

# THE ORWELL YOUTH PRIZE

registered charity no. 1156494

## SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK

2018 – 2019

### CONTENTS

1. [Model](#)
2. [Element 1: The Workshop](#)
  1. [Logistics](#)
3. [Element 2: The Writing Prize](#)
4. [Element 3: Celebration Day](#)
5. [Orwell Youth Prize Writers](#)
6. [Cost of the Programme](#)
7. [Contact Us](#)

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## A Short Introduction to the Orwell Youth Prize Model:

- Our model consists of four elements in an annual cycle:
  1. **Workshops**, each in a school, college or hub of schools, facilitated by the OYP and featuring a guest author or journalist. Each school is offered a pair of workshops;
  2. **Writing Prize** on a theme drawn from Orwell and relevant to today, with feedback and support to entrants;
  3. **Regional Workshops** for those who have entered a draft into the writing prize;
  4. **Celebration Event and Prize Giving** in June for those who have entered the writing prize.
- Young people are encouraged to take part in all elements, which together offer a developmental journey. The programme is designed so that participation in only one element will still be beneficial.
- The model is for young people in Years 9/10/11 (Junior) and 12/13 (Senior).
- **Young people who have not participated in the workshops may also enter the prize.**

# The annual cycle of activity for schools & students 2017 - 2018

AUTUMN TERM

SPRING TERM

SUMMER TERM



## Five potential points of intervention for students throughout the year

Half day facilitated workshop on theme of the prize, including a guest writer/ journalist and activities based on the writings of Orwell

Second half day facilitated workshop building on the writing developed from the first

Full day for those who have entered drafts – both from schools and elsewhere. Young people receive personal feedback and hear from writers about writing techniques

Young people entering the prize receive feedback on their draft entries

Writers' seminars, prizegiving and introduction of the new theme

### Development of writing

Initial thinking & planning: Workshop 1

Idea developed between workshops Refinement during Workshop 2

Draft submitted for feedback

Revision after feedback and final entry submitted

Web publication of shortlisted & prizewinning entries

### Resources

Online resources for both young people and teachers on both the annual theme for the prize, and on the writings of Orwell

# Element I: The Workshop

Our workshops use the writings of George Orwell to encourage young people to engage and think for themselves about the world they live in. Each workshop uses an Orwell text as a vehicle from which young people develop views and test arguments based on their own experience and observation.

The workshop provides a framework that is related to Orwell's values, while still allowing flexibility for the interests of the writer and the spontaneous reaction of the young people.

The tone of an Orwell Youth Prize workshop is both provocative and participatory; young people spend more time talking and moving than simply sitting and listening.

An Orwell Youth Prize Workshop is **NOT**:

- a workshop on the works of George Orwell
- a lecture
- a typical author's talk on a book tour

OYP workshops have a mix of young people from different backgrounds and even schools. The idea is to break down barriers & provide a secure but challenging space for differing views.

The workshops contain three elements:

1. Full group participation
2. Working in small groups
3. A guest writer or journalist

They are designed for 15 – 40+ young people.

# Objectives of the Workshops

- The main educational activity of the Orwell Youth Prize is to provide workshops to schools that feature some of the nation's best writers and journalists.
- The objective of the Orwell Youth Prize Workshops is to engage, provoke and inspire young people to think and write about the world around them, applying Orwell's values to their own experiences and observations.
- We hope that all students will take a step towards a deeper engagement with, and critical reflection upon, the issues of the day.
- And we hope that as many as possible will be motivated to enter the Orwell Youth Prize.
- The workshops are for young people in Years 9 – 13 (typically aged 14 – 18) although most workshops will be aimed at a particular age range within this, e.g. just Years 12 & 13.

