

Art, art history, design, photography

Young Artists' Summer Show

The Young Artists' Summer Show is an exciting opportunity for students aged 4–19 to exhibit their artwork online and at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Young Fashion Designer UK

Established in 2010 Young Fashion Designer UK is an exciting national competition which focuses on enhancing the talent of students to showcase and promote the exceptional work achieved at GCSE, A-Level and by students aged 11-14 studying textiles design, product design and fashion throughout the United Kingdom. The competition is run by centres in the South and Midlands who are each committed to providing a platform for young fashion designers.

Classics

The Classical Association 2024 Competition

Details of the 2024 Competition, with three age categories (11 and under; 12-18; and 19 and over) will be released soon.

Computing and computer technology

Alan Turing Cryptography Competition

Now in its tenth year, the Alan Turing Cryptography Competition is aimed at secondary school children in the UK up to Year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland), Year 12 (Northern Ireland). The competition is organised by the Department of Mathematics at the University of Manchester. The current edition of competition started in mid-January 2024, with problems being released on subsequent Monday afternoons at 4pm (UK time). Prior to the competition opening, puzzles from previous years will be made available for practice.

Cyber Explorers - Knowledge Hub

Picture this: Cyber City is under threat, and your school has the chance to save the day. Herbert the Hacker, enroute to prison, has cunningly left behind a trail of intricate digital puzzles within the city. These mysteries hold the key to saving Cyber City and its citizens. The question is, is your team up for the challenge?

Perse Coding Team Challenge

The Perse Coding Team Challenge will test your programming prowess as you battle it out against teams from across the UK for the Braben Cup.

English literature and creative writing

BBC Young Writers Award

The BBC Young Writers' Award is open to writers between the ages of 14-18 years. All you need to do is write a story of up to 1,000 words, on any theme you like!

Global Young Journalist Awards

Youth journalism competition run by The Day, aiming to inspire future generations of journalists to build a better world through storytelling – now in its third year. The Awards are free to enter and anyone aged 7-18 anywhere in the world can enter their story in any journalism format they wish.

National Literacy Trust Competitions and Challenges

VARIOUS DEADLINES

The National Literacy Trust runs various competitions including 'Wicked Writers: Be the change' and 'We Wonder: Journey into Space reading challenge', 'Miles of Magic reading challenge' & many more...

Oxford University: Christopher Tower Poetry Competition

The Christopher Tower Poetry Competition runs from October to February, with students between 16-18 years of age challenged to write a poem on the theme 'Mirror.'

Young Writers

COMPETITIONS OPEN ALL YEAR

Writing competitions and resources for learners from EYFS to age 18. Some competitions close in December, however some are open all year such as their Ghost Stories competition open to 5 – 18 year olds.

Economics

Royal Economic Society:

Young Economist of the Year

The Young Economics of the Year Competition is an annual student-based competition for Year 10 – Year 13 students, to encourage them to think about current economic issues and promote the study of economic science.

The Gerald O’Connell Essay Competition in Economics

The Gerald O’Connell Essay Competition in Economics is run by Fitzwilliam Collage, University of Cambridge. This competition is open to all students in Year 12 (or equivalent) attending a State School in the UK.

Entrepreneurship

Young Enterprise 10X Challenge

Young people aged 11-19 have four weeks to research, create, plan and run their own business with a £10 pledge. A highly interactive programme offering first hand experience to enhance confidence and enterprising mindsets. The 10X Challenge usually takes place in April and May.

Geography

Geographical Association:

Worldwise Quiz

The local quiz format involves a University Challenge style face-to-face quiz for multiple teams of three students, aimed at the Y8–10 age range. Quizzes are arranged for schools in an area by a local organiser and the question rounds are supplied free from the GA.

Royal Geographical Society: Young Geographer of the Year

Annual competition which recognises the outstanding work of the next generation of geographers. Spanning the primary years to A-Level, the competition encourages thoughtful and creative answers to the competition’s theme which is set each year. The Society encourages schools to run their own in-house competition and then send their top 10 entries into the national competition.

History

Historical Association Competitions

Including The Great Debate, an annual public-speaking competition for students aged 15 and over, as well as the Young Historian Awards which offer a range of prizes annually for researching, writing and presenting ideas about a historical theme or period.

The Spirit of Normandy Trust competition

The 6th June 2024 saw the 80th Anniversary of D Day. This was a very significant event in history. The Spirit of Normandy Trust is running a creative competition for primary and secondary aged children.

