competition is ***no more than 3 minutes***, including the time needed to set up. Costume may be worn for this competition. Basic props allowed.

Comp. No. SS1/DD	Drama Duologue	Own Choice
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Time limit for this competition is ***no more than 4 minutes***, including the time needed to set up. The duologues should be fully costumed and care should be taken to use whatever props are required.

Comp. No. SS1/Imp	Group Improvisation	Min 3/Max 5 To A Group
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Title will be given 10 minutes before you perform. No hand-held props, no costume. The performance must last ***no more than 4 minutes***. The names of the students in a group must be added to entry form at time of entry and other students may not be substituted closer to the time of the competition.

Comp. No. SS1/PS	Prepared Speech	Choice of Three Topics
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Time limit for this competition is **2-3 minutes**. This includes setting-up time if visual aids are being used. Competitors may use note cards for prompting if they wish, but the speech should not be written out in full.

Contd.

There are three set topics for this public speaking competition. Students should choose one of the following titles.

1. Don't judge a book by its cover
2. A day I will always remember
3. Zoos should be banned

Comp. No. SS1/GI

Group Impromptu

Min 2/Max 3 To A Group

The title of this speech will be given to the group 10 minutes before you will speak. The speech should be 2-3 minutes in duration and should show an equal sharing of the delivery between the participants. The names of the students in the group should be added to the entry form at time of entry and other students may not be substituted closer to the time of the competition, unless agreed by the teacher.

*Please note that there will be no access to the internet on mobile phones or iPads during preparation time. The student should bring note cards with them to help with prompting when it is their time to deliver their speech.

Second Year Competitions

Comp. No. SS2/P	Poetry Speaking	Set Poetry Selections
	There are three <u>set poems</u> of which you must choose one to learn for the competition. These set poems are for both Speech and Drama <i>and</i> Public Speaking students. 1. At the End of the School Day by Wes Magee 2. Daybreak by Galway Kinnell 3. Four Leaf Clover by Ella Higginson	
Comp. No. SS2/D	Solo Drama	Own Choice
	Time limit for this competition is <i>no more than 3 minutes</i>, including the time needed to set up. Costume may be worn for this competition. Basic props allowed.	
Comp. No. SS2/DD	Drama Duologue	Own Choice
	Time limit for this competition is <i>no more than 5 minutes</i>, including the time needed to set up. The duologues should be <u>fully costumed</u> and care should be taken to use whatever props are required.	
Comp. No. SS2/GI	Group Improvisation	Min 3/Max 5 To A Group
	Title will be given 10 minutes before you perform. No hand-held props, no costume. The performance must last <i>no more than 4 minutes</i>. The names of the students in a group must be added to entry form at time of entry and other students may not be substituted closer to the time of the competition.	
Comp. No. SS2/PS	Prepared Speech	Choice of Three Topics
	Time limit for this competition is 2-3 minutes. This includes setting-up time if visual aids are being used. Competitors may use note cards for prompting if they wish, but the speech should not be written out in full. <i>Contd.</i>	

There are three set topics for this public speaking competition. Students should choose one of the following titles.

1. Can one person make a difference to climate change?
2. People who have changed the world.
3. Beauty is only skin deep

Comp. No. SS2/GIM Group Impromptu Min 2/Max 3 To A Group

The title of this speech will be given to the group 10 minutes before you will speak. The speech should be 2-3 minutes in duration and should show an equal sharing of the delivery between the participants. The names of the students in the group should be added to the entry form at time of entry and other students may not be substituted closer to the time of the competition, unless agreed by the teacher.

*Please note that there will be no access to the internet on mobile phones or iPads during preparation time. The student should bring note cards with them to help with prompting when it is their time to deliver their speech.

Third Year Competitions

Comp. No. SS3/P

Poetry Speaking

Set Poetry Selections

There are four **set poems** of which you must choose one to learn for the competition. These set poems are for both Speech and Drama *AND* Public Speaking students.

1. The Summer Day by Mary Oliver
2. Today by Billy Collins
3. Escape at Bedtime by Robert Louis Stevenson
4. Young Poem by Anne Sexton

Comp. No. SS3/S

Sonnet Competition

Set Poetry Selections

There are five **sonnets** of which you must choose one to learn for the competition. These set poems are for both Speech and Drama *AND* Public Speaking students from 3rd – 6th year.

