20th February 2026
Dear Competitors,

NORTHERN AREA WEEKEND
BISHOP AUCKLAND COLLEGE, WOODHOUSE LANE, BISHOP AUCKLAND, DL14 6JZ

Congratulations for getting through to Northern Area 2026. Please ensure all competitors are aware of the details for the competition.

Entertainments

Performance Order commencing at 8.30am on Saturday 7th March and 9.30am on Sunday 8th March

Saturday 7th March 2026

Booking In – Technical and H&S Briefings
8.30 am – Northumberland
9.30 am – Cumbria B
10.30 am – Yorkshire B
11.30am – Cumbria A
12.30pm – LUNCH
Performances
1pm – Cumbria A
2pm – Yorkshire B
3pm – Cumbria B
4pm – Northumberland

Sunday 8th March 2026

Booking In – Technical and H&S Briefings
9.30am – Cumbria C
10.30am – Yorkshire A
LUNCH - 12 noon
Performances
12.30 pm – Yorkshire A
1.30pm – Cumbria C

I have attached various specifications from the Theatre. You will also receive all the other relevant documents once all teams have qualified.
To ensure a successful day, all teams **MUST** submit the following information to me (Alex McMenemy) by the stated deadline, by email to naweekend2026@outlook.com
Deadline **4pm on Tuesday 24th February 2026**

1. **Cast list.** This is to be printed in the programme and is a requirement from our sponsors. Please include any thank you' s or special mentions you wish to make.
2. To promote the competition, we require a paragraph about the performance.
3. The Paragraph will be used by the compere on the day.

Deadline **4pm on Saturday 28th February 2026**

1. **PRS Play list** - a list of all songs that are being played through the performance.
2. **Authors Authority** - required if scripts/performance have been purchased i.e., copyright etc. and any amendments which have been made.
3. **Backstage Personnel information**. Each team is allowed 8 people who are over membership age to help with the production. These eight people must be paid up members of the County Federation and have been a member on

the day of the County Final, and have with them on the day of the competition their membership card either printed or in a digital format. Each team is allowed 1 producer who does not need to carry a YFC Card.

4. **Running times** – please provide the time from start to finish of the performance to allows us to plan for breaks.
5. **Compere's paragraph** which will be read out by the Compere on the day. Setting the scene of the performance and making any reference to sponsors or those who have helped with the production.
6. **Full script/resume** of your production for mailing to the adjudicators. These can be sent by email to pass on. To note that if this is an original performance then we need permission from the writer/copywriter to ensure that this play has permission to be performed and I do need original copies of the plan/performance you are not allowed to photocopy them.
7. **Lighting Plan** This year we will require all the lighting plans to be sent to us by **Saturday 28th February**. The technicians at the theatre will cue all lighting and then it will only need to be double checked on the day during the technical rehearsal.
8. **Sound**. For audio, the connection is 3.5mm jack. Wired mics will be available for use.
9. **Detailed Risk Assessment** of the production in order that it can be mailed to the Theatre Technical Team for review. Note for 2026: this will not be marked but failure to produce a satisfactory Risk Assessment will result in disqualification as per the rules.
   9.1. ***Note:*** The Theatre Technical Team hold the full authority to remove any part of the production that is deemed unsafe or to stop a production if any activity on-stage is, in their professional opinion, unsafe – thus it is very important that the detailed Risk Assessments are submitted by the deadline.
   1.1. **Additional equipment** – please note that this needs to be ordered in advance and all requirements need to be sent in via email so that there is no confusion on the day (please note that the theatre does not have a piano – other arrangements will need to be made if required). Any extras will incur additional charges – please email your requirements to naweekend2026@outlook.com . Any technical requirements must go through me in the first instance. There are two wired mics available.
10. **PLEASE NOTE** – There are no fly bars available for use.

Deadline **4pm on Saturday 1st March 2026.**

Completed Parental Consent Form - to note for 2026 all those under the age of 18 a JotForm link will be sent to either a parent or guardian to be completed by the deadline via email.

Tickets Sales

1. Tickets will be sold on the day on a first come first served basis. Tickets will cost £2 per performance and numbers are limited.
2. The first three rows of seating will be reserved for supporters of the performing County.
3. Admittance to Cast Members to the Theatre – on the day of the competition all cast members will be wristbanded in various colours depending upon their roles and ages at the time of booking in, this will be purely for the performance and backstage. If competitors wish to watch other performances, then they will need to purchase tickets. You will not be able to watch performances without a valid ticket.

