

# Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year 2018

## A major writing competition for senior pupils

The online current affairs magazine, Scottish Review, in association with the Young Programme charity, is delighted to announce the launch of the 2018 Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year. Once again, generous prizes are to be won!

### Who can take part?

The competition is open to pupils who are 15 to 18 years old on the closing date of **Friday 14 December 2018**. A prize of £600 will be presented to the winning writer, and £300 each to two runners-up. The award-winning entries will be published in a special edition of Scottish Review and on the Young Programme website.

### The judges

The winning papers will be determined by a panel of distinguished judges including the editor of Scottish Review, **Kenneth Roy**; novelist, **James Robertson**; former president of the Educational Institute of Scotland, **Rose Galt**; politician and former secretary general of NATO, **Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**; Guardian columnist, **Ian Jack**; actor, **Bill Paterson**; and founder of the Centre for Confidence and Well-being, **Carol Craig**.

### The Challenge

Each entry must be a work of non-fiction. Pupils are asked to imagine they are writing a feature or an opinion column for an intelligent magazine or serious newspaper. It could, for example, be a commentary about something in the news, thoughts about a cultural experience (a review of an exhibition or a theatrical production perhaps), an account of a personal experience of some kind (a trip, a meeting, an incident), a piece about a sports event (major or minor), a profile of or an interview with an individual.

Around 1,000 words are required (**no fewer than 900; no more than 1,100** – entries outside of these margins **will not** be considered).

## About us

The Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year competition was piloted in 2015 and is now into its fourth year.

Last year, the winner was **Shannon Henderson**, St Maurice's High School, Cumbernauld. Joint runners up: **Wallace Dempster**, Mallaig High School; **Eleanor Greenwood**, St Leonards School, St Andrews; and **Anoushay Okhai**, High School of Dundee.

Highly commended places were awarded to **Olivia Brunton**, Peebles High School; **Niamh Corkey**, Balwearie High School, Kirkcaldy; **Juanita Ekekwe**, St Margaret's School for Girls, Aberdeen; **Brad Gibson**, Carrick Academy, Maybole; **Kåre Hansen**, Galashiels Academy; **Strath Lumsden**, Woodmill High School, Dunfermline; **Hamish Martin**, Portobello High School, Edinburgh; and **Iona Weir**, James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh. Eight commendations were also awarded.













## Advice to entrants



- \* Before you begin writing, you should have a look at columns in, for example, the Times, Guardian, Scotsman, i, or in quality magazines such as Scottish Review or the Spectator to get a feel for what is required.
- \* You should remember that the start of the piece is vital in hooking the reader's interest.
- \* You should always have the reader in mind and keep asking yourself: is this interesting? Will the reader understand my logic? Does anything need clarification?
- \* You should read your piece aloud to yourself. If you get confused then you should edit/rewrite/reorganise/reappraise; if you can't understand something that you have written then neither will the reader.
- \* The judges will be looking for insight and originality as well as stylish prose which has clarity and avoids cliché and jargon.

## Checklist and Rules

-  The competition is open to pupils in schools in Scotland who are between 15 and 18 on **Friday 14 December 2018**
-  Schools must email [schools@youngprogramme.org](mailto:schools@youngprogramme.org) to register participation no later than **Wednesday 31 October 2018**, giving the organisers the name, title and email address of a point of contact
-  Entries must be **non-fiction** and in the style of a column/article for a serious newspaper or magazine
-  Entries must be the work of the author alone, must not have been edited or otherwise altered by a teacher or anyone else, and must not have been published previously
-  Entries should have **no fewer than 900 words and no more than 1,100 words**
-  The closing date for entries is **Friday 14 December 2018**
-  Each entry must take the form of a PDF emailed via the school, and must state at the top: the **name** of the author and his/her **age** on the closing date, along with the **name and village/town/city of the school**
-  Each school may submit a maximum of **10 entries**
-  A shortlist will be announced in late January. Each of the shortlisted authors will be required to supply a head and shoulders photograph for the Scottish Review and Young Programme websites
-  The award-winning entries will be published on our two websites: [www.scottishreview.net](http://www.scottishreview.net) and [www.youngprogramme.org](http://www.youngprogramme.org)

### Contact us

Scottish Review is published by the Institute of Contemporary Scotland  
Suite 216, Liberator House, Glasgow Prestwick Airport, KA9 2PT  
Tel: 01292 478510, Charity No.: SC030680  
Email: [schools@youngprogramme.org](mailto:schools@youngprogramme.org)  
Director: Islay McLeod