

Welcome to the 2025-26 academic year at Ellendel School

Classes at Ellendel: small-class teaching, age grouped 4-7, 8-12, and 12+. LAMDA exams are always optional. Every class is adapted to the learners in the room; please let Ellendel know if your child has a specific event or piece we should support.

LAMDA at Ellendel

Students have the option to sit up to two LAMDA exams per year, across different categories (e.g. Verse and Prose, Public Speaking, Reading for Performance, Solo Acting). They cannot sit two grades in one year – this is not permitted at Ellendel as it does not align with our ethos.

We prepare students for LAMDA exams in a way that complements the skills taught in class. However, we do not “teach to LAMDA”. We are first and foremost a Speech and Drama school, led by qualified and experienced teachers.

Preparing only for LAMDA is not something we recommend. **Our focus is on developing lifelong communication skills: confidence in conversation, strength in interviews, and presence in public speaking – qualities that go far beyond the exam room.**

Key Events:

- October 2025: Autumn cohort sit optional LAMDA exams (carryover prep from Summer) – **Parents must inform Ellendel via email if they wish for their child to take this exam. Payment for exam is due upon entry.**
- Jan-Feb 2026 : Verse & Prose LAMDA exam window (prep in Autumn Term); Croydon Festival – Feb 2026 – encourage all students to enter this.
- July 2026: Optional LAMDA exams in Public Speaking, Reading for Performance, or Solo Drama.

Autumn Term (September (8th) – December (15th))

Whole-term focus: Prepare for October exam entrants; build core skills for Verse & Prose LAMDA in Jan/Feb 2026.

Keywords: articulation, projection, posture, facial expression, word and text inference.

Weekly focus:

1-2	Foundations: breath, posture, diction exercises, stage etiquette (build into every lesson)	Homework for Autumn Term: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 5 minute read aloud habit in front of the mirror daily.- Weekly practice of poem; check feedback notes weekly.
3-4	Sound and Sense: phrasing, punctuation as direction, facial expression to match meaning	
5	Choosing text for LAMDA & Croydon Festival – verse and prose selections	
6-7	Verse and Prose speaking technique: pace, pause, emphasis, vowel/consonant clarity	
8	Meaning: vocabulary and content work; expressive reading; eye contact	
9	Polishing delivery – Theory confidence	
10	Mock deliveries in front of class groups – focused feedback (Videoed feedback sent to parents)	
11	Festival and Exam run throughs. Individual 1:1 Lessons. Exam/Festival Practice	
12	Festival and Exam run throughs. Individual 1:1 Lessons. Exam/Festival Practice. Celebrations and personal targets set for Spring.	

Spring Term (January 5th – March 23rd)

Whole-term focus: Public speaking & conversational skill: interview technique; start formal LAMDA preparation for Public Speaking or Reading for Performance)

Weekly focus:

1	Confidence building; posture & stance; eye-contact; social greeting and etiquette	Key Events: Feb 2026- Croydon Festival (Verse/Reading/Public Speaking/Drama)
2	Conversational games and activities, active listening skills; paraphrasing	
3	Speech structures and signposting	
4	Rhetoric in speech	
5	Gestures and stance	LAMDA preparation for Summer Term. Choosing which category.
6	Use of visual aids and notes in speech making; natural speech	
7	Impromptu thinking – thinking on the spot; critical thinking skills	
8	Interview skills; conversational skills; first impressions	Homework for Spring Term: - Practise one minute talks on a random object at

		home. Speak for one minute without stopping. Focus on fluency, confidence and thinking on your feet.
9	Reading for Performance; Reading Aloud Fluency: narrative Vs dialogue; Sight Reading	
10	LAMDA preparation and targets for Spring Half term/Easter break	
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Summer Term (April (13th) – July (13th) – Drama Term (Confidence, Creativity & Communication)

Whole-term focus: Drama skills, creativity, stage presence, character/persona; students find their individual voice in front of others; exam preparation for July (Public Speaking, Reading for Performance or Solo Drama) Keywords: imagination, status, presentation, staging, confidence, expression, voice & body,

Weekly focus:

1	Voice – Finding Our Voice. Confidence in using your voice in front of others	Homework for Spring Term: -
2	Articulation – clear and crisp speech. Reading aloud of challenging texts to improve articulation. Drama Games to build confidence in speaking in front of an audience	
3	Breath for Speech	
4	Facial Expression & Vocal Variety to express feelings	
5	Telling Stories – Impromptu – Narrative Structure – Imagination	
6	Characterisation	
7- 13	LAMDA Prep	

Skills developed through our Speech and Drama lessons

Ages 4-7	Ages 8-12
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Finding their voice in front of others – louder and clearer voices. Slower pace, clear word endings.- Building confidence to stand up in front of others- Self esteem and a willingness to “try”- Speaking clearly and using expression- Learning to use facial expression and body language to show different feelings- Using their imagination in role play and storytelling- Memorisation by learning short poems- Use of eye-contact for communication- More of a presence when speaking and building better speaking habits- Listening and turn-taking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strengthening speech and expression- Understanding characters and stories – building inference skills- Self-expression and presence- Teamwork- Learning how to project voices without shouting- Practising articulation, pacing, expression in verse and prose speaking- Exploring characters through movement, gesture and imagination- Memorisation skills by learning poems, prose and drama scripts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Confidence in interpreting texts and spotting key words. Being able to read verse and prose with meaning and develop inference skills.- Building public-speaking confidence with short talks and presentations- Improves clarity when reading aloud or presenting- More self-assured when speaking in front of an audience
Ages 12 + (Advances classes)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A quiet boost for GCSE English Literature, Language and Spoken Presentations- Advanced voice and presence. Students start to use voice for effect and have a better range. The use of purposeful gestures and improved audience connection.- Text analysis- Interpretation- Presenting Viewpoints effectively and integrating rhetoric devices effectively- Using strong vocabulary for expression- Impromptu speeches	

Ellendel School

Speech, Drama and Communication

Teaching and Learning Plan for 2025-26