1. Glanmore Sonnet X By Seamus Heaney
2. Remember By Christina Rossetti
3. The Snowing of the Pines By Thomas Wentworth Higginson
4. How Do I Love Thee By Elizabeth Barrett Browning
5. Sonnet By Billy Collins

Comp. No. SS3/D

Solo Drama

Own Choice

Time limit for this competition is ***no more than 3 minutes***, including the time needed to set up. Costume may be worn for this competition. Basic props allowed.

Comp. No. SS3/DD

Drama Duologue

Own Choice

Time limit for this competition is ***no more than 5 minutes***, including the time needed to set up. The duologues should be fully costumed and care should be taken to use whatever props are required.

Comp. No. SS3/GI Group Improvisation Min 3/Max 4 To A Group

Topic will be given 10 minutes before you perform. No hand-held props, no costume. The performance must last ***no more than 5 minutes***. The names of the students in a group must be added to entry form at time of entry and other students may not be substituted closer to the time of the competition.

Comp. No. SS3/JuS Junior Shakespeare Own Choice

Open to students from 3rd and 4th year. The student can choose any suitable extract from a Shakespearean play. **This extract must be strictly no longer than 25 lines.**

*Costume ***should*** be worn for period pieces, but a 'hint' of the period is enough (be creative). Props should be used where available.

Comp. No. SS3/GUS Unseen Scripted Drama Min 3/Max 4 To a Group

Self-directed scripted drama. The extract from a play will be given to each group at 2pm on Friday 1st March. Each group will have until Sunday to research, direct and rehearse the scene. All work must be undertaken by the group themselves and they will have no access to their drama teachers. Scripts may be held in hand when performing in the competition.

Comp. No. SS3/PS

Prepared Speech
(with TYs)

Own Choice Topic

The topic of the speech should be about an Historical Event of your own choice. Time limit for this competition is ***max 4 minutes***. This includes setting-up time if visual aids are being used. Competitors may use note cards for prompting if they wish, but the speech should not be written out in full.

Comp. No. SS3/SIM

Solo Impromptu

The title of this speech will be given to the student 10 minutes before you will speak. The speech should be ***2-3 minutes in duration***

*Please note that there will be no access to the internet on mobile phones or iPads during preparation time. The student should bring note cards with them to help with prompting when it is their time to deliver their speech.

Transition Year Competitions

Comp. No. SS4/P

Poetry Speaking

Set Poetry Selections

There are four set poems of which you must choose one to learn for the competition. These set poems are for both Speech and Drama *AND* Public Speaking students.

1. The Summer Day by Mary Oliver
2. Today by Billy Collins
3. Escape at Bedtime by Robert Louis Stevenson
4. Young Poem by Anne Sexton

Comp. No. SS4/S

Sonnet Competition

Set Poetry Selections

There are five sonnets of which you must choose one to learn for the competition. These set poems are for both Speech and Drama *AND* Public Speaking students from 3rd – 6th year.

1. Glanmore Sonnet X By Seamus Heaney
2. Remember By Christina Rossetti
3. The Snowing of the Pines By Thomas Wentworth Higginson
4. How Do I Love Thee By Elizabeth Barrett Browning
5. Sonnet By Billy Collins

Comp. No. SS4/D

Solo Drama

Own Choice

Time limit for this competition is *no more than 4 minutes*, including the time needed to set up. Costume may be worn for this competition. Basic props allowed.

Comp. No. SS4/DD

Drama Duologue

Own Choice

Time limit for this competition is *no more than 5 minutes*, including the time needed to set up. The duologues should be fully costumed and care should be taken to use whatever props are required.

Comp. No. SS4/GI Group Improvisation Min 3/Max 4 To A Group

Topic will be given 10 minutes before you perform. No hand-held props, no costume. The performance must last ***no more than 5 minutes***. The names of the students in a group must be added to entry form at time of entry and other students may not be substituted closer to the time of the competition.

Comp. No. SS4/JuS Junior Shakespeare Own Choice

Open to students from 3rd and 4th year. The student can choose any suitable extract from a Shakespearean play. **This extract must be strictly no longer than 25 lines.**

*Costume ***should*** be worn for period pieces, but a 'hint' of the period is enough (be creative). Props should be used where available.

