



Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock

Rotary **YOUTH**
SPEAKS **COMPETITION**



INFORMATION PACK

2025 - 2026

Closing date for entries Tuesday 11th November 2025

Information Pack for 2025 – 2026

Content

<u>Introduction</u>	<u>Page 3</u>
<u>Aims and Objectives</u>	<u>Page 3</u>
<u>Who Can Take Part?</u>	<u>Page 3</u>
<u>The Stages of the Competition</u>	<u>Page 3-4</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Heats• District Finals (tbc)	
<u>Competition Guidelines</u>	<u>Page 4-5</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Format• Judges• Judging Criteria• Questioner• Prizes	
<u>How to Enter</u>	<u>Page 5</u>
<u>Competition Procedure</u>	<u>Page 5-7</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrival• Order of Speakers• Results	
<u>Youth Competitions</u>	<u>Page 7</u>
<u>Working with Children</u>	<u>Page 7</u>
<u>Judges Score Sheet</u>	<u>Page 8-9</u>

Information Pack for 2025 - 2026

The Thurrock event will take place on Tuesday 18th November 2025.

Introduction

The Rotary Youth Speaks Competition is a well-established and successful competition organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. It is a competition which is designed to support and encourage the development of effective communication skills.

Aims and Objectives

This competition aims to offer young people:

- experience in speaking on a public platform as a member of a team
- an incentive to formulate ideas on topical subjects
- discipline in dealing with a topic in a limited time
- the opportunity of learning and practising high standards of expression, presentation and appearance
- impartial feedback and assessment of performance by experienced adjudicators

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all schools and college communities including those that are home educated and any other young peoples' community organisations, for example, air cadets, sea cadets, community Interact, Scout Groups, Girl Guides.

Each team will comprise of three students in full time education in two age groups:

Intermediate	11 to 13 years
Senior	14 to 17 years

With the age qualifying date of 31 August 2025, it should be noted that some junior entrants may be 11, Intermediate entrants 14 and Senior entrants 18 at the time of some or all stages of the competitions (e.g. a competitor who is 17 on 31 August but turns 18 on 1 September is allowed to enter).

Students should enter the competition organised by the local Rotary club through their respective group, as detailed above.

Competitors, schools, colleges and other organisations can participate in a district that is outside of their boundary but **may compete in only one club or district competition.**

The Four Stages of the Competition

Local Heats

Organised by local Rotary clubs between September and December. Age group winners of local heats are entered into a district competition, although this is yet to be confirmed. **The Thurrock event will take place on Tuesday 18th November 2025** at the Thurrock CVS, The **Beehive Centre**, West Street, Grays, Essex, RM176XP starting at 17.30 hrs.

District Competition (TBA)

Previously District have run a competition for those schools who have won the local heats. However, at the time of writing this booklet, no dates have been given for a District final. Schools will be advised at a later date if there is to be a District final.

Competition Guidelines

Format

Each team member takes on one of three roles: chairperson, speaker and vote of thanks. The team should be the same throughout the competition. In exceptional circumstances substitutions may be made, subject to the approval of the competition organiser.

Each team member is allocated a time in which to perform their role. The role of each team member is detailed in the procedure section below.

Judges

Judges with appropriate skills, appointed by Rotary, will apply the judging criteria and provide feedback to all competitors and mentoring to winners. The judges will not discuss marks and their decision will be final.

A Rotarian will not be appointed as a judge for regional or national finals. In the National Final, no Rotarian may be appointed as a judge; judges should have no connection with rotary at all. Anyone acting as a judge in one stage of the competition must not be appointed as a judge in any subsequent stage of the competition.

At the end of the competition, the organiser will collect the judges' score sheets which will be retained by the competition organiser for a minimum of 3 months.

Judging Criteria

Chairperson's management of the meeting	25 points
Speaker's ability to present and develop a topic and ability to answer the question	50 points
Quality and courtesy of the vote of thanks	25 points
Team work	15 points
Total	115 points

A judge's score sheet which illustrates the points judges particularly will be looking at, is provided at the end of this information pack.

