

O'SHEA SHIELD 2026



Guidelines

Impromptu Speaking

Kōrero tene

Impromptu Speaking

To be adjudicated in two sections

1. All candidates in a section will assemble in an outside room. Approximately 4 minutes will be given to each candidate to prepare in private before going on stage. Students should use this time to decide on their few main points and keep them clearly in mind during the actual speech. The speaker will be able to keep the topics during their 4-minute preparation time.
2. The topics for Section A and Section B will not be identical. They will consist of two concrete and two abstract topics on one sheet of paper, from which the student chooses one.
3. The Chairperson will announce the name and candidate's school but NOT the topic.
4. Candidates should begin by addressing the Chair and the audience.
5. Each speech is to be 4 minutes maximum with a bell at 3 minutes.
6. It is important that students know how to introduce, structure, and end an impromptu speech. While humour is a valuable tool, it should be appropriate to the audience and directed to the main idea being expressed.
7. The content of an impromptu speech is not necessarily light-hearted – a meaningful idea, explained with clarity, wit, and verve, is more successful than filling in time with random or inappropriate jokes. Working up to the final punchline, in the set time given, is a skill that needs plenty of practice and careful planning.

Marks and Awards

The adjudicators' marking schedule has been standardised to totals out of 100.

Trophies will be awarded to the team gaining the highest total marks in each of the two sections.

6 points	Distinction award	Excellent standard	86-100%
5 points	Distinction award	High standard	76-85%
4 points	Merit award	Good standard	66-75%
3 points	Merit award	Average standard	51-65%
2 points	Participation award	Completed, below average	31-50%
1 point	Participation award	Incomplete or inadequate	0-30%



Impromptu Speaking *Kōrero tene* Adjudication Sheet

Name:

College:

Topic selected:

Time:

	Marks possible	Marks awarded
Speech structure and development: Opening, body, logical build-up of ideas, close of speech	25	
Content: Imaginative, persuasive, humorous, logical	25	
Effectiveness: Audience reaction and achievement of purpose	25	
Voice and Appearance: Poise, gesture, fluency and flexibility of voice, Eye contact, confidence, enthusiasm	25	
TOTAL: Convert to Points 1 - 6	100	

COMMENT: