

Awards for Young Writers on Horseracing

Deadline Monday 19 January 2026

Terms and Conditions

Taking Part:

- In order to enter, participants must be under 23 years old on the new closing date of Monday 19 January 2026. There are two categories, ages 15 years and under and 16-23 years.
- Participants can only submit one piece of work.
- There are no fees to enter the competition.
- Your work is accepted on the basis that this will be its first publication anywhere in the world, including online and print versions.
- Essays cannot have won any other competition.
- Essays must be the original work of the author (we check randomly selected essays for plagiarism).
- Essays must be written in English, but you can include phrases in your mother tongue or another language. If you would like to enter an entry in British Sign Language or Braille then please contact Sarah at essayprize@nhrm.co.uk
- You may not enter an essay written by more than one author.
- **Entries will be accepted from participants who are currently studying full or part time.** (Please note that we are unable to cover travel fees for winners to attend the award ceremony.)
- Entries must be sent by email to essayprize@nhrm.co.uk unless it is agreed that they will be hard copy, for example in braille.
- By entering this competition, entrants agree that their essay and data may be used by the National Horseracing Museum to report to funders.
- If you are aged 12 or under, in line with UK GDPR, your parent or guardian must give permission for you to enter. Without this permission we are not allowed to keep information about you, such as your contact details. Parent/Guardian Permission Forms are available to download from our website.
- Teachers and group leaders can submit entries in bulk, they should comply with their own organisation's GDPR policy and are welcome to share our Parent/Guardian

Permission Forms with families. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah at the National Horseracing Museum at essayprize@nhrm.co.uk or 01638 667314 and we will be happy to help.

- The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into concerning this decision.
- All entries must be received by midnight on Monday 19 January 2026. Late online entries will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- Due to the large number of entries we are unable to respond individually to submissions.

What happens next:

- Shortlisted participants will be notified in March 2026 and invited to an award ceremony soon after. All winners will be required to provide a biography, photograph, permission form and proof of age.
- Details of the full winners list will be announced publicly on the museum website and winning entries and runners up may be featured in press and media.
- The copyright of submitted essays remain with the author. However, by entering the competition, authors of the winning essays grant Awards for Young Writers on Horseracing, the National Horseracing Museum and our media partners, including The Racing Post and Racing to School, the right to publish and/or broadcast their essay, and to do this before anyone else.
- Authors of the winning essays will grant Awards for Young Writers on Horseracing, the National Horseracing Museum and our media partners, including The Racing Post irrevocable, non-exclusive licence to republish the work in perpetuity, including (but not limited to):
 - Publishing the work online, including websites belonging to the National Horseracing Museum Racing to School and The Racing Post. We will notify the author if a third party requests permission to use their work;
 - Production of reprints;
 - Publication (in print or online) of the work as part of a book or as an educational resource.

All the rights mentioned above cover distribution or publication anywhere in the world.

Key information:

Entries open on:

Monday 15 September 2025

Deadline:

Monday 19 January 2026

Judges confirmed so far:

- Josie Reed, Wilmington Trust
- David Milnes, Racing Post
- Oli Bell, ITV Racing
- Rishi Persad, ITV Racing
- Alison Hayes, Newmarket Journal
- John Blake, Racing to School

With the full list to be announced in early 2026

This competition is FREE to enter.

Open to everyone studying full time or part time under the age of 23 years on 19 January 2026. There are two categories, ages 15 years and under and 16-23 years.

Essays must be written in English, but you can include phrases in your or another language. If you would like to enter an entry in British Sign Language or Braille then please contact Sarah at essayprize@nhrm.co.uk

If you require this information in an alternative accessible format please contact Sarah at essayprize@nhrm.co.uk