Linguistics

United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad

Free language-analysis competition, offered at four levels of difficulty for KS2-5. No previous knowledge in language, linguistics or any other subject is needed. The highest scoring students proceed through additional rounds and may be put forward for the International Linguistics Olympiad.

Mathematics

NRICH: live maths problems *OPEN NOW*

Cambridge University's NRICH team sets new live problems approximately every six weeks, challenging primary and secondary students to submit their solutions. Selected solutions are published.

UK Mathematics Trust: Challenges and Competitions

The UKMT runs a wide range of maths challenges and competitions, including the British Mathematical Olympiad. There are challenges for different age groups, including both individual and team activities.

MathsBombe puzzles

MathsBombe is aimed at students up to Year 13 (England and Wales), S6 (Scotland), Year 14 (Northern Ireland). You don't need to be a computer whizz or a mathematical genius — you just need to keep your wits about you and be good at solving puzzles!

Modern languages

Association for Language Learning

A range of competitions across a range of languages, mainly but not exclusively for secondary age groups.

Oxford University Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages

The faculty runs annual competitions for secondary students studying French, German, Spanish and Italian.

The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators

The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators was launched in 2020 and aims to promote language learning across the UK and to inspire creativity in the classroom. The Prize is free to enter and open to all schools across the UK. The Prize currently offers French (into Welsh and English), Spanish, German, Italian and Mandarin.

Music

The World Federation of International Music Competitions

The World Federation of International Music Competitions hosts a number of international competitions through the year.

ROSL Annual Music Competition

Established in 1952, the ROSL Annual Music Competition offers more than £75,000 in awards with a £15,000 first prize for solo performers and chamber ensemble awards of £10,000. The winners of the Wind & Brass, Singers, Strings, and Keyboard solo sections and the collaborative piano prize receive £5,000 each.

The Band Competition

The Band Competition is a chance for bands, groups and ensembles from ISA Members' schools to celebrate their musical talents. All musical styles are welcome. Open to Key Stages 1-5.

Oracy

English-Speaking Union Competitions

A range of competitions to provide a supportive and engaging opportunity for young people to challenge themselves and build their confidence and speaking skills.

Science and technology

Big Bang Competition

Annual science and engineering competition aiming to inspire young minds to be inquisitive, to think big, challenge facts, ask questions and invent solutions. Open to young people in the UK aged 11-19 who are in state-funded education, home educated, or who enter as part of a community group.

British Biology Olympiad

Open to students in post-16 education. The competition consists of two multiple-choice papers to be taken online under supervised exam conditions. It is the first stage in selecting a team to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO).

British Physics Olympiad

Encouraging the study of physics and recognising excellence in young physicists through 13 annual physics competitions, designed to test understanding and problem-solving skills. Open to able young physicists in Years 10-13 (or equivalent).

British Science Week Poster Competition

Challenging students aged 3-14 to submit a science poster on the theme for the year, as teams or individuals.

Formula 1 in Schools UK Competition

Annual competition challenging teams of students aged 9-19 to deploy CAD/CAM software to collaborate, design, analyse, manufacture, test, and then race miniature compressed air powered cars made from F1 model block. Each school can enter a maximum of five teams.

University of Oxford Department of Chemistry

A range of events, challenges and competitions for all key stages, designed to challenge students and encourage them to be curious about chemistry.

UK Youth Rocketry Challenge

This competition challenges teams of students aged 11-18 to design, build and launch a model rocket with a fragile payload. The rocket must reach a set altitude with specific total flight duration and must adhere to the set rules. The rules and scoring parameters change each year to challenge students' ingenuity and encourage a fresh approach to rocket design.

Miscellaneous / multiple subjects

Fitzwilliam College Cambridge Essay Competitions

Essay-based competitions, seeking out students with a passion for their subject who have investigated it outside the classroom. Recently, the competitions have related to Ancient World and Classics, Archaeology, History, Land Economy, Medieval World, Architecture and Economics. These essay competitions are exclusively for students in their penultimate year of education (Year 12 in England and Wales, S5 in Scotland, Year 13 in Northern Ireland). Most are open to students in any country but submissions must be written in English.

Minds Underground Essay Competitions

Essay competitions across a wide range of subject areas – including STEM, humanities, classics and modern languages.