The judges will deduct one point for each complete 15 seconds over the allocated time and one point for each complete 30 seconds under the allocated time. Points will not be deducted for time in answering the question.

A Rotarian with no interest in the participating teams will review the scores to ensure accuracy before the results are announced.

Only in exceptional circumstances and at the sole discretion of the competition organiser, will correspondence or discussion be entered into following a competition.

Questioner

The questioner, who shall not be one of the judges, will be appointed by the competition organiser. Speakers will be asked to respond to a question asked by the questioner

The questioner can be a Rotarian but not from a participating club.

Prizes

At all stages of the competition competitors will receive a certificate of participation.

After the judges have determined the result of the competition, one or more judges will comment on their observations before announcing the result.

At the national final, the winning Intermediate and Senior teams will receive the Rotary Challenge Trophy which may be held for one year. Each member of the winning, second and third teams will receive an individual award.

How to enter

To enter the Thurrock local heat, interested parties should submit the completed application form to the Rotary club of Grays Thurrock at youthspeaks@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk.

Competition Procedure

Arrival

Before each competition, the competition organiser will conduct a draw to determine the order in which each team will make their presentation. The order will be notified to teams at the competition. If possible, teams will be given prior notice of the order. In unforeseen circumstances, the organisers may have to adjust the order.

Arrangements

A master of ceremonies will invite each team in order of the draw, to come to the front or stage to make their presentation.

The team should be ushered into position by the chairperson who should sit down with the speaker on their right and the vote of thanks on their left. This is a team competition and each team member must conduct themselves so that they are attentive and listening to whichever of the team members is speaking. A reminder that the team **MAY NOT** use props or enter into a dramatic performance as this is a public speaking competition.

A system of lights or coloured cards will be used to advise team members of time. Green will indicate start, amber will warn that the allocated time is coming to an end and red will indicate the end of allocated time.

Notes may be used, however, their use should not be too obvious - simply reading written content will be reflected in the marks. Notes can be written on paper, card, tablet or iPad. If electronic media is used for this purpose it must be used only as a reminder of the content of the speech and not as a prop or as a live means of presenting or sourcing information. Cards as prompts are better than A4 notes but ideally teams should deliver the presentation without either.

Items other than dress or the furniture provided are not permitted to be used as props. The use of props will be severely reflected in the judges' marks. This includes the use of power point presentation.

Microphones will be provided for team members to use. A sound test will be arranged prior to the start of the competition. If any team member fails to use the static microphones and their words are inaudible the judges will deduct marks.

The team members will perform their roles in the following order:

Chairperson

When the team is ready the chairperson will stand. From this point on the chairperson is in control of the team's performance until the performance is closed after the vote of thanks. The chairperson should briefly link the team's presentations. There is no time penalty involved in this part of the chairperson's role.

The chairperson has two minutes to welcome the audience and to introduce the speaker. The introduction should include the relevance or expertise of the speaker to the subject of their speech.

An amber light will indicate there are thirty seconds left of the allocated two minutes.

Speaker

The speaker has six minutes to speak on their chosen subject. The speaker may choose any subject, subject to the approval of the organisers. Considerable discretion should be used in choosing the subject. Sensitive subjects such as party politics, race or religion should be avoided. The subject may change between stages.

An amber light will indicate there is one minute left of the allocated six minutes

Chairperson

When the speaker has finished the chairperson will invite the questioner to ask a question

Speaker

Before answering the question, the speaker may seek clarification of the question via the chairperson. The speaker, who is the subject expert, may not consult about the question with other team members.

The speaker then has about two minutes to answer the question.

An amber light will indicate two minutes are drawing to a close and after the amber light speakers should bring their response to a conclusion.

Speakers are advised to respond spontaneously, without prepared sections, to obtain high marks from the judges.

Chairperson

When the speaker has finished answering the question, the chairman will introduce the proposer of the vote of thanks.

Vote of Thanks

The vote of thanks has two minutes to propose the vote of thanks.

