engage in their future

2022 National Creative Awards

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VISION for EDUCATION

2022 National Creative Awards

The *engage in their future* National Creative Awards is a unique opportunity for the students and staff at the national network of member schools to get creative around a particular theme and express themselves by penning a short story, writing a poem, taking a photo, creating a piece of art or all four.

This versatile scheme can be used by schools in a number of different ways to encourage student engagement, foster creative thinking and support self-expression. Students and staff can participate so the whole school community can get involved and challenge themselves.

Everyone that takes part will receive a certificate, and those that win will also receive a trophy and have their winning entry printed and framed for display before being sent to them to keep.

Since its launch as a national scheme in 2015, the National Creative Awards has received hundreds of entries and celebrated nearly 300 winners. It provides a unique and accessible opportunity for *engage in their future* member schools to express and celebrate their creativity on a national platform.

Front cover:
'I can see myself in one of these!' 2020 1st place winner in the KS4 photography category.

Right: 'When The Journey Goes Wrong.' 2021 1st place winner in the KS1&2 photography category.

How can your school use the National Creative Awards?

- The National Creative Awards has the flexibility to support a classroom topic, to be offered as a stand-alone project, to be set as an extra-curricular activity, or to be included as part of a home study package.
- It can be used to encourage students to consider, explore or respond to a subject from a different, more creative perspective.
- It could be an activity for staff and their students to work on independently but discuss and approach together.
- Participation could be used to encourage and engage those that are more competitive (everyone receives a certificate!).
- Taking part could be offered as a tool, with the theme as the focus, for self-expression or personal reflection.

Why get involved?

- It's a great way for staff and students to explore and express their creativity.
- There are four creative channels available: poetry, short story, photography and, new for 2022, art.
- Submitting entries is quick and straightforward.
- Everyone who submits an entry will receive a certificate.
- All student winners will receive a certificate, a trophy and have their winning entry printed, framed and displayed before being sent to them to keep.
- It's a unique opportunity to share and celebrate creativity on a national platform alongside the efforts of peers from across the country.
- It can become part of your tool kit to help support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of students and staff through creativity and self-expression.

Theme for 2022: 'Mental Wealth'

Each year the National Creative Awards announces a theme to inspire participants and provide a creative focus. Previous themes have included 'I am Me', 'The Future', 'Dreaming', 'This Globe. My World.', 'Bouncing Back' and 'Connections'.

The theme for our 2022 National Creative Awards is 'MENTAL WEALTH'.

This can be interpreted in whatever way you wish, but here are some ideas to get you and your students started!

Short Story Tips

- A story needs to have a beginning, a middle and an end. Is there a clear storyline? Does the story start and finish in a different place?
- Create original, exciting characters and ask yourself "What if my character did that?". This will help develop a great idea into a great story.
- Read your story out loud. Not only will this help with grammar and punctuation, but it will also help you work out how the words you've written will really sound to a reader.
- Don't be afraid to edit or re-write.

Poetry Tips

- What do you want your poem to do or achieve? For example, do you want to communicate how you're feeling, or maybe you want to describe an event?
- Use words to create images, senses and smells.
- See what other people see but use your creativity to look at it in a different way.
- Consider the theme and what it means to you, and then use your poem to express that view/opinion/response.

Photography Tips

- Think about the shot first. What do you want it to capture or communicate?
- Think about how to frame the shot - whether it's filling the frame with your chosen image so no space is wasted, or drawing attention to something in particular by framing it within the picture.
- How can you use light (and shade) to make your photo better?
- Consider perspective, i.e. could you crouch or lie down to take the photo, or maybe elevate your position?

Art Tips

- What form of art do you want to use - painting? drawing? - and what materials do you need?
- Make sure your art reflects you: do what comes into your head or catches your imagination.
- Think about standing back from your work to give yourself a different perspective.

For further hints and tips, take a look at the videos available on our website engageintheirfuture.org

FAQs

If you still have any queries please contact us at: engageintheirfuture@gmail.com

How long can poems or short stories be?

- Poems must fit on one side of A4 paper.
- Short stories should be no longer than 500 words long.
- If hand-written, the story or poem must be legible, or if typed the font size must be between 10pt and 12pt.
- Any entries that do not meet these specifications may not be accepted.

What size can photographs be?

- For offline entries in the photography category, the maximum print size is A4.
- For online entries, the maximum file size is 500MB.
- Any entries that do not meet these specifications may not be accepted.

What can I enter in the art category?

- The new art category is for creativity and self-expression that does not fall into one of the other categories. This may include painting or drawing.
- Entries in this category can either be posted to us or a photo taken and submitted.

How are the entries judged?

- Entries are split into Key Stage categories - KS1&2, KS3, KS4, Post-16 and Staff.
- Each creative category has its own judging panel who look for originality, adherence to the theme of 'Mental Welath' and the use of photographic, poetic, short story writing or artisitc techniques when scoring each entry.
- The scores are then collated to identify those in first, second and third place. For the last three years, we have also been able to recognise those placed fourth with a Special Recognition award.

How many entries can be submitted?

An individual can submit one entry per creative category, i.e. one photo, one short story, one poem and one piece of art. Each entry must be accompanied by it's own entry form.

What are the prizes?

- All participants will receive a certificate.
- Short-listed winners in the student categories will receive a trophy and certificate and have their winning entry printed, framed and displayed before being sent to them to keep.
- Entries in the Staff category will be judged, placed and sent a certificate but will not be eligible for a prize.

Can non-member schools participate?

Participation in the National Creative Awards is only open to *engage in their future* member schools. If your school isn't a member of *engage in their future*, please visit our website at **engageintheirfuture.org** to find out more about the benefits of membership and for details on how to join.

It should also be noted that students at mainstream schools that are full members of *engage in their future* must have a valid and current EHCP in order to participate.

How do I submit entries?

To submit entries by post, complete an entry form and send it to us (along with the entry itself) to: *engage in their future* 2022 National Creative Awards, PO Box 451, Horley, RH6 6AW.

Additional copies of the entry form can be downloaded from our website (**engageintheirfuture.org**). You will receive an email from us to confirm that we've received your entry.

Alternatively, you can go to **https://eitf.wufoo.com/forms/2022-national-creative-awards/** to submit entries online.

By submitting an entry, you are agreeing to our Terms & Conditions. You can find these on the reverse of the entry form and on our website.

The closing date for entries is Friday 29th April 2022.

Some of our Previous Winners

Since its launch in 2015, the National Creative Awards has received hundreds of entries and celebrated nearly 300 winners. Here are just a few of them...

'Hold Tight.' 2020 winner of the Special Recognition prize KS3.

'Billy.' 2019 2nd place winner KS3.

'Bouncing Back.' 2019 1st place winner KS3.

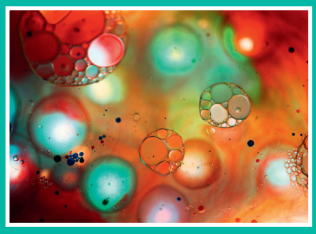
'Faces of Fun.' 2015 1st place winner KS1&2.

'Edge of the World.' 2017 Joint 2nd place winner KS1&2.

'To Love, Not Fight.' 2016 2nd place winner KS4.

'The Retired Shuttlecock.' 2021 1st place winner KS4.

'This Globe My World.' 2018 2nd place winner KS3.



'The Start of Life's Journey.' 2021 Joint 1st place winner KS3.

