

ROYAL ACADEMY  
OF DANCE

**South East Awards 2026**

**Candidate Information Pack**

188 York Road, London SW11 3JZ  
[royalacademyofdance.org](http://royalacademyofdance.org) +44 (0)20 7326 8011

**Patron:** Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II **Vice-Patron:** HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
**President:** Dame Darcey Bussell DBE **Chairman:** Stephen Moss **Chief Executive:** Tim Arthur  
Royal Academy of Dance is a charity registered in England and Wales No. 312826



## ABOUT THE COMPETITION

This competition is designed to give RAD students in the UK's South East region the chance to participate in an open-level ballet class and showcase their classical technique, musicality, and performance skills.

Young dancers have the opportunity to perform alongside their peers in a fun, non-syllabus masterclass that seeks to further inspire them on their dance journey and acknowledge their dedication.

Those students who go on to compete in the final can win a prize of up to £200 to support their ongoing dance training, with further prizes for the runners-up from each class/level.

### **The Awards take place in two parts;**

1. Firstly, students must take part in a county heat where they will be adjudicated based on the judging criteria set out (see page 4). Students must be entered in the county where they attend classes. E.g. If a student lives in Hampshire but attends classes in Surrey, they must be entered in Surrey.
2. Finalists will be selected from each class at each county heat to attend the final where a winner from each class will be decided.

The final will be held on Sunday 10 May in the Aud Jebsen Studio Theatre, at the RAD's global headquarters in London. There will be four classes at different levels, and one winner and two runners-up will be selected from each class.

All net proceeds, after expenses and awards are reinvested in the restricted funds for the Royal Academy of Dance South East.

## CONTACT

For further information please contact:

Artistic Department  
Royal Academy of Dance  
188 York Road  
London SW11 3JZ

Tel: +44 (0)20 7326 8000

Email: [participate@rad.org.uk](mailto:participate@rad.org.uk)

## VENUE & DATES

### COUNTY HEATS

SURREY & KENT	
<b>Date</b>	Sunday 25 January 2026
<b>Venue</b>	St Marks Church Hall, Church Road, Purley, CR8 3QQ

HAMPSHIRE	
<b>Date</b>	Sunday 1 February 2026
<b>Venue</b>	The Dance Studio, Barton Peveril College, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, SO50 5ZA

SUSSEX	
<b>Date</b>	Sunday 8 February 2026
<b>Venue</b>	Uckfield College, Downsview Crescent, Uckfield, TN22 3DJ

BERKSHIRE   OXFORDSHIRE   BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	
<b>Date</b>	Sunday 1 March 2026
<b>Venue</b>	Shenley Leisure Centre, Burchard Cres, Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes, MK5 6HF

### FINAL

<b>Date</b>	Sunday 10 May 2026
<b>Venue</b>	RAD headquarters, 188 York Road, London, SW11 3JZ

## HEATS CLASS INFORMATION

CLASS	TIME (Approx.)	REQUIREMENTS <i>By 8 December 2025</i>
<b>Class A</b>	10.00-11.15	Must have passed RAD Primary and not yet taken Grade 1
<b>Class B</b>	11.30-12.45	Must have passed RAD Grade 1 or above and not yet taken Grade 3
<b>Class C</b>	13.30-14.45	Must have passed RAD Grade 3 or above, and not yet taken Grade 5 or any of the Vocational examinations
<b>Class D</b>	15.00-16.15	Must have passed RAD Grade 5, and not yet taken the Intermediate examination

### Additional Information

- All classes are suitable for female and male identifying students.
- Students must be age 8-17 for all classes / levels.
- The schedule and timing of classes will be confirmed once the closing date has passed. Please note the timings highlighted above are a guide / approximation only.
- The South East Awards are for RAD teachers and RAD students based in the South East only.
- Students must be entered in the county where they attend classes. E.g. If a student lives in Hampshire but attends classes in Surrey, they must be entered in the Surrey heat.
- Total fees are payable in advance. Refunds will not be available for unattended classes.
- All students will receive a certificate of participation.

### Confirmation

Places are limited and allocated on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. Students must be available for their county heat and the final. Confirmation of place(s) will be emailed as soon as possible after the closing date.

