

World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM)

Essay Writing Competition 2022

The WCSQM Essay Writing Competition is open to all accredited World Class schools, and those applying for accreditation at the time of submission.

The Essay Theme

“Friendship”

Everyone needs friends. They are our supporters, our allies, our teammates. They make us laugh; sometimes they make us cry. You can tackle this theme in any way you like. You could write about a real friendship or a fictitious one; what it is like to make a new friend or lose an old one. What does friendship mean to you?

You’re invited to write your essay on the theme of friendship taking any angle you choose.

Our competition judge - Robert Douglas-Fairhurst

ROBERT DOUGLAS-FAIRHURST is a Fellow of Magdalen College and Professor of English Literature at the University of Oxford. His books include *Becoming Dickens: The Invention of a Novelist*, which won the Duff Cooper Prize, and *The Story of Alice: Lewis Carroll and the Secret History of Wonderland*, which was shortlisted for the Costa Biography Award. He writes regularly for publications including *The Times*, *Guardian*, *Times Literary Supplement*, and *Literary Review*. He has also acted as a consultant on BBC productions of *Jane Eyre*, *Emma*, and *Great Expectations*, and the 2019 feature film *Enola Holmes*. In 2015, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He lives in Oxford.



The Competition Rules

The rules are as follows:

- The competition is open to all students at your school.
- The maximum length of each submission is **2,500 words**
- Submitted essays should **not** include diagrams or graphics
- Essays must be submitted electronically in A4 portrait, using black, Helvetica, 12-point font in either MS Word / Google Docs format
- Each submitted essay should include the name and year group of the student, and the name of the school, in the footer.
- A maximum of three submissions per school will be accepted, and must be submitted **by Friday 14th October 2022**.
- Essays should be submitted in a single email (with the three essays attached) to info@worldclass-schools.org - i.e. one email per participating school
- The covering email should **confirm** that these essays have been independently authored by the students
- Late submissions will **not** be accepted
- Shortlisting will be carried out by the English faculty and students of [St Albans Girls' School](#) in Hertfordshire, whose year 7 student Lily Kennedy won the competition in 2021.
- Robert Douglas-Fairhurst will read all shortlisted entries and choose the winner and runners up.
- All submitting schools/students will be advised of the shortlist by **15th November**.

The Awards

There will be one winner and honourable mentions, who will receive the WCSQM Essay Competition Award and commemorations at our Awards Ceremony in December from Robert Douglas-Fairhurst himself. Winning essays will be published on the WCSQM website, with winning students and schools named in press releases.

The Prizes

- Shortlisted students will be honourably mentioned at the Awards Ceremony and on the WCSQM website.
- Winners and runners up will be announced and awarded at the Awards Ceremony, and their essays will be made available to download from the WCSQM website.
- The winner and runners up will be invited to join Robert Douglas -Fairhurst at Magdalen College where they can enjoy a tour of the college, and an undergraduate lecture.
- The winner will receive the Essay Competition trophy at the Awards Ceremony in December 2022.
- The winner's school will be invited to carry out the shortlisting of the 2023 Essay Competition entries.

We suggest that

- You run an internal competition for your students
- A nominated judge within your school selects the best three for submission to WCSQM.

You can find last year's winning essays on the WCSQM website here:

<https://www.worldclass-schools.org/news-events/essay-writing-competition/>

The competition is a fantastic summer holiday project.

If you or your students require further information on the competition terms or process, please feel free to contact WCSQM at info@worldclass-schools.org