

# The Greattalk National Speech Contest 2025 Handbook

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## 1. About the Event

The Greattalk National Speech Contest is designed to inspire, empower, and train young speakers from Year 0 to 13, instilling a lifelong appreciation for public speaking. It encourages students to apply their speaking skills in academic, personal, and professional contexts. The contest promotes the development of clear expression, critical thinking, and self-confidence—skills essential for success in every stage of life.

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

This event is hosted by Cubee Group, supported by Speech New Zealand (Speech NZ). The judging criteria are guided and supported by the official assessment system of Speech NZ.

## 2. Registration

- Students must be based in New Zealand.
- Open to students from Year 0 to Year 13.
- Scan the QR code or use this link to sign up.  
<https://forms.gle/NpcCEhG26JGJQhba6>
- Once registered, you can begin preparing for your preliminary round.



## 3. Important Dates

- Registration: 8:00 AM, 7 July – 10:00 PM, 3 August 2025
- Preliminary Round: 4 – 24 August 2025

- Final Contest: 1:00 PM – 5:30 PM, 14 September 2025

*Further details can be found on our official website (Cubee Education): [www.cubee.nz](http://www.cubee.nz)*

#### **4. Age Groups**

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

#### **5. Preliminary Round**

- Contestants must submit a video of themselves delivering a prepared speech lasting between 3 to 4 minutes. For students in Year 0 to Year 2, speeches of approximately two minutes in length are acceptable.
- Participants may choose any topic of interest, drawing from personal experiences, daily life, or reflections.
- Speech formats may include informative, persuasive, demonstrative, or others.
- Speakers are encouraged to present clearly, confidently, and with strong structure.
- For students in Year 5 and above, please state the intended audience.
- Four contestants from each group will advance to the finals.

- Videos must be recorded and submitted to **cubee@group@gmail.com** between **4 August and 24 August 2025**. Please note that submissions received after 24 August 2025, or those not meeting the outlined requirements, may not be accepted.
- The email must include the contestant's full name, age group, speech title, and a valid video URL (e.g., Google Drive or YouTube).
- Submissions with incorrect, inaccessible, or broken links will not be accepted.
- The judges will announce the finalists on September 1 and email the final topic to the finalists; students in Year 0 - 6 may continue with their preliminary topic, while Year 7 and above will receive a designated topic. Finalists will have two weeks to prepare for the grand final.
- **Video Requirements:**
  - Clear video/audio with no background noise or echo.
  - Single-camera setup only; no editing.
  - Landscape (horizontal) format.
  - Contestant must be clearly visible and in focus.
  - Cue cards are permitted, but delivery must remain natural and confident.

## 6. Final Contest

- **Date & Time:** 1PM – 5:30 PM, 14 September 2025
- **Location:** Sir Owen G Glenn Building, The University of Auckland

(12 Grafton Road, Auckland Central, Auckland 1010)

• **Younger Groups (Year 0 – Year 4):**

- Prepared speech only.
- No cue cards allowed.
- Speech duration: 3 to 3.5 minutes.
- The use of visual aids is encouraged where appropriate.

**Older Groups (Year 5 – Year 13):**

- Prepared and impromptu speeches required.

**Prepared Speech:**

- Finalists will receive three topics via email and must choose one. (Year 7-13 only)
- No cue cards allowed.
- Speech duration: 4 to 4.5 minutes.
- Visual aids required.

**Impromptu Speech:**

- The topic will be announced at the venue.
- All group contestants receive the same topic.
- 3 minutes to prepare, 2–3 minutes to deliver.

**7. Judging Criteria**

- Judging applies to both Preliminary and Final rounds and follows the Speech NZ framework.

### **Preliminary Round:**

- Assessed on content and delivery: structure, clarity, originality, grammar, and audience engagement.
- Delivery includes voice control, enthusiasm, clarity, body language, and time management.

### **Final Round:**

#### **Prepared Speech:**

- Emphasis on logic, originality, structure, and clear targeting of the audience.
- Judges assess vocal variety, confidence, use of space, and integration of visual aids.
- Time management is critical.

#### **Impromptu Speech:**

- Judged on voice, grammar, clarity of ideas, effectiveness, and physical presence.

### **Finals Judging Panel:**

- An odd number of judges will ensure clear decisions.
- Judges must determine a first, second, and third place.
- In case of a tie, decisions will be made by a show of hands.
- Scores are revealed only if a tie occurs.
- A visible light system will be used for timekeeping.

## 8. Awards and Recognition

### First Place:

- One free module exam of Speech NZ (sponsored by the official sponsor)
- Invitation to an Educational Tour in Parliament, Wellington (Sponsored round-trip domestic tickets to Wellington for winners; accommodation not included)
- Name engraved on the official The Greattalk Trophy
- Certificate of Excellence

### Second Place:

- Official Certificate of Achievement
- Invitation to an Educational Tour in Parliament (travel and accommodation not included)

### Third Place:

- Official Certificate of Achievement
- Invitation to an Educational Tour in Parliament (travel and accommodation not included)

### Note:

- *The winners will be announced on the day of the competition, and the official award ceremony will be held at the Wellington Parliament Building at a later date to be announced separately.*
- *Previous cash prizes have been replaced with sponsored Speech NZ modules to further encourage growth in public speaking.*