### Dropping candidate at heat venues

Please note there is **no observation of any of the heat classes** and many of the venues used do not have facilities for waiting, so parents/ guardians / teachers will be asked to register candidates then leave the premises. Candidates should arrive ready to dance where possible.

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

Candidates will be judged throughout the class on their ability to demonstrate the following three elements in their work:

<b>Technique</b>	Incorporating co-ordination, alignment, use of space, line through the body, secure stretched leg extensions, elevation with controlled landings, articulated footwork
<b>Musicality</b>	Incorporating correct timing, rhythmical accuracy, and response to phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere
<b>Performance</b>	Incorporating expression and communication

Please note that the adjudicator's decision is final and cannot be appealed

## **DRESS CODE**

- RAD recommended uniform must be worn – plain classical style leotard (no crossover straps or lace inserts).
- Tights should be regulation exam colour.
- Candidates should wear flat ballet shoes.
- No Character or Pointe work will be done in any of the county heats or final.
- Hair should be groomed, neat and tidy in a classical style.

## **FACULTY AND JUDGES**

Faculty and Judges to be announced.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Entry

The closing date is 8 December 2025. Candidates must meet all the entry qualifications stated:

- Be age 8-17
- Dancing with an RAD teacher in the South East of England
- Entered in the county where they attend classes. E.g. If a student lives in Hampshire but attends classes in Surrey, they must be entered in the Surrey heat.

### Application

All entries must be made online. Please go to the 'Events' page on the RAD website and filter on 'Event type' as 'competition' ([royalacademyofdance.org/events/](https://royalacademyofdance.org/events/))

Or try clicking here: [RAD United Kingdom | South East Awards 2026](#)

Candidates must enter through their RAD teacher. The teacher is required to input their RAD ID in the registration form. Entries can be made from the 8 September, if you have trouble locating the event, please find the links required below.

- **25 January 2026 | SURREY & KENT** [click here](https://cvent.me/qxdA83) or copy and paste the link to share: <https://cvent.me/qxdA83>
- **1 February 2026 | HAMPSHIRE** [click here](https://cvent.me/eAwrgb) or copy and paste the link to share: <https://cvent.me/eAwrgb>
- **8 February 2026 | SUSSEX** [click here](https://cvent.me/dnbrl0) or copy and paste the link to share: <https://cvent.me/dnbrl0>
- **1 March 2026 | BERKSHIRE | OXFORDSHIRE | BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** [click here](https://cvent.me/eAwrm0) or copy and paste the link to share: <https://cvent.me/eAwrm0>

### Competition entry fee

The South East Awards entry fee is £35.00.

### Welfare and wellbeing of candidates

At the South East Awards we place the highest importance on your welfare and wellbeing, and we encourage each of you to prioritise it as well. At the RAD, we have a duty of care to provide a safe and supportive environment and promote the health and wellbeing of all participants.

### Medical conditions and allergies

When applying for the South East Awards, you will be asked to notify us of any medical conditions or allergies. For your own safety, it is important that you give us this information.

### In the event of an emergency

In the event of an injury or medical emergency, a qualified first aider will provide treatment and assistance. Parents or guardians will be notified of the incident, and an accident report form will be completed.

### Chaperones

We provide chaperones who will be responsible for candidates under the age of 18. All

chaperones have current criminal record checks (DBS or equivalent) in place and are briefed on the RAD's safeguarding policies and procedures.

Candidates will not be permitted to leave the venue unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or teacher.

### **Taking care of you**

If at any time something or someone is worrying the candidate, they can speak to a chaperone or member of staff. Alternatively, they can email [safeguarding@rad.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rad.org.uk), and we will be there to help.

If you have a safeguarding concern, whether it relates to yourself or another candidate, please speak to the lead chaperone immediately. You can also speak to the RAD's designated Safeguarding Manager or send any low-level concerns to [safeguarding@rad.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rad.org.uk) at any time.

Our full Safeguarding Policy & Procedures are available online and updated annually [Policies, Procedures, and Regulations - Royal Academy of Dance](#).

Candidates' wellbeing is of the highest importance. There are dedicated staff, chaperones, and teachers available to support you, so please communicate openly with them.