# Schools Workshop Logistics I

- The programme involves a pair of workshops: the first draws on a text by Orwell to provoke discussion on this year's theme for the Writing Prize and encourages the young people participating to identify the topic for their writing; the second encourages deeper thinking and further develops students' writing.
- The Orwell Youth Prize will provide:
  - Workshop design and experienced facilitator
  - Guest writer, journalist or author
  - Free copy for every participant of the Penguin edition of a George Orwell 'Great Ideas' text
- Each workshop will be led by the Delivery Director, Mick Callanan, who has 28 years' teaching experience (and who will be consistent across the pair of workshops). An experienced guest writer, such as a journalist or author, will draw on their own experience and writing to provide inspiration on the prize theme.
- The School/Hub is asked to provide:
  - Names of participants , with details of their year group or groups in advance. Please note that students may be from any subject area: for example, we have found that young people studying science subjects are just as appreciative of advice on clear writing as those studying English or politics;
  - A room large enough for tables of 6-7, plus space for movement around the room (and dramatic exercises);
  - PC with projector
  - A flipchart, pens and paper for the young people;
  - Signed photo consent forms;
  - Appropriate adult presence for year groups 9/10/11 and any larger groups

# Schools Workshop Logistics 2

Our standard workshop size is 15 – 24 students. Below are the broad advantages of different-sized groupings.

Standard (15 – 24)	Large (25 – 40)	Extra Large (up to 60)
<b>Facilitates confident group work</b> <b>All or nearly all will contribute orally and on paper</b> <b>Lunchtime feedback to individuals on ideas or work in progress</b>	Greater variety for groups Most will contribute actively  More limited lunchtime feedback to individuals	Dynamic mixing of groups from different schools. Available for schools which are acting as a 'hub' to bring students from local schools together for a workshop.

## Rooms and Equipment

- Computer room or access to IT for second half of Workshop One (desirable) and most of Workshop Two (essential).

# School Involvement During and Between Workshops

- We warmly encourage teachers to join in both Workshops so that they can then build on the work within the classroom or in extra-curricular activity.
- Additional staff are welcome to observe.
- The contact member of school staff is expected to organise a supervised activity between Workshops 1 and 2. Students will further plan and develop their writing in session(s) lasting at least 60 minutes in total.

Workshop 1	In-school development	Workshop 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Orwell's writing used as a vehicle from which young people develop views and question their own thinking</li><li>- a writer or journalist inspires young people</li></ul>	<p>Young people develop their own ideas in a formal arrangement of at least 60 minutes' duration, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Attendance at a writers' club or supervised independent work</li><li>- curricular time focused on drafting a piece</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- focuses on enhancing students' thinking and the writing – which they may then enter into the Writing Prize</li></ul>

# The Workshops - Example

**[Please click here to see an example workshop structure.](#)**

# Element 2: The Writing Prize

An annual Writing Prize encourages young people to think about the world they live in, and inspires them to write about their own ideas and experience:

- Each year the Writing Prize has a theme inspired by the writing of Orwell. The theme for the academic year 2018-19 is: **A Fair Society?**
- Each entry should be a maximum of 1000 words for the junior age group, 1500 for the senior. The writing can be a piece of individual writing or a piece of group writing (with up to 5 young people in the group) and can be in any form: for example, an essay, journalist's report, a short story, diary, blog or poem. The previous winning entries can be found here <https://www.theorwellprize.co.uk/the-orwell-youth-prize/about/previous-winners/>
- All entrants may request feedback on their writing, which will be provided. They may then review and revise their writing before final submission.
- Entrants are invited to the Celebration Event (details below)
- Winners receive one day of work experience with a journalist, author or someone relevant to a young writer. In addition, they receive all George Orwell's novels and full-length non-fiction works plus a selection of Essays, and their writing will be published on the Orwell Prize website.

# Element 2: The Writing Prize - Winners

You can see all the previous winning entries [here](#)

Below is an extract from 2016 winner Anna Morris.

“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear” – George Orwell, the Freedom

“Free speech is an important and valued right of our society, particularly when compared to other political cultures where this opportunity is not allowed or is curtailed in many ways. Countries such as China, North Korea and Russia do not enjoy this right as we do. I would say however that free speech only really means something if you have a platform with which to use it. Overwhelmingly, white, middle-class, Oxbridge educated politicians and ‘celebrities’ have such a platform to tell people what they do not wish to hear and promote their own views and prejudices. These are the people who are heard and drive the direction of our society. Those without a platform, the poor and vulnerable are effectively voiceless.

