

INFORMATION NOTE FOR TEACHERS ON THE ARMISTICE PRIZE

Introduction

The Armistice Prize Competition was introduced in 2008 to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice. From experience gained in operating the competition it is felt this note might be useful to teachers who are considering submitting entries.

Marking System

The basic marking system used for entries to the Armistice Prize competition is set out on wfanlancs website. It has changed very little since the competition started in 2008. On receipt of entries I produce a spreadsheet which gives the name of the submitting school and lists the name of pupils and brief description for each entry. The spreadsheet also has 6 columns to record the score attained. 5 columns to record up to 20 marks for each of the following factors:

- Content
- Structure
- Presentation
- Reasoning/understanding and
- Grammar/diction/accuracy

The 6th column is to record the total mark attained by each entry compared to the 100 maximum.

The 3 markers are not trained up to School Examination Marking Board Standard! They are members of the Western Front Association who use their WW1 knowledge and judgement to award marks for each entry against the 5 factors. Since 2008, ten members of the Branch have operated on the marking panel.

At the first Branch meeting after registering the entries submitted each of the 3 markers receives a copy of the spreadsheet on which they will independently mark the entries. Also I give the first marker the entries. Some will be "hard copy" originals with the remainder as photos or PDFs on a memory stick. On completion of marking each marker sends their completed spreadsheet to me and delivers the entries to the next marker.

On receipt of the 3 completed spreadsheets from markers I input the total marks awarded by each marker in the marker's name column on my "master" spreadsheet which then computes the total marks attained by each entrant out of a maximum of 300.

Determination of Prize Winners

In order to demonstrate the transparency of prize determination, the attached table summarises the results of the competition since the Armistice Prize was established. For particular attention is the column headed "Top 3 Marks" which reports the marks attained by the 3 entries (A-C) having been awarded the highest total marks from each school.

Thankfully, when competitive entries were received, there has not been a situation when a tie has occurred. Consequently the entry/school to win the Armistice Prize Trophy is simply that with the highest "A" mark.

Area Prizes

The next, more complicated, stage is to determine whether other entries should be awarded area prizes. Three area prizes are available but whether such prizes are awarded is dependant on the marks attained. From experience gained, an area prize needs to attain more than 90% of the winning mark each year and equal or exceed the "B" mark attained in the Trophy winning school. The award of area prizes is a matter for consideration each year.

St Cecilia's, Longridge

In 2008, the first year of the competition, no submissions were received on the subject "The Major Events of 1918". Feedback from schools indicated the difficulty of fitting an extra specific project into an already pressurised curriculum. However St Cecilia's drew attention to their work on war poetry and the winner of the competition held by the school. It was felt the author of their winning poem deserved recognition by being awarded a book (H.P. Willmott's "WORLD WAR 1") and £25. The school were also the first holder of the Armistice Prize trophy for their work.

In 2010, St Cecilia's were the only school to submit entries for the Armistice Prize and their highest scoring entrant earned the Trophy for the school as well as £100 and book.

St Cecilia's have also won the Armistice Prize Trophy in competition with other schools in 3 years out of 6.

The North Lancashire Western Front Association website (www.wfanlancs.co.uk)

In parallel with production of this note our website has been updated to report on this year's prize winners. In reporting the award of the Armistice Prize since 2008 the website now has links to display all entries which have won prizes. So in reading this note it is possible to view the prize winning entry each winning "A" mark relates to. Having prize winning entries on our website also makes it possible for pupils (and schools) who are considering the development of entries for the competition to view and possibly gain ideas from successful entries in earlier years.

Conclusion

Hopefully this note is useful to teachers who are considering participating in the competition.

Terry Dean
Competition Organiser
Lancashire North Branch
Western Front Association

ARMISTICE PRIZE COMPETITION OUTCOMES: 2008 to 2016

Schools Entering	Area	Entries	Top 3 Marks	Prize Awarded
2008	Note (1)			
St Cecilia's, Longridge	C & S	1	Note (2)	Trophy + £25 + Book
2009				
St Cecilia's, Longridge	C & S	8	A:220, B:215, C:203	Area Prize: £25 + Book
Archbishop Temple, Preston	C & S	1	A:210	
Bispham High, Blackpool	W & N	5	A:249, B:223, C:194	Trophy + £100 + Book
2010				
St Cecilia's, Longridge	C & S	7	A:227, B:220, C:200	Trophy + £100 + Book
2011				
St Cecilia's, Longridge	C & S	9	A:247, B:246, C:227	Trophy + £100 + Book
Balshaw's High, Leyland	C & S	7	A:220, B:211, C:189	
Bispham High, Blackpool	W & N	2	A:194, B:184	
2012				
St Cecilia's, Longridge	C & S	12	A:257, B:235, C:230	Trophy + £100 + Book
Balshaw's High, Leyland	C & S	6	A:240, B:190, C:177	Area Prize: £25 + Book
Archbishop Temple, Preston	C & S	1	A:238 (Note (3))	
Lancaster Girls Grammar	W & N	49	A:238, B:229, C:216	Area Prize: £25 + Book
Oakhill College, Whalley	E	3	A:195, B:193, C:159	
Marsden Heights, Nelson	E	3	A:140, B:133, C:127	
St Christopher's, Accrington	E	2	A:205, B:180	
2013				
St Cecilia's, Longridge	C & S	12	A:253, B:221, C:218	Area Prize: £25 + Book
Balshaw's High, Leyland	C & S	6	A:235, B:230, C:216	
Tarleton Academy	C & S	1	A:267	Trophy + £100 + Book
Lancaster Girls Grammar	W & N	50	A:262, B:249, C:239	Area Prize: £25 + Book
Ribblesdale High, Clitheroe	E	5	A:247, B:210, C:196	Area Prize: £25 + Book
2014				
St Cecilia's, Longridge	C & S	12	A:221, B:195, C:165	Area Prize: £25 + Book
Balshaw's High, Leyland	C & S	1	A:204	
Bispham High, Blackpool	W & N	1	A:197	
Kirkham Grammar	W & N	20	A:211, B:211, C:203	
Lancaster Girls Grammar	W & N	31	A:214, B:209, C:197	Area Prize: £25 + Book
Our Lady's, Lancaster	W & N	2	A:223, B:214	Trophy + £100 + Book
Haslingden High (Note (4))	E	27	A:204, B:201, C:191	Area Prize: £25 + Book
2015				
St Cecilia's, Longridge	C & S	15	A:234, B:197, C:183	Trophy + £100 + Book
Balshaw's High, Leyland	C & S	15	A:171, B:168, C:165	
Lancaster Girls Grammar	W & N	25	A:227, B:220, C:203	Area Prize: £25 + Book
Ribblesdale High, Clitheroe	E	3	A:176, B:167, C:165	
2016				
St Cecilia's, Longridge	C & S	6	A:249, B:201, C:183	Area Prize: £25 + Book
Oakhill School, Whalley	E	2	A: 251, B:114	Trophy + £100 + Book
Ribblesdale High, Clitheroe	E	9	A: 249, B:239, C:205	Area Prize: £25 + Book

Notes:

1. The areas are: Central and South (C&S) comprising the districts of Chorley, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire; West and North (W&N) comprising the districts of Blackpool, Fylde, Lancaster, Wyre and part of Cumbria; and East (E) comprising the districts of Blackburn, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale.
2. No competitive entries received in 2008. See report re St Cecilia's.
3. This was a DVD reporting experiences of a battlefield visit and remembering. The combined effort by year 11 pupils was commended.
4. Entries developed by year 8 pupils.