### **Travel and accommodation**

Each candidate will be responsible for his or her own accommodation and travel to and from the venue for the regional heats and if selected to be part of the final at the RAD headquarters.

### **Ticketing**

An audience of teachers, family and friends are welcome to attend the final.

Tickets will be available to purchase via [the RAD website](#) at a charge of £5 each. All prices include VAT.

Further details will be sent when the tickets go on sale. Due to rising costs, it is necessary for all audience attendees to purchase a ticket. The family & teacher for each finalist will have a priority booking period before tickets go on general sale.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

### Competitions and Bursary Awards

#### 1. Bookings

- a) Bookings are made via an online booking platform using a debit/credit card to generate a unique order number. Payment will be processed automatically at the time of registration. If payment fails, registration will not be completed and you will receive immediate notification.
- b) Automatic acknowledgement of a confirmed registration will be sent via email to the contact email address entered. Please keep this email to quote the unique order number if you need to contact the Artistic Team.
- c) Further written confirmation and full details of the candidate's entry will be sent after the closing date. You are advised not to book travel or accommodation until you have received final confirmation.
- d) Bookings are not transferable to another activity or participant.
- e) Candidates are advised to enter early to ensure a place.

#### 2. Cancellation of an event

- a) Competitions may be cancelled by the RAD if they fail to attract a viable number of candidates. In such circumstances, full refunds will be made.
- b) If a competition is cancelled due to the sickness of the teacher, a health epidemic, pandemic, infectious disease or any other unforeseen event, then we will try to reschedule. This may be on a different day and time from when originally scheduled. If you are unable to attend the rescheduled date and are in touch within the timeframe communicated, a full refund will be made. After the deadline, refunds will be subject to the conditions in point 4.
- c) If the RAD is unable to reschedule the activity, full refunds will be made.

#### 3. Withdrawals and Refunds

There will be no refund for withdrawals made once you have registered, in any event.

##### 3.1 Notice of withdrawal

Notification of withdrawal must be emailed to the Artistic team at [participate@rad.org.uk](mailto:participate@rad.org.uk). The Artistic Team takes no responsibility for non-receipt of email or postage notifications.

#### 4. Insurance

Applicants are advised to consider taking out insurance against withdrawal due to injury/illness, medical treatment or hospitalisation, or due to personal or family reasons, which might prevent them completing the activity. Applicants with an existing injury attend at their own risk.

#### 5. Waiver

- a) Physical contact may be necessary by members of the teaching faculty. If you would like to discuss this, please contact the Artistic Team.
- b) In the event of an injury or medical emergency during the activity, a qualified First Aider from Royal Academy of Dance will provide necessary treatment and assistance to the participant. A parent/guardian will be notified of the incident. An accident report form will be completed, copies of which are held by the HR department. If you have any questions regarding this, please email [participate@rad.org.uk](mailto:participate@rad.org.uk)



## **6. Content**

The RAD reserves the right to alter the advertised programme or faculty and judges without prior notice. The information presented on the RAD website and in other printed or electronic notices is correct at the time of publication.

## **7. Eligibility**

Any decision relating to the meeting of entry criteria is at the discretion of the Artistic Team. Please email [participate@rad.org.uk](mailto:participate@rad.org.uk) if you have any questions.

## **8. Code of Conduct**

All candidates will be sent a Code of Conduct with their confirmation details (please read these with students where possible). Failure to observe the code may result in candidates being asked to leave. The RAD reserves the right to refuse admission to any candidate prior to, or during the event. In this instance no refund will be given.

## **9. Changes to the terms and conditions**

We reserve the right to change these terms and conditions.

## **10. Agreement to the terms and conditions**

- a) Candidates and their parent/guardian must acknowledge their acceptance of the terms and conditions by ticking the relevant box during the online application process.
- b) The terms and conditions must be accepted to enter the competition as a candidate with the RAD. Applications cannot be submitted until the acceptance box has been ticked (see Clause 10a).

### **Data Protection Statement**

The RAD holds information and contact details requested at the time of your booking that enable them to provide you with information relating to a candidate registration for the competition. We will not disclose your information to a third party except where legally required to do so.

In addition, our new Privacy Statement and Company Privacy Policy are available to view and download: The full RAD Privacy statement is available to view online [here](#).