The vote of thanks should remark on both the content of the speech and the response to the question. The audience should then be invited to show its appreciation of the speaker.

An amber light will indicate there are thirty seconds left of the allocated two minutes.

The speaker giving the vote of thanks is advised to respond spontaneously to the response to the question, without prepared sections, to obtain high marks from the judges.

Chairperson

After the vote of thanks and applause the chairperson will close the proceedings.

Results

After the judges have determined the result of the competition, one or more judges will comment on their observations before announcing the result. These will be retained by the competition organiser for a minimum of 3 months after the date of the National Final, after which they must be destroyed to comply with GDPR and the competition Privacy Policy.

Youth Competitions

The Rotary Youth Speaks competition is one of several competitions organised by Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland for young people. The others are Young Chef, Young Musician, Young Photographer, Young Writer, Young Artist, Youth Speaks and the Technology Tournament. To find out more about these competitions and other opportunities please contact your local Rotary club, which can be found www.graysthurrockrotary.org.uk or admin@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk

Working with Children

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for working with children, the vulnerable and those with disability:

The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of their ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact during their Rotarian duties.

Judges' Score Sheet

Team			Topic		
Member	Aspect	Marks	Points to be considered	Comments	Score
Chairperson Manages the meeting	Delivery	5	Effective use of voice, clear enunciation, audibility, easy manner, natural gestures, expression of personality, humour in the right context.		
	Control	10	Business-like, yet courteous handling of the meeting. Maintain a good atmosphere with a calm & courteous manner showing appropriate attention.		
	Process	10	Welcome audience. Explain meeting structure. Introduce the team & the subject. Inform audience of relevance / expertise of Speaker to subject of speech. Act as a conduit for the question & seek clarification if required. Conclude the meeting.		
Speaker Presents and develops a topic and answers a question	Delivery	10	Effective use of voice, clear enunciation, audibility, easy manner, natural gestures, expression of personality, humour in the right context. Impact on and ability to involve the audience. Show appropriate attention during the meeting.		
	Subject	10	Content of the speech and logic		
	Construction	15	Introduction: Get the audience to want to listen to the talk. Body		

			of Talk: Develop the topic and demonstrate clear thinking. Use of, for example, illustrations & rhetorical questions. Conclusion: Draw threads together, summarise, give the final idea, thank the audience for listening, sit down.		
	Answer	15	Clear, courteous answer to the question. Full but not unduly wordy. Spontaneity.		
Vote of Thanks Expresses the appreciation of the audience to the Speaker	Delivery & Process	10	Effective use of voice, clear enunciation, audibility, easy manner, natural gestures, expression of personality, humour in the right context. Show appropriate attention during the meeting. Give positive comments; give a clear signal for applause		
	Content & reference to the question	15	Refer to the content of the speech, picking out specific items. Invite the audience to express their appreciation of the Speaker. Comment on the Speaker's answer to the question; include originality. Spontaneity		
Teamwork		15			
Sub-Total					
Judge				Deduct Penalty Points	-
				Total Score	

Entry Form 2025/2026 The event will take place on Tuesday 18th November 2025.

Please read the Rotary Youth Speaks Information Pack before completing this form. By signing this form, you confirm you have read, understood and agreed to the contents of the Information Pack and Privacy Notice page 2.

Return this form to the competition organiser at youthspeaks@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk by Tuesday 11th November 2025.

An individually entry form must be completed for each team member and **signed by a Parent/Guardian**.

