**

*Celebrate our past - Enhance our present - Shape our future*

**Harrogate Civic Society Schools History Prize: Guide for Students:**

**What is the Schools History prize?** Harrogate Civic Society has established a Schools History Prize with the purpose of encouraging the study of the history of Harrogate among school students. This is part of the Society’s wider aim to Celebrate our past and of its History Group to research, record and communicate the history of the town.

**Why should I take part?** The prize gives you an opportunity to do your own research on the history of the town and to write it up for a wider readership. It should also be interesting and fun.

**What are the prizes?** The winner’s prize will consist of:

* A cash prize of £50
* A book on an aspect of the history of Harrogate

There will also be two additional prizes of book tokens to the value of £25. The Society will retain the right to publish any essays in its Newsletter or on the Society website.

**How does it work?** The entry requirements are as follows:

* The essay prize is open to students in Year 7 attending a Harrogate school.
* The essay is to be no longer than 1,000 words.
* The essay may be on any subject in the history of Harrogate from the earliest times to the present day. Examples would be a building, a person or people, an organisation or an event or series of events.
* The essay should provide a list of sources used, which is not included in the word limit. There are no further specifications of style so long as the essay is clearly set out and with correct grammar and spelling.
* The essay should be sent as a Word document by email attachment to History Group member Dr Paul Jennings at [paul.jennings@cantab.net](mailto:paul.jennings@cantab.net) Illustrations may be used but securing permission for the reproduction of illustrations is the responsibility of the student.
* All entries must state, in a separate attachment, the student’s name, email address, school, essay title, number of words and a statement confirming that it is the student’s own work.
* The closing date for entries will be Friday 31 March 2023.
* The essays will be judged by a panel and all will be anonymised at that stage.
* The winners will be notified by late May 2023.
* The decision of the judges will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
* If, in the judges’ opinion, the material submitted is not of a suitable standard, no prizes will be awarded.

**What are the judges looking for?** The judges will be looking for all the qualities which make for good history writing:

* How much reading and research have you done
* How well have you used the evidence from that research to tell your story
* Your clarity of expression, including correct grammar and spelling

**How do I get started?** Your teachers will be able to advise you, but you could start by looking at the Harrogate Civic Society website which has a dedicated History section in which you will find links to a brief history of the town, books and relevant sources and their location. Visit <https://www.harrogatecivicsociety.org/history>

We very much hope that you will wish to take part. For the sake of fairness to every student, we will not be able to enter into direct communication with entrants but will answer any general questions from your teachers.