On the days of the finals – **Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March 2026.**

1. Each member of the cast must ***in person*** book-in with the stewards for a membership card check - this can be either digital (on their telephones) or printed off. For those under the age of 18 we request that these are printed off to save time on the day.
2. Platform Time – As stated in the NFYFC rules is up to 30 minutes, with a maximum of 10 minutes to set the stage and 10 minutes to clear the stage otherwise time faults will be given.
3. Technical time – stated is 35 minutes. **To note that the first 5 minutes of the technical time will be taken up by a Health and Safety Briefing along with the Theatre rules. To note that everyone in the production must be present when the H&S Briefing takes place.**
4. **PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MATERIAL OF QUESTIONNABLE NATURE WILL BE PENALISED.** ***Teams are reminded that they will be performing to a family audience.***
5. Timekeeper – The official timekeeper will be responsible for keeping time. Producers are asked to notify the official Stage Manager when they are ready to begin, and timing will commence and will continue until the show ends and performers clear from the stage.
6. Dressing Rooms – teams will be allowed into their Dressing Room approximately one hour prior to the commencement of each session. Due to large casts please can you bear with the Stewards on the day for the allocation of rooms/areas.

7. **Safeguarding arrangements – this year we have been given a Body of Persons from Durham County Council. On the day all those associated with the Competition will be wrist banded in different colours. On the day of the competition teams must have DBS checked people on a ratio of 1:8 or if you have 10-12 age members in place this will be 1:6, to purely look after those between the ages of 10-16. These supervisors must not have any other role in the production. Please forward the list of those who will be looking after your members between the age of 10-16. Guidelines for Chaperones for the day of the competition on safeguarding will be sent out separately as to what is required from each team once the nominated person's name has been received.**
8. **There is strictly no admission during a performance.**
9. Refreshments – are available to purchase via our food van or tuck shop on the day. The theatre is accessible from the main entrance of the college.
10. Parking – there is ample parking in the main college car park.
11. Please note – the stage area is small and measurements have been circulated previously to Counties.
12. **You must select a Liaison Officer who will ask any questions you may have, only questions from your dedicated liaison Officer will be answered.**
13. Awards will be given for the new categories
    a. Best performance in a lead role,
    b. Best Performance in a Supporting Role,
    c. Best Performance for a member who is 17 and Under
    d. Best Moment in the Theatre

If you need help with completing any of the above paperwork, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance and clarification.

Finally, good luck with your preparations and rehearsals, and I look forward to seeing you all on 7th and 8th March.

Show Choir

1. This will take part in a room within the college. Mics will not be used. All competitors taking part will be on one level – no raised platforms to be used.
2. NFYFC rules will be followed.
3. Ten minutes rehearsal time will be given.
4. Speakers are provided and can be played direct from your phone.
5. Please make sure you come dressed with base layers on as no designated changing room is provided.

Commercial Dance

1. This will take place in the sports hall accessible from the main entrance of the college. **Please note – no heeled footwear will be allowed in to the sports hall. Sportswear must be worn or bare feet, including for spectators.**
2. NFYFC rules will be followed.
3. Ten minutes rehearsal time will be given.
4. Speakers are provided and music can be played direct from your phone
5. Please make sure you come with base layers on as no designated changing room is provided.

Sports Competitions

1. Dodgeball will take place indoors on Sunday 8th March. NFYFC rules will be followed. Balls and bibs will be provided. Please make sure you are dressed appropriately and have trainers. No admission will be allowed in to the sports hall if footwear or clothing not suitable.
2. Rounders will take place on the grassed area outside. NFYFC rules will be followed. All equipment and bibs will be provided. Please make sure you are dressed appropriately and plan for all weathers.
3. Hockey will take place at Barnard Castle School – DL12 8UN. This is approximately 30 minutes from Bishop Auckland College. NFYFC rules will be followed. All equipment, including goal keepers kit, must be provided by the competing team. Trainers must be worn and no studs are permitted. Hockey will be played on Astroturf. Prizegiving for Hockey will take place at Barnard Castle School after the competition concludes.

Speaking Competitions

1. All speaking competitions will follow NFYFC rules.
2. For Junior Member of the Year and Junior Public Speaking, you will have access to a computer and screen. Please make sure your presentation is saved on to a USB stick.
3. For Junior Reading, all passages will be printed and given to competitors on the day. The book will be circulated on Friday 13th February. Please ensure the ISBN of the book that you use, matches the one sent out.
4. For Situations Vacant, CV's, covering letters and copies of the job adverts should be sent no later than Friday 21st February. These will then be forwarded to the judges in advance.
5. Mace Debating topics will be sent out on Friday 13th February.

A timetable will be sent out as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either myself or Clare at naweekend2026@outlook.com

I wish you all the best of luck and look forward to seeing you all on 7th and 8th March at Bishop Auckland College.