Comp. No. SS4/CD Classical Solo Drama* Own Choice

Selected from Ancient Greek – 1930, ***no more than 5 minutes*** in length, including the time needed to set up. Open to students from 4th, 5th and 6th year. ***Competitors must give a brief introduction to their piece to set the context for the audience.**

*Costume ***should*** be worn for period pieces, but a 'hint' of the period is enough (be creative). Props should be used where available.

Comp. No. SS4/GUS Unseen Scripted Drama Min 3/Max 4 To a Group

Self-directed scripted drama. The extract from a play will be given to each group at 2pm on Friday 1st March. Each group will have until Sunday to research, direct and rehearse the scene. All work must be undertaken by the group themselves and they will have no access to their drama teachers. Scripts may be held in hand when performing in the competition.

TY Comps Contd.

Comp. No. SS4/PS

Prepared Speech

Own Choice Topic

The topic of the speech should be about an Historical Event of your own choice. Time limit for this competition is ***max 4 minutes***. This includes setting-up time if visual aids are being used. Competitors may use note cards for prompting if they wish, but the speech should not be written out in full.

Comp. No. SS4/SIM

Solo Impromptu

The title of this speech will be given to the student 10 minutes before you will speak. The speech should be no more than ***3 minutes in duration***

*Please note that there will be no access to the internet on mobile phones or iPads during preparation time. The student should bring note cards with them to help with prompting when it is their time to deliver their speech.

Fifth Year Competitions

Comp. No. SS5/P

Poetry Speaking
(with 6th years)

Own Choice or Set Work

Fifth and Sixth Year have a choice for their Senior Poetry Competition. They may choose either:

- One of three set poems
- A poem from their LC English Syllabus
- (in the case of 6th yrs) The poem from their Senior Certificate Exam Recital

This poetry option is for both Speech and Drama *AND* Public Speaking students. The three set poems are:

1. Small Kindnesses by Danusha Lameris
2. To a Daughter Leaving Home by Linda Pastan
3. Solitude by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Comp. No. SS5/S

Sonnet Competition

Set Poetry Selections

There are five sonnets of which you must choose one to learn for the competition. These set poems are for both Speech and Drama *AND* Public Speaking students from 3rd – 6th year.

1. Glanmore Sonnet X By Seamus Heaney
2. Remember By Christina Rossetti
3. The Snowing of the Pines By Thomas Wentworth Higginson
4. How Do I Love Thee By Elizabeth Barrett Browning
5. Sonnet By Billy Collins

Comp. No. SS5/D

Solo Drama

Own Choice

Time limit for this competition is *no more than 5 minutes*, including the time needed to set up. Costume may be worn for this competition. Basic props allowed.

Comp. No. SS5/DD	Drama Duologue	Own Choice
	Time limit for this competition is <i>no more than 8 minutes</i> , including the time needed to set up. The duologues should be <u>fully costumed</u> and care should be taken to use whatever props are required.	
Comp. No. SS5/PGI	Pair/Group Improvisation	2-3 To a Group
	Topic will be given 10 minutes before you perform. No hand-held props, no costume. The performance must last <i>no more than 3-4 minutes</i> .	
Comp. No. SS5/SS	Senior Shakespeare*	Own Choice
	The speech performed must be no more than <i>5 minutes in length</i> , including the time needed to set up. <u>*Competitors must give a brief introduction to their piece to set the context for the audience.</u>	
Comp. No. SS5/CD	Classical Solo Drama*	Own Choice
	Selected from Ancient Greek – 1930, <i>no more than 5 minutes</i> in length, including the time needed to set up. Open to students from 4 th , 5 th and 6 th year. <u>*Competitors must give a brief introduction to their piece to set the context for the audience.</u>	
*Costume <i>should</i> be worn for period pieces, but a ‘hint’ of the period is enough (be creative). Props should be used where available.		
Comp. No. SS5/GUS	Unseen Scripted Drama	Min 3/Max 4 To a Group
	Self-directed scripted drama. The extract from a play will be given to each group at 2pm on Friday 1 st March. Each group will have until Sunday to research, direct and rehearse the scene. All work must be undertaken by the group themselves and they will have no access to their drama teachers. Scripts may be held in hand when performing in the competition.	

