

National Performing Arts Competition 2026

Performing Arts

Up to Entry Level 3



Timeline of Events

Performing Arts students are invited to take part in a national competition held at Derwen College, in Shropshire, on Friday 19 June 2026.

- Applications welcome: Monday 8 December 2025–Friday 20 February 2026.
- Successful entries will be informed by Friday 27 March 2026 and must be available for the live final on Friday 19 June 2026.

Entry Requirements

- Competition is open to all Performing Arts students from colleges of Further and Specialist education, and aged 16–25
- Competition is open for learners working at Entry Level 3 and below
- Categories: Solo Performance Piece and/or Group Performance Piece

Competition Task

Competitors are invited to take part in an exciting new national Performing Arts competition hosted by Derwen College. Performance skills such as singing, dancing, or playing an instrument are just some of the styles of performance which could be showcased within the competition.

Format of written submission of expression of interest to include:

- Name of performer (solo category)
- Name of performance group (group category)
- Contact for lead of the performers
- Additional requirements

Finalists will be invited to Derwen College to compete live in front of a panel of judges on Friday 19 June 2026

Music for the performance must be supplied by the entrant – Bluetooth connection available or must be suitable for AUX device

Clean version of music must be supplied – no swearing.

Marking and Assessment

Judging will be marked against the following criteria:

- Technique
- Presentation

**A place of
possibility**

- Creativity
- Preparation
- Overall performance

Negative marking will be given for exceeding 4 minutes.

Additional Information

- Competitors will receive a Health and Safety briefing at the start of the competition.
- Competitors will start and finish work as instructed by the judges.
- Competitors will perform at a timed slot given on the day.
- Competitors will perform in their category – performance must be no longer than 4 minutes.
- Three entries per category from each provision is accepted (individual students can enter as a solo and be involved in a group performance entry).
- No staff to be involved within the performance, however coaching away from performance space is allowed.
- General props and gymnastic mats are allowed – please ensure this is indicated on entry form.
- Competitors who arrive late for the event will not receive additional time.
- The judges' decision is final.
- Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed competitors in each performance category, all others will be awarded a certificate of participation
- Photographs taken during the event, may be used for marketing/publicity purposes. Students and staff attending the competition will be required to complete a form to confirm or deny consent to use their image.
- Competitors must only receive agreed support that is outlined in their support statement. Support that is deemed to be outside that declared in the support statement could result in the competitor being disqualified from the competition
- Spectators / members of the audience are expected to treat all competitors with respect and refrain from making unnecessary noise or movement during the performances. However, once performances are complete, cheering and encouragement are very welcome.

Contact Details

For any further information, please contact Jessie Vaughan, Pathway Lead for Performing Arts at Derwen College: 01691 661234