
The Crystal Lecture 2026

Wednesday 11 March 2026

Speaker Biography

Nate Ethan Watson, is a visionary artist, advocate, and community leader



Nate Ethan Watson (he/they) is a visionary artist, advocate, and community leader, hailed by the BBC as the UK's first transgender rapper. His groundbreaking career bridges artistry and advocacy, using music and public speaking to inspire audiences across all ages, backgrounds, and industries. Before his transition in 2018, Nate worked with global artists including Ed Sheeran and grime legend D Double E, toured with X Factor finalists, performed at major events like the Pineapple Dance Studios finale with Louie Spence, and took part in the Celebrity Soccer Six tournament in 2012.

As one of Wolverhampton's pioneering grime MCs, he became BBC 1Xtra's 16 Bar Champion, performing internationally, including an invitation from the Manila Police Force in the Philippines. Beyond music, Nate graduated with First Class Honours in Public Health from the University of Wolverhampton and is now a respected public speaker on transitioning, mental health, and wellbeing.

As the founder and director of TNB Connect, Nate leads a UK-based organisation dedicated to supporting and empowering trans and non-binary people through direct support, training, and community initiatives. Starting with a partnership with Fila to donate clothing during the pandemic, TNB Connect has grown into a thriving platform redistributing clothing and gender-affirming items, offering essential living support, and delivering wellbeing workshops in schools, universities, workplaces, healthcare, and prisons. Featured in multiple media outlets and as the face of the national campaign "Every Story Has a Start," Nate continues to collaborate with Hollywood actress Nathalie Emmanuel and other major allies, using his voice and platform to champion equality, visibility, and empowerment for all.