Comp. No. SS5/PS

Prepared Speech

Own Choice Topic

The topic of the speech should be a moral/ethical issue of your own choice. Time limit for this competition is ***max 4 minutes***. This includes setting-up time if visual aids are being used. Competitors may use note cards for prompting if they wish, but the speech should not be written out in full.

Comp. No. SS5/SIM

Solo Impromptu

The title of this speech will be given to the student 10 minutes before you will speak. The speech should be no more than ***3 minutes in duration***

*Please note that there will be no access to the internet on mobile phones or iPads during preparation time. The student should bring note cards with them to help with prompting when it is their time to deliver their speech.

Sixth Year Competitions

Comp. No. SS6/P

Poetry Speaking

Own Choice or Set Work

Fifth and Sixth Year have a choice for their Senior Poetry Competition. They may choose either:

- One of three set poems
- A poem from their LC English Syllabus
- (*in the case of 6th yrs*) The poem from their Senior Certificate Exam Recital

This poetry option is for both Speech and Drama *and* Public Speaking students. The three set poems are:

1. Small Kindnesses by Danusha Lameris
2. To a Daughter Leaving Home by Linda Pastan
3. Solitude by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Comp. No. SS6/S

Sonnet Competition

Set Poetry Selections

There are five sonnets of which you must choose one to learn for the competition. These set poems are for both Speech and Drama *AND* Public Speaking students from 3rd – 6th year.

1. Glanmore Sonnet X By Seamus Heaney
2. Remember By Christina Rossetti
3. The Snowing of the Pines By Thomas Wentworth Higginson
4. How Do I Love Thee By Elizabeth Barrett Browning
5. Sonnet By Billy Collins

Comp. No. SS6/D

Solo Drama

Own Choice

Time limit for this competition is *no more than 5 minutes*, including the time needed to set up. Costume may be worn for this competition. Basic props allowed.

Comp. No. SS6/DD	Drama Duologue	Own Choice
	Time limit for this competition is <i>no more than 8 minutes</i> , including the time needed to set up. The duologues should be <u>fully costumed</u> and care should be taken to use whatever props are required.	
Comp. No. SS6/PGI	Pair/Group Improvisation	2-3 To a Group
	Topic will be given 10 minutes before you perform. No hand-held props, no costume. The performance must last <i>no more than 3-4 minutes</i> .	
Comp. No. SS6/SS	Senior Shakespeare*	Own Choice
	The speech performed must be no more than <i>5 minutes in length</i> , including the time needed to set up. <u>*Competitors must give a brief introduction to their piece to set the context for the audience.</u>	
Comp. No. SS6/CD	Classical Solo Drama*	Own Choice
	Selected from Ancient Greek – 1930, <i>no more than 5 minutes</i> in length, including the time needed to set up. Open to students from 4 th , 5 th and 6 th year. <u>*Competitors must give a brief introduction to their piece to set the context for the audience.</u>	
*Costume <i>should</i> be worn for period pieces, but a ‘hint’ of the period is enough (be creative). Props should be used where available.		
Comp. No. SS6/GUS	Unseen Scripted Drama	Min 3/Max 4 To a Group
	Self-directed scripted drama. The extract from a play will be given to each group at 2pm on Friday 1 st March. Each group will have until Sunday to research, direct and rehearse the scene. All work must be undertaken by the group themselves and they will have no access to their drama teachers. Scripts may be held in hand when performing in the competition.	

Comp. No. SS6/PS

Prepared Speech

Own Choice Topic

The topic of the speech should be a moral/ethical issue of your own choice. Time limit for this competition is ***max 4 minutes***. This includes setting-up time if visual aids are being used. Competitors may use note cards for prompting if they wish, but the speech should not be written out in full.

Comp. No. SS6/SIM

Solo Impromptu

The title of this speech will be given to the student 10 minutes before you will speak. The speech should be no more than ***3 minutes in duration***

*Please note that there will be no access to the internet on mobile phones or iPads during preparation time. The student should bring note cards with them to help with prompting when it is their time to deliver their speech.