Disability benefits is an issue I feel strongly about as my aunt, who is 53 years old and claims disability benefits, has no voice that will be heard. She has diabetes, arthritis, mental health difficulties and a visual impairment, all of which have been made worse by a recent, serious illness, encephalitis. My aunt relies on benefits as she is now unable to work although she has done so in the past in various paid and voluntary positions. She doesn’t drink, smoke or drive and rarely goes out. She certainly doesn’t live in luxury and budgets very carefully to meet all her personal and health needs. She is not a “benefits scrounger” which is often the image portrayed by those with a platform to express their prejudices.

Over the past few years there have been a number of changes to her benefits which, to a point, she has quietly accepted. However, recently she has really started to vent her frustration, anger and fear about changes that have gone too far. For example, she lives in a small, rented two bedroomed terrace and has had her benefits cut under the governments “bedroom tax” even though the second bedroom is used for carers staying and for storing her equipment. She and many others, including a range of disability organisations campaigned about these changes affecting the most vulnerable in our society. The changes were implemented.

No one listened.

...”

# Element 3: The Celebration Day

The annual Celebration Day is more than just a prize-giving. The day also includes:

- ❖ writing seminars by professional journalists and authors
- ❖ an experience to spark imagination and raise aspirations
- ❖ insight and inspiration about the writing and motivation of Orwell
- ❖ **fun!**

For example, the last three Celebration Events included:

- ❖ writers' seminars with professional authors, journalists and poets
- ❖ a manifesto debate session led by TV Presenter and Writer Rick Edwards and citizenship educator Andrew Mycock
- ❖ a one-man performance of Animal Farm.
- ❖ interviews about Orwell with Alan Johnson, MP (winner of the 2014 Orwell Prize) and Richard Blair, Orwell's son
- ❖ a free Orwell tote bag

The event is kindly hosted by Pembroke College, Oxford and includes a tour of the college by current students and lunch in the Main Hall.

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## WRITERS

Writers who have participated in an OYP workshop or writer's seminar include:

- ❖ Louise Tickle, journalist shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2016
- ❖ Stephen Armstrong, journalist and author of *The Road to Wigan Pier Revisited* and *Unreported Britain*
- ❖ Iona Craig, journalist, winner of the Orwell Prize 2016
- ❖ Alison Holt, journalist, winner of the Orwell Prize 2015
- ❖ Jacob Sam-La Rose, poet
- ❖ Rebecca Omonira, journalist, shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2012
- ❖ James Ball, journalist (Buzzfeed), shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2016
- ❖ Tom Sperlinger, author of *Romeo and Juliet in Palestine*
- ❖ Dan Davies, journalist, shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2015
- ❖ Mark Townsend, journalist (The Guardian), shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2017
- ❖ Adrian Tempny, author of *And the Sun Shines Now* shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2017

# Cost of the Programme

- Although the OYP programme of activity for schools contains three elements (workshops, writing prize and celebration event), the Orwell Youth Prize will only charge for one element - the workshops - in academic year 2016-17.
- There is no charge either for entering the Writing Prize and receiving feedback or for those invited to attend the Celebration Event in the summer term.
- The total cost of the OYP schools programme for up to 40 students is £1,500 including a subsidy from the Orwell Youth Prize. Each school which hosts a pair of Workshops will be expected to ensure a minimum number of attendees at each and to set a target for a minimum number of entrants to the Prize. These figures will be agreed with the Delivery Director.
- Each Workshop host is expected to contribute half of this cost, i.e. £750. The programme can be for one school, or for a hub including young people from a number of schools. The cost of the programme includes the following:
  - Workshop design, which will be tailored to fit the scheduling requirements of the school
  - Workshop facilitator and guest writer, journalist or author
  - Free copies for every participant and teachers of the Penguin book *Books vs Cigarettes* containing Orwell essays, used as a text during the workshop
  - Entry to the Writing Prize and feedback for young people irrespective of whether they have taken part in a workshop
  - Ticket to the Celebration Event for every young person entering the prize
- *In exceptional circumstances, a further subsidy may be discussed with the Delivery Director.*

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**Thank you!**

*For any queries, please get in touch:*

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