

**Perform in Dumfries (Dumfries and District Music Festival Association)
Speech 2019 report**

The first weekend in March heralded the start of the 2019 Perform in Dumfries Festival. The Speech Section with over 200 entries showcased our young people and their amazing talent in a variety of reading and performing everything from Poetry to Prose.

While numbers were slightly down on last year, we were very well supported by our returning schools and also the entries from three schools that were newcomers to the festival. I hope they had an enjoyable time and that they will be returning next year.

The Winner of the Girls Primary 6/7 age for Scots Verse received a book prize as well as their Festival trophies and these were presented by Dr Ruth Thomason and Mrs Shona Shaw on behalf of the Dumfries Ladies Burns Club

I had the opportunity to meet Mr & Mrs Edwards over the weekend, who donated the Imogen Edwards Trophy in memory of their daughter. A former pupil of Dunscore Primary, Imogen was the school's first ever pupil to win a trophy at the Festival. We hope to see Mr & Mrs Edwards next year as they continue to support the festival and encourage more people to enjoy the expressive arts, as their daughter did.

This year, the adjudicators were Jim Gibson and Brian Marjoribanks. Both Adjudicators commented on the high standard this festival always delivers and the festival participants were a credit to their supporters. They also appreciated the support work of all the committee members and volunteers during the festival

As always, thanks must go to the Committee members and friends of the Festival who volunteer and give their time freely to assist in organising and stewarding the event. None of this would happen without the teachers, tutors, parents, grandparents as well as to the friends and families who support the young people. Thanks must also go to the janitors at the Academy who work so hard every year to prepare the halls. Lastly, thank you to all the talented competitors we had the pleasure of listening to over the weekend, you are truly amazing.

Rebecca Hodgson (Speech Secretary) March 2019