The Journey of Coraline: My Row-Boat

It was the 1st of December 2002, I had just finished working on my newest creation 'Coraline'. She was a small row-boat with an oar and everything!
After building Coraline for almost 2 months, she was ready to set sail. However, I was not prepared for what was to come… Storm Z. I wish I had been more prepared. I set sail on the 1st of December at 17:00pm, everything was calm and quiet… at first.
Once on the sea, all seemed well. Until my compass broke in the middle of the ocean! I attempted to look for land to no avail. I was stuck with no compass. That is when Storm Z showed up. Just my luck! No compass, floating on an empty sea with clouds above my had ready to unleash.
I started to give up all hope. That was until I saw a ship. As it got closer, I realised that it was a pirate ship. I had no choice but to ask for help or let myself get eaten by sharks. Thankfully, they spotted me and drifted right by me so I could get on.
These were nice pirates. They saved me and they offered me a job! Of course, I accepted!

2021 1st place winner KS3 short story.

Life

The Vibrant, beautiful coastline,
The glittering, shimmering sea.
The green fields.
The majestic mountains.
The earth is coming back to life.
Pollution has stopped,
The ozone layer is healing,
The birds are singing in celebration.
Animals are living their best life.
I sit and appreciate our shared home,
Our Planet,
Earth.

2020 2nd place winner KS3 poetry.

Connections (during Coronavirus)

***C**aring calls from teachers during Covid 19 home Ed.*
***O**nline chat, shopping and working instead.*
***N**ow more than ever families spending time together.*
***N**eighbours having conversations, that never happened before.*
***E**ven Nan can FaceTime while she's sat behind her front door.*
***C**lapping to show our support to the NHS.*
***T**ogether we can beat this.*
***I**n time we will meet again.*
***O**ne day soon we will return.*
***N**ever forget this terrible plight.*
***S**tay safe! Keep talking! Goodnight!*

2020 3rd place winner KS4 poetry.

A Word from our Sponsors

The 2022 National Creative Awards is proudly sponsored by Vision for Education.

Created in 2008, Vision for Education is a well-established, market-leading teacher supply agency with industry experience and expertise. They can be relied on to deliver a trusted and quality recruitment supply service with fair charge rates for schools and fair pay for teachers. With extensive national coverage, Vision for Education offer a first class temporary and permanent recruitment service for schools with dedicated SEND recruitment specialists, advertising on a range of jobs boards including Tes.com, and a proactive approach to finding the best candidates.

engage in their future has a long established relationship with Vision for Education with our members able to take advantage of discounted rates and free advertising. The National Creative Awards has benefitted from their support for several years, with their involvement helping the scheme develop into a highly prestigious national competition that celebrates the creativity of students and staff at *engage in their future* member schools. Winning a National Creative Award is an incredible achievement that deserves to be recognised and applauded which is why the school of each winner is offered the opportunity for Vision for Education to visit them in order to present the winning student with their trophy and certificate.

“Each year we are amazed at the standard and the quality of all the entries that are submitted and we are delighted to be a part of this inspirational competition.”

Vision for Education

‘Looking Out.’ 2018 Joint 1st place winner KS4.

From Participating Schools

The engage in their future National Creative Awards is truly unique. We're not aware of any other opportunities that enable our students and staff to work alongside each other in such a creative and productive way. They work together to explore and consider what the theme means to them but then produce entirely personal pieces of work using the creative medium of their choice. Our students have produced some incredible pieces of work that they've been rightly proud to share and they're delighted to receive a certificate in recognition of their participation. We've even had a few winners and the boost that this gives not just to the individuals but the whole school community is priceless.

The William Henry Smith School

The creative ability of the students that take part in the National Creative Awards is amazing but perhaps what so often impresses me the most as one of the judges is how each one responds to the theme so personally and with such uninhibited and genuine self-expression. It is a real privilege to see this and know that the National Creative Awards has encouraged them to draw on a number of skills, engage their creativity and explore their feelings and responses to the theme.

SG, National Creative Awards Judge

Improving life chances for children experiencing Social, Emotional and Mental Health challenges (SEMH).

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To find out more please visit

engageintheirfuture.org