Entrant's Name: (please type or use CAPITAL letters)	Age on 31 st Aug 2025:	
School/College/Organisation/Team Name:		
Team Member Role:		
Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/>	Speaker <input type="checkbox"/>	Vote of Thanks <input type="checkbox"/>
Please tick category being entered:	Title of topic:	
Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/>	Senior <input type="checkbox"/>	

Entrant's Contact Details

(only to be completed by Entrant if they are 18 years of age at the time of signing this form)

Entrant's Email:	Entrant's Tel No:
------------------	-------------------

Parent/Guardian Contact Details

(only to be completed by Parent/Guardian if Entrant is a minor, under the age of 18 years of age at the time of signing this form)

Parent/Guardian's Email:	Parent/Guardian's Tel No:
--------------------------	---------------------------

Rotary Details

Sponsored by Rotary Club of: Grays Thurrock	District Number: 1240
Rotarian Contact Name: Mark Jones	Email: youthspeaks@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk
Please tick a box to indicate the stage for this entry:-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thurrock	

Entrants under the age of 18 when this form is completed, must get a parent/guardian signature to give permission for the following (if the Entrant is 18 years of age when this form is completed, they are giving permission themselves):-

- for the named Entrant to take part and be identified in the competition.
- for the information on this form to be used for all stages of the competition (should the Entrant progress), and shared in accordance with the Privacy Notice with appropriate competition organisers at each stage.
- for Rotary, District or Club Public Relations Officers to make contact with the parent/guardian/entrant (where over 18 years of age) to discuss public relations opportunities.

By signing this form, you are also acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Privacy Notices referred to on page 2 of this form in respect of the use of personal information. In addition, I agree for photographic/video records to be taken and used by the Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock for publicity purposes in printed, electronic and online formats.

(Whatever your preference, no individual will be excluded from the competition/event.)

*Parent/Guardian/Entrant (Print Name):	**Signature:	Date:
---	---------------------	--------------

**delete as appropriate*

***Entrant may only sign this form if they are 18 years of age on the date the Entry Form is signed*

Privacy Notice – Youth Competitions

[For the purpose of this privacy notice, Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland (RIBI) also includes Rotary clubs and districts and their members. The use of the term 'you', 'your' also means that of your child where the competition Entrant is a minor, i.e. under the age of 18 years].

Members of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (“we”) value the trust you put in us to process your personal information and will always be open and honest about the information we collect and how we will use it. We will never do anything with your personal information that you wouldn’t reasonably expect us to in relation to the Youth Competitions and we will always take every effort to protect your privacy.

The RIBI Privacy Notice is available on our website, www.rotarygbi.org, and explains how we collect, process and share personal information. This ‘Privacy Notice – Youth Competitions’ is supplementary to the general RIBI Privacy Notice and explains in more detail how you can expect your personal information to be specifically used in relation to the Youth Competition events.

How we use your personal information for Youth Competitions

1. We are collecting your personal information (and that of your child if a minor) for the organisation and administration of the youth competitions only, it will not be used for any other purpose.
2. Club, District or Rotary Public Relations Officers may use your personal information to make contact with you to discuss public relation opportunities and will gain your specific consent at that time for the use of your information, such as photographs/interviews for newspaper articles, club or district websites etc. Where the entrant is a minor only the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Providing your personal information to others for Youth Competitions

3. The personal information will only be shared with others that require it for their role/the services they provide for the organisation and administration of the youth competition events. Initially, this will be at club level competitions but should an entrant progress to district or national levels of the competition, the information will also be shared with those relevant organisers.
4. Depending on the Youth Competition, it may be necessary to share some of your information with third parties such as providers of venue hire and catering services. Under such circumstances only the minimum amount of information for the third-party service will be provided, i.e. for caterers, only the name and allergy/special dietary requirement will be disclosed, no other information.
5. Those individuals and organisations that have access to the personal information are also bound by the RIBI Privacy Notice.

Retaining and deleting your personal information

6. All reasonable steps will be taken by those concerned to ensure the personal information they have access to is kept securely and will not be shared with anyone who does not have a legitimate reason to have access to it in relation to the organisation and administration of the competitions.
7. For all youth competitions, personal information will be kept on file for 3 months after the date of the National Final for that specific competition. After this date, the information will be securely destroyed (either by shredding, incineration or deletion from electronic devices) at club, district and national level. This timeframe is necessary to allow for any disputes to be settled before the personal information is destroyed.

By signing page 1 of this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Privacy Notices in respect of the use of personal information for yourself (and your child, where applicable).