

The GreatTalk #5

National Speech Competition

Handbook

Organised by Language Arts Trust

Co-organised by Cubee Group, Supported by Speech New Zealand

1. About the Event

The GreatTalk National Speech Competition is a nationwide public speaking platform for students from Year 0 to Year 13. Founded on the belief in the transformative power of speech, the competition provides young people across Aotearoa New Zealand with a meaningful platform to share their ideas, express their perspectives, and find their voices.

Through this competitive journey, students learn to organise ideas logically and develop the skills to communicate their ideas and purpose effectively to their intended audiences. The competition provides an authentic stage where young speakers cultivate resilience, empathy, and persuasive communication skills, empowering them not only to articulate their own thoughts with confidence but also to make a meaningful impact on the world around them.

The judging criteria are guided by the official assessment framework of Speech New Zealand.

Entry **is free** and open to the public.

2. Registration

- **Eligibility:** Open to all students from Year 0 to Year 13 currently residing in New Zealand.
- **Process:** Scan the QR code or use this link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/oDDDpHA9ZJGfsmLv5>
- **Preparation:** Upon successful registration, the Contestants may immediately begin refining their presentations for the Live Online Preliminary Round.



3. Important Dates

- **Registration:** 25 June – 11 August 2026
- **Preliminary Round (Live Online via Zoom)**
 - **Time and Date:** 5pm, Saturday, 15 August 2026: Year 0–2, Year 3–4, Year 5–6
 - **Time and Date:** 5pm, Sunday, 16 August 2026: Year 7–8, Year 9–10, Year 11–13
- **Grand Final**
 - **Time and Date:** 1pm, Sunday, 13 September 2026
 - **Venue:** Sir Owen G Glenn Building, University of Auckland
- **Prize Giving Ceremony & Parliament Debating Role Play**
 - **Time and Date:** 10.30 am, Monday, 19 October 2026
 - **Venue:** Parliament House, Wellington

4. Age Divisions

- Year 0–2
- Year 3–4
- Year 5–6
- Year 7–8
- Year 9–10
- Year 11–13

5. Preliminary Round (Live Online via Zoom)

- The Preliminary Round will be conducted through live Zoom sessions.
- Competitionants will be allocated a competition time and Zoom link following registration.
- Competitionants may select a topic of personal interest or significance.

- There are no restrictions on speech format or purpose.
- Speeches may be designed to **inform, persuade, entertain, motivate, demonstrate, promote, or achieve other communication purposes.**
- Competitionants may choose the presentation style that best suits their message.
- Presentation styles may include **Formal Speech, Flash Talk, and Spoken Word.**
- Prior to delivering their speech, contestants must display a title slide that includes:
 - Speech Title
 - Contestant Name and Year Group

Speech Duration Guidelines

- Year 0–2: approximately 2 minutes
- Year 3–4: 2–3 minutes
- Year 5–6: 2–3 minutes
- Year 7–8: 3–4 minutes
- Year 9–10: 3–4 minutes
- Year 11–13: 3.5–5 minutes
- **The top four Competitionants** from each age division will advance to the Grand Final.

6. Grand Final

- **Time & Date:** 1pm, Sunday, 13 September 2026
- **Venue:** Sir Owen G Glenn Building, University of Auckland
- **Notes:** All finalists are required to attend the Grand Final in person. Finalists and their families are responsible for arranging and covering their own transportation, accommodation, and any other travel-related expenses associated with attending the event.

- Year 0–4 finalists will deliver **a prepared speech only.**
- Year 5–13 finalists will deliver both **a prepared speech and an impromptu**

speech.

For the impromptu speech:

- All Competitionants within the same age division will receive the same topic.
- The topic will be announced by the adjudication panel on the day of the Grand Final.
- Competitionants will be given three minutes of preparation time before delivering their impromptu speech.
- Detailed Grand Final requirements will be communicated to finalists following the Preliminary Round.

7. Judging Criteria

Judging for both the Preliminary Round and Grand Final is informed by the Speech New Zealand assessment framework.

Adjudicators will consider:

- Development of Ideas – clarity of message, structure, originality, and depth of content.
- Delivery & Vocal Variety – projection, articulation, pacing, expression, and vocal control.
- Language & Communication – effective use of language, accuracy, clarity, and audience engagement.
- Presence & Presentation – confidence, authenticity, eye contact, physical delivery, and time management.

Detailed Adjudication Rubrics: For a comprehensive breakdown of the scoring metrics and specific marking rubrics for each division, please visit www.cubee.nz.

8. Awards and Recognition

First Place:

- One sponsored Speech NZ module examination.
- Invitation to the Parliamentary Education Visit in Wellington.
- Name engraved on the official GreatTalk Trophy.
- Certificate of Excellence.

Second Place:

- Certificate of Achievement.
- Invitation to the Parliamentary Education Visit.

Third Place:

- Certificate of Achievement.
- Invitation to the Parliamentary Education Visit.

Highly Commended:

- Certificate of Achievement.
- Invitation to the Parliamentary Education Visit.

Prize Giving Ceremony:

- **10:30am**, 19 October 2026.
- **Venue:** Parliament House, Wellington.
- **Note:** For First Place winners, the organisers will provide and cover the cost of one domestic return flight within New Zealand for the winner to attend the Prize Giving Ceremony and Parliamentary Education Visit. All other finalists and accompanying family members are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, and related expenses.



Enquiries & Support

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