



On Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th, Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd of March 2020 there is a Drama, Verse and Prose Festival in Woodley, Reading which takes place in the Oakwood Centre.

Leighton Park has entered this Festival for several years, and achieved remarkable success across the board, as well as the children having a great time! There is a great deal to be gained by performing in front of an appreciative audience. The Festival is well established, and growing in the Year 7 and 8 age categories. This is an excellent opportunity for us to measure ourselves against others in a Festival environment.

While there is a large and diverse syllabus available, we will be limiting our entrances to the categories below in this first year. I would recommend a maximum of *three* classes be entered by each child. Details about the Festival including the full syllabus for classes and the set poems and books, are available online at:

<https://woodleyfestival.org.uk/wp/2018/speech-and-drama/>

The classes we are entering are as follows:

- Verse speaking – two poems learnt by heart, one is a set poem and the other one is own choice.
- Duologue Verse Speaking (**Please only sign up for this if your child knows who he or she is doing it with**)
- Prose Reading – a prepared but **not** learnt reading from a book by a set author
- Public Speaking
- Sight Reading (Reading a book/poem on sight)
- Solo Acting
- Group Acting
- Shakespeare - An extract from any work by William Shakespeare
- Musical Theatre
- Duo Musical Theatre (**Please only sign up for this if your child knows who he or she is doing it with**)

(Other classes are available, but please do speak to the school before choosing to do them)

As this will be the first time some of the students will be entering such an event, it must be viewed as an experience to really enjoy. Although the competitive element will be there, they must not worry unduly about it but do their very best on the day. Your child's experience will be greatly enhanced if they have learnt and practised their pieces carefully.

Woodley Festival support will be provided by Fryer House, and the help of the *Fryer Graduate (and Drama Specialist) Heather Sweetman*, including regular Hobby slots in the new term. We will help Fryers choose appropriate material and listen to them regularly over the course of the term. Nearer the time of the festival, there will be more frequent support in House to help them with presentation.

In view of the above, please help your child to choose their classes very carefully as some require more work than others, and much of this work will need to be done at home or in the student's own time. Please note that your child will not be required for all the time, but their classes could be scheduled during these times, although effort is put into accommodating their needs.

This is an excellent opportunity for LAMDA students to show what they have been working on and get some exposure to performance before the exams!

There will be a cost for each section per child and this will be added to your child's school fees. Please note that while you can enter privately, we do a group entry as a school which allows us some measure of control in terms of performance days.

If your child would like to enter please register your interest via the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C5SSPKL> by **Friday 10th January 2020**.