



A NEW YEAR

We hope you are keeping safe and well in these uncertain times. We were so inspired and impressed by the positivity and creativity shown by speech and drama teachers over the past six months in moving classes online, hosting online feiseanna and competitions, and giving young people an outlet to express themselves dramatically from home. We're looking ahead now with optimism and excitement as the new school year gets underway.

FACE TO FACE EXAMS

We know things are still uncertain for many teachers, but we're happy to let you know that we're resuming face-to-face exams for those who can facilitate it with the necessary guidelines in place. If face-to-face exams aren't possible for you, don't worry, our video exams are still an option.

Massive changes have taken place and huge adjustments have been required to open speech and drama schools. **With that in mind, we have decided to extend the current syllabus until 31 August 2021, and to keep all fees at current levels.**

VIDEO EXAMS

After the establishment of Government restrictions in mid-March, we introduced video exams. We designed and implemented an easy to use, secure system where candidates could upload a video of their exam online which proved to be a huge success. So much so, that we have decided to offer video exams on a permanent basis. To find out more [click here](#).



CAN I PROVISIONALLY BOOK MY EXAMS?

Yes. We can hold a provisional booking up until 6 weeks before an exam. Email us at mail@irishboard.ie with the date you have in mind and we will confirm availability with you.

Please be aware that some dates can book up quickly, so if your preferred date is not available we will do our very best to find an alternative one that's suitable for you.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

To confirm your booking, we'll send you an email asking you to fill out a booking form on our website. With that, we'll also ask you to complete our **Covid-19 safety checklist** and attach a copy of your Covid-19 prevention policy, in accordance with current guidelines. This information will allow us to allocate examiners to schools, while minimising the risk of infection to children, teachers and examiners. After, we'll review your entry and confirm your booking by email within a few days.



DIPLOMA EXAMINATION DATES

The December 2020 Diploma session is scheduled to take place on **Sunday 6 December 2020** (closing date 1 November) and the June 2021 session on **Sunday 6 June 2021**.

DIPLOMA ENTRIES

Whether you are a new or a continuing candidate, simply fill out the relevant entry form on our website. These can be found in the [Diploma Exams section](#).

To find out more about our Diploma Exams check out our syllabus. You will find a copy on our [website](#) or if you would like a hard copy please contact us.

Before applying, please refer to the eligibility criteria for the Diploma exam you're interested in. You will find this information in the Diploma exams section of our website.

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 p34 of the S&D Syllabus and p14 of the MT Syllabus. Please read them carefully.

WORKING TOGETHER MAKES SENSE

In these difficult times, all of us in the performing arts need to work together. Two organisations in particular are worthy of your support at this time: The newly formed [Performing Arts Educators of Ireland](#) and the [Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland](#). Both are working actively to create the conditions whereby we can begin again to give young people the opportunities to express themselves creatively and safely through the performing arts.

If you haven't already joined them please do check out their websites and consider doing so.

DRAMABOOKS.IE

[Dramabooks.ie](#) is a one-stop online shop for all your drama teaching needs. You'll find individual solo and duologue pieces along with a variety of books on short plays, mime, improvisation and much more.

All of our books and pieces are available to download only, meaning visitors will receive purchases instantly in their inbox. For those of you who remember our old Dramabooks.ie website, our aim was to improve the overall look and functionality so that visitors could find exactly what they were looking for with ease.

Visit [dramabooks.ie](#) and have a look around. We hope you like it!



IRISH BOARD OF DANCE PERFORMANCE

The Irish Board of Dance Performance is becoming increasingly popular with dance teachers in Ireland. The IBDP brings the same Irish Board values of professionalism, encouragement, inclusiveness and flexibility to Classical Ballet and Modern Dance exams. Our syllabus is available on [www.irishboard.ie](#) and from the Irish Board office.

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have questions at all, if you're looking for advice on any of our exams or, indeed, if you have any suggestions or feedback about the Irish Board, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone or email. Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)