

Have you got what it
takes?



The Headmaster's Challenge:

'Deadline December'

Senior Section (Years 10-13)

What is the challenge?

- Your challenge is to produce an extended essay on a multi-discipline, cross-curricular subject for submission to the judging panel.
- This is a competition so you will need to be ambitious.
- You set the subject matter, but it will need to show sufficiently detailed research, depth and detail to win.
- The essay will be approximately 1500-2500 words long

Why is this activity useful?

- You have the opportunity to take the initiative in how you work.
- You choose the subject to reflect your own interests and areas of expertise.
- You organise your own time and develop your ability to work independently.
- You have the opportunity to go beyond the limitations of single subject study, and to talk about what really interests you.
- Being the school's essay prize-winner and being judged by a panel of academics will not only result in material gain of a prize, but also could enhance future application to higher education.

To be successful you will need to show:

- Depth of understanding
- Evidence of detailed and systematic research
- Engagement with the material
- Evidence of independent study skills
- Evidence of argument/discussion in the quality of the finished piece
- Awareness of cross-curricular issues
- Confident and developed communications skills

You can ask your teachers and parents for advice and suggestions, but you should not expect them to direct you in your work – this is a test of independent working.

How to get going

- Firstly identify the subject that you want to research and write upon – subjects that require you to use detailed research are more likely to fit the criteria for judging.
- Allow time to generate a range of ideas, and set yourself a realistic target for completion – you will need to organise your time since this competition is supplementary to all of your other school work.
- Round one – you have to submit a 300-500 word outline of what you would intend to do to Mr Griffin by the end of September. It should include your subject choice, the areas to be explored, an outline of the research to be done, and an idea of the final piece's presentation. He will inform in due

course the 10 who have been selected to go forward to the next round of the competition.

- Round two – the ten finalists will work on their projects over half term and submit the finished pieces for judging on the first Monday of December.
- The winner will be announced by the headmaster in assembly and prizes will be distributed.

If you have any questions you should ask Mr Griffin, who will be happy to advise you.

The gauntlet has been thrown down – will you rise to the challenge?