



## WELCOME BACK !

**It's a new school year, filled with exciting and creative possibilities and we're really looking forward to examining your students.**



### Syllabus Changes

We've made some substantial changes to our Communication Skills syllabus, to add more variety and freshen it up. We've also added some Preliminary Grades to our popular Reading Examinations. There are some other minor changes here and there so please make sure you read through the syllabus carefully.

### Notice of Exams

As soon as you have set the date(s) for your exams, please let us know so that we can pencil it in to our exam diary. The minimum notice that we can accept is one month. At busy times (especially just before Easter and in the Summer term generally) it would be easier for us if you gave us 6 - 8 week's notice, or more if you can.

### Examination Dates

We do our best to make sure that we examine your candidates on your first preferred date. As the Board grows however, this might not always be possible, especially at particularly busy times. Please ALWAYS supply an alternative date.

### Entry Forms

Please use the Entry Forms. They make the administration of the exams easier for us and minimise the risk of confusion and misunderstanding. We supply a set with the syllabus. If

you need more, just contact us, or download them from our website.

### Diploma Date

To avoid clashing with Christmas parties in our preferred venue, the end-of-year Diploma exams will be held on 29 NOVEMBER 2009, in the Stillorgan Park Hotel, Co Dublin. All new and continuing candidates need to have their Entry Forms submitted to us by 1 November at the very latest. Please ensure that candidates are familiar with the eligibility requirements for these exams.

### Theory for Grade Exams

We've had 'Grade Theory: a concise guide' on our publications list for years. You can now download it for **FREE** from our website. You can also download (again for **FREE**) a very useful guide to Irish Board Grade Theory written by Deirdre Galassi and Finola Ryan, called 'Assistance with Theory for the Irish Board Grade and Proficiency Examinations'. Either of both of these publications will contain all the information your students need to know for exams up to proficiency level. You'll find the downloads in the Publications section of our website .





## New Books

Patricia Reynolds has published a new book of plays for children and young people: **Showcase 2**. There are 8 plays for young people from Junior Infants age to 2nd Class and above, including two in Irish. Costume suggestions and stage directions are included. A steal at €23 (inc. p&p).

Deirdre Galassi, Imelda Byrne and Finola Ryan have also made some key revisions to their theory books (Theory Notes for Speech and Drama, Books 1 and 2).

Details of all our publications can be found from page 40 in the new Syllabus. All books are on display in our office too.

## Irish Board on Facebook

We now have a Facebook page and we're going to use it for news, developments, ideas and updates. There's a button on the About Us page on our website which will bring you directly to it whether or not you are a Facebook member. If you're a Facebook member, please become a fan to get notification of updates to the Board's page.

## YouTube Channel

We're on YouTube too. If you know about YouTube, you'll be aware what a fantastic resource it can be. If not, then visit our channel at [www.youtube.com/user/theirishboard](http://www.youtube.com/user/theirishboard) (there's a link to it on the About Us page on our website, which will save you having to type in the address).

On the Irish Board's channel you'll find short videos about masks, mime, movement, puppets and lots more. And the start of a big collection of poetry readings. Wait till you hear Sylvia Plath reading her own poems – stunning! Or Seamus Heaney explaining the background to some of his poems. Or Jeremy Irons reading *The Daffodils*. Or Richard Burton as the First Voice in *Under Milk Wood*. Explore and enjoy. We'll update it with more stuff when we have time so do check back.

## Irish Board Resource Centre

Please do visit the office. We'd love to see you, make you coffee and offer you our biscuits. We have over 500 books on poetry, mime, stage direction, the voice, drama, public speaking and so on. Our library catalogue is on our website (Publications section). Just contact us before you come to make sure we'll be here. While we can't lend out books, you are free to browse. There's a map showing where we are, on the Contact Us page of our website and you can download written directions from there too.

## IDAC

IDAC (the Institute of Drama and Communication) is the association of speech, drama and communication teachers in Ireland.

IDAC holds about 4 workshops a year, a festival of Speech & Drama, and numerous other events all aimed at keeping teachers up to date with happenings in the field of Speech, Drama and Communication. If you work in the field of Speech, Drama and Communication, IDAC is a useful organisation to join. IDAC members benefit from discount insurance, workshops with personalised notes aimed at class room environments and, best of all, general help and advice for teachers. Previous workshops have been facilitated by James Dodding, Tom Doherty, Siobhan Parkinson, Eric Weitz, Jonathan Neelands and Betty Ann Norton, with recitals by Paula Meehan and a host of others.

For further information visit [www.idac.ie](http://www.idac.ie). If you want to enquire about membership please send an e-mail to David Meredith (an IDAC Board member) at [join@idac.ie](mailto:join@idac.ie)

## Talk to us

Don't forget, we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions whatsoever about the exams and we'll give you our best advice.

