

28 January 2020

The hunt is on for talented young writers in Norfolk

Young Norfolk Writing Competition 2020 is open for submissions

The Young Norfolk Writing Competition – the popular annual competition celebrating creative writing in all of its forms – is now open for entries from 11 – 18 year olds living or studying in Norfolk.

The competition is a collaboration between the National Centre for Writing based in Dragon Hall, Norwich and Young Norfolk Arts, supported by Norfolk County Council. It builds on the success of previous years in which over 900 young people have participated from over 100 schools.

Young lovers of writing and reading are encouraged to submit stories, lyrics, narrative for games, graphic stories, poems, spoken word, scripts, podcasts, plays, articles, journalism or essays in written or audio format.

Colette Maxwell-Preston, 12, from Norwich, was one of seven winners of the 2019 competition and was also named as the 2019 Young Norfolk Laureate. She says:

‘This year the National Centre for Writing has helped me so much. To receive my Laureateship back in July was such an honour and it has been an amazing experience. I’ve had mentoring from a fantastic author, been involved in events, attended workshops and had the pleasure to be involved in NCW!

‘This has been such a wonderful year full of experiences I’ll never forget and advice that will stick with me in the years ahead. Everyone has been so friendly and

welcoming and I couldn't have wished for a group of kinder people. I can't wait to see where this journey takes me.'

The 2020 winners will receive individual prizes, professional mentoring to help take their writing forward, and opportunities to have their work performed and published.

The competition is free to enter and closes at 5pm on Monday 25 May 2020. Entries may be written, audio recorded or in graphic story format.

Hannah Garrard, Learning and Participation Programme Manager at the National Centre for Writing says:

'There are so many creative young people in Norfolk who are writing songs, poems, scripts and stories, as well as writing narrative for games and illustrating graphic stories. We want to see what they are producing and give them an opportunity to have their talent recognised and celebrated. We're all excited to see what the fifth Young Norfolk Writing Competition produces!'

Lucy Farrant, Director of Young Norfolk Arts says:

'We're really excited to announce the launch of the 2020 Young Norfolk Writing Competition. We hope to encourage writing in all its forms and we know that there is a wealth of young writing talent in this county of stories.'

Robert Rickard, 14 – 19 Adviser at Norfolk County Council says:

'We are delighted to be closely involved in the devising and promoting of this annual competition: such an inclusive way of promoting the very best of young people's writing right across the county, by bringing together all our schools and colleges, and the National Centre for Writing.'

For submission details please see nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/ynwc/

Notes to Editors:

1. For comment and photos contact Stephanie McKenna, Communications Manager at steph@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk / 01603 877177
2. About National Centre for Writing

The **National Centre for Writing** (NCW) is a place of discovery, exchange, ideas and learning for writers, literary translators and readers. Based in the restored and extended 15th century Dragon Hall in the heart of England's first UNESCO City of Literature, it explores how writing can inspire and change the world we live in. Its year round programme of events, festivals and courses reaches over 14,000 people a year with an additional 110,000 engaged online. Through its learning and participation programme it supports 20,000 young people a year and has a commitment to working with those in the most disadvantaged areas. NCW's patrons include Margaret Atwood, JM Coetzee, Kei Miller and Elif Shafak. nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/

3. **Young Norfolk Arts** celebrate and support the creativity of all young people in Norfolk, throughout the year, and during the Young Norfolk Arts Festival youngnorfolkarts.org.uk/