

Perform in Dumfries (Dumfries and District Music Festival Association)

Speech 2020 report

The Speech Section of the "Perform in Dumfries" festival took place on Friday 6th & Saturday 7th of March where, again, over 200 young people from across the region showed off their talents in 39 classes, ranging from Poetry to Prose. Entry numbers were up on previous years which is very encouraging and the amazing talent that these young people bring to the festival leave the adjudicators and organisers proud to be part of the event.

The number of entries for the Primary 1-3 Poetry classes for both boys and girls were up which is wonderful to see. It is a great opportunity for these young people to get experience of public speaking in a friendly setting. I hope they enjoyed their experience as much as we enjoyed listening to them and hope they will to take part again.

The winner of the Girls Primary 6/7 class for Scots Verse received a book prize as well as the Festival trophies and these were presented by Mrs Kate Kaye on behalf of the Dumfries Ladies Burns Club. The standard in this class was extremely high with 3 outstanding awards being given. Mrs Kaye thoroughly enjoyed the event and she was glad she didn't have the responsibility of choosing a winner! Thank you to the Dumfries Ladies Burns Club for their ongoing support of the festival.

Mr & Mrs Edwards, who donated The Imogen Edwards Trophy in memory of their daughter, also attended this year and presented the trophy to the winner of class 3. They commented on the high standard of all involved and after presenting the trophy to the very happy winner told me that it brought back the joyful memory of their daughter winning this class years ago. Mrs & Mrs Edwards have also very kindly donated 3 more trophies to the festival for the World War 1 poetry classes. They are stunning trophies which are very much appreciated and will create a long-lasting legacy for their beautiful daughter. I thank them on behalf of the festival committee for their continued support.

The adjudicators this year were Brian Marjoribanks & Bruce Adams. Speaking at Perform in Dumfries the adjudicator Brian Marjoribanks said: "One of the principal values in this competition is the opportunity it offers to the youngsters in this area to start on the enjoyable trip towards communicating with others. Every time a youngster steps up in front of an audience, he or she gains invaluable experience and confidence to communicate with

their peers. And if this year's festival is anything to go by then Dumfriesshire has a head start in this respect. The standard was exceptionally good. For me personally, perhaps the outstanding section was the Scots Verse Class for both Primary 6 and Primary 7 girls, where the top three girls, Teigan Weir, Beth Wright and Lucy

Gallacher all scored honours marks of over 90%. In the 40 years of adjudicating, I have never come across such quality. The command of the Scots Language at its best was something to behold.”

Bruce Adams said “I was very impressed with the Festival from its organisation to the quality of the young people’s performance. Clearly a lot of work had been done by the participants and their teachers to prepare for the various classes. It is so lovely to see both the secondary and primary pupils demonstrating their speech skills so confidently. I am convinced it is something they carry forward into so many areas of their development.”

As always, a huge thank you must go to teachers and parents as without their tireless commitment to the youngsters, the festival wouldn’t be the success it is. Thanks also goes to the Committee members, and friends of the Festival who volunteer and give their time freely to assist in organising and stewarding the event. 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. Thank you to their teachers, tutors, parents, grandparents as well as to the friends and families who support them.

Rebecca Hodgson (Speech Secretary) March 2020