

The Curtain Opens ...

... on another new school year, one full of promise and creative possibilities. Another year of helping young people to exercise their creative muscles, grow in confidence and enhance their skills. We wish you a most successful year and look forward to meeting your candidates.

Booking Examination Dates

The more notice you can give us of your proposed examination date(s) the better. As soon as you've set a date (and have checked it against school calendars/ Communion and Confirmation dates), please contact us, even if it's three or four months in advance. We will then treat this as a provisional booking.

Remember that either side of the Easter Holidays, and April, May and June are our busiest times and that, if you leave it until the last minute to try and book a date at these times, we may not be able to accommodate you.

Entry Forms

Entry Forms are a must. We have designed them carefully to provide all the information we need to administer your exams.

Entry Forms are enclosed with your syllabus and you may photocopy them if you wish. All Entry Forms are also available on www.irishboard.ie. Otherwise, phone or email us and we'll be more than happy to post you a supply.

Bookings will only be CONFIRMED once we have received completed and signed entry forms. Entry Forms MUST be received in the Irish Board office NO LATER than one calendar month prior to the proposed date of the examination. They may be posted or scanned and emailed to us. Unfortunately, we can no longer confirm bookings on the basis of a phone call, text or email.

Examination Regulations

In the Irish Board we try to keep the rules and bureaucracy to a minimum. Some rules are necessary to enable us to be as flexible as we are in relation to dates and other matters.

Our Examination Regulations are on p11 of the Syllabus.
Please read them carefully.



dramabooks.ie

On www.dramabooks.ie, our one-stop shop for drama resources you will find all our publications and CDs – short plays, monologues, duologues, teachers' handbooks, theory books, Movement to Music and Theory CDs.

There are some new books in our Solos and Theory sections will worth having a look at.

Please drop in and browse.



New Books

Looking for some new solos/monologues? Take a look at 'Contemporary Monologues', compiled by Deirdre Galassi and now available from the Solos section of www.dramabooks.ie.

Also newly available: completely revised and much expanded **Licentiate Diploma (Teaching) Theory Guidelines** in 2 volumes, available separately or as a set.

Diploma Examinations

In our Syllabus we provide a lot of information and guidance to candidates and their teachers in relation to what they are required to study and know for their exams, especially the written ones.

The full range of our Diploma Exams can be found from p36 of the Syllabus.

Please refer to the eligibility criteria for entry to our Diploma examinations prior to applying. You will find the current eligibility criteria in the Downloads section of our website.

Entry Forms and sample exam papers from previous years' Associate and Licentiate exams are available from our website:

www.irishboard.ie

Diploma Examination Dates

The November 2012 Diploma session will take place on Sunday 25 November 2012 in the Stillorgan Park Hotel and the June 2013 session on Sunday 9 June 2013.

Reading Exams

Our Reading exams are designed to encourage young people to read aloud fluently, confidently and expressively and are an effective introduction to exams for children who haven't yet developed the confidence to try Grade, Communication Skills or other exams in the syllabus. They also encourage young people to read real books! They have become very popular with many teachers, and parents seem to like them too.

Why Do Speech and Drama?

Speech, drama and communication activities contribute to the personal, social, intellectual and creative development of children, young people and adults, by opening up avenues for the appreciation of drama, literature and poetry, providing a structured framework for creative expression, and giving technical support and guidance for improved skills in communication.

Speech, drama and communication activities such as drama games, exercises in movement and mime, verse and prose speaking, improvisation and creative drama, public speaking, and participating in scripted drama help to develop critical skills such as:

- working collaboratively with others
- enhancing general communication skills and clarity
- non-verbal communication
- listening, speaking, concentrating and observing
- creative thinking
- enhancing self-expression, self-confidence and self-esteem
- using movement and gesture to communicate emotion, character and context
- creating and sustaining fictional roles
- interacting with others in a fictional setting
- presentation skills

- improvisational and role-playing skills
- reflecting on and appreciating literature and drama

Irish Board of Speech and Drama examinations provide:

- an objective assessment of the attainment of skills and experience, measured against established criteria
- an independent and professional evaluation of progress
- positive critical feedback and guidance for future development
- an opportunity to develop self-confidence and self-esteem in a safe environment
- certification of achievement

www.irishboard.ie

On www.irishboard.ie, you'll find the Syllabus, Entry Forms, Fees, free Theory Books, Lyric poem suggestions, Diploma past papers, and links to our other sites and other resources. You'll also find up to date news in our News section and some items that we feel you might be interested in, in our Blog.



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 www.irishboard.ie. 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 our web site and you can download written directions from there too.

Keep in Touch

If you have any questions at all or are looking for advice on any of our exams, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone or email (see below).

Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland

Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland is the association of speech, drama and communication teachers in Ireland and is well worth joining if you work in the field of Speech, Drama and Communication. You can find them at: www.speechanddramateachersofireland.ie. They also have a Facebook page, a link to which you'll find on their main website.