



World Class Schools Quality Mark

Essay writing competition 2020

As an accredited and accrediting World Class School, your students automatically qualify for our annual WCSQM Essay Writing Competition.

This year's competition will be judged by [Sarah-Jayne Blakemore](#), Professor of Psychology at the University of Cambridge. Professor Blakemore leads the university's Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Group, where research focuses on the development of social cognition and decision making in the human adolescent brain, and adolescent mental health. Her most recent publication is [Inventing Ourselves: The Secret Life of the Teenage Brain](#).



The award

There will be one winner and honourable mentions, who will receive the WCSQM Essay Competition Award and commemorations at our Awards Ceremony in December 2020 from Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore herself, details to be announced. Winning essays will be published on the WCSQM website, with winning students and schools named in press releases.

The challenge

Sarah-Jayne's essay question is:

“School classrooms look the same across history and across countries. But is the classroom the best way to educate future generations in the 21st century?”

What would the ideal education system look like?”

The terms

The terms are as follows:

- The competition is open to all students at your school **studying in years 4 -5, 9-10** academic year 2020-21.
- 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 PDF or MS Word 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 16th October 2020**.

- Essays should be submitted in a **single** email (with the three essays attached) to essays@worldclass-schools.org - i.e. one email per participating school
- The covering email should **confirm** that these essays have been independently authored by Years 4-5 or 9-10 students
- Late submissions will **not** be accepted
- WCSQM will work with Sarah-Jayne and the English department at King Egbert School, winners of the 2019 WCSQM School of the Year, to select the winner and honourable mentions (with Sarah-Jayne's decision being final) during October, with schools and students informed of the short-list **by 9th November**
- Further information on when / how the shortlisted students will be commemorated and the winners announced will be made available as soon as possible.

We suggest that

- You run an internal competition for your **Year 4 and 5 or 9 and 10** 2020/21 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 essays@worldclass-schools.org