



HISTORY COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS IN HAMPSHIRE YEARS 7, 8 & 9

Do you love History? Do you want to become a good historian? Do you want to find out more about archives? Do you want to win a prize? Then join the Hampshire Archives Trust History competition for schools and students in Hampshire. You can enter a project on any aspect of history in Hampshire and could win a significant cash prize for yourself (if you enter as an individual) or your school (if you enter as a class or as part of a group in your school).

Types of projects that you can enter in the competition

Projects can be, for example, on the history of your town, village or street, your school, your family, or a particular historic event in Hampshire. Entries will be welcomed in a variety of forms: essays, films, blogs, posters, etc.

Perhaps you want to create your own oral history project: recording your fellow students, friends, teachers, family members or neighbours talking about aspects of their pasts, or of local or great events. For example, you might want to record people talking about their experiences during the Covid pandemic, or about how they celebrated the King's coronation, or life in your town/village years ago – voice recordings that will help future historians know and understand what local people did and experienced in that time.

Whether you are writing, filming, or recording things about the history of your locality, family or an historic event in Hampshire, you will need to demonstrate the use of archives in your chosen project. There are some useful guides on our website that could help you with your research: <https://hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk/news/education/how-to-use-archives-guides-for-students>

What are archives?

Most people think of archives as being old documents stored away in a museum or library. Well, archives can be old documents, of course. They can be parish records, criminal records, census entries, letters, diaries, and all sorts of other documents. But archives also include things like photographs, film footage, and sound recordings.

Provided you use archives in your project, your project can be entered into our new competition.

What can you win?

Years 7-9 – Group:

If you enter as a class or a group within your year group, you could win **£300** towards book/resources plus a Winner's Trophy (the trophy to be kept by the school for a year)

If your team/group does not win, it could still be awarded a highly commended certificate and get publicity for your school if your entry is a good one. Winning entries and at least some of those who are highly commended will be put on the Hampshire Archives Trust website.

Years 7-9 – Individual:

If you enter as an individual, you could win a cash prize of **£100** and a Winner's Certificate. Your winning entry will be put on the Hampshire Archives Trust website.

If you do not win but have entered a very good project, you could still be awarded a highly commended certificate and get publicity for your school. Good highly commended projects could also be put on our website.

Timings and Entries

It is free to enter projects. Entries need to be made through your school. More than one project can be entered in each category. For example, there may be more than one class in the same year group that wants to submit a project or several students who each want to do an individual project. However, a group or an individual can only submit one project each.

This year's competition will officially launch in September at the start of the new academic year. Entries can be submitted any time from the start of the Spring Term to Friday 13th March 2026 i.e. **THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS 13th March 2026**. So, you have between now and mid-March to work on your project. The winners will be announced in the Summer Term.