Ancient World/Classics Essay Competition 2018/19

Fitzwilliam College is pleased to release the 2018/19 Ancient World/Classics Essay Competition questions:

1. Is comedy/satire more helpful to our understanding of ancient societies than other kinds of texts?

2. How much does reading literature in the language it was originally written in matter? Answer with reference to any text or texts of your choice.

3. Is Classics merely the study of elite dead men? Discuss with reference to any ancient sources of your choice (e.g. texts; art; archaeology).

4. Is Plato’s Republic a blueprint for totalitarianism?

5. A) What can we learn from the study of Bronze Age shipwrecks?
   OR
   B) What can we learn from the study of Classical Greek and/or Roman shipwrecks?

6. “The problem with the European Union...is that it isn’t more like the Roman Empire.” (Alex Clark’s summary of Boris Johnson’s argument in his review of Johnson’s book The Dream of Rome [Observer 5/2/2006]) Discuss.

Competition rules:
This essay competition is for Lower Sixth Formers or Year 12 students (or equivalent). International applicants are welcomed but the essay must be written in English. Applicants will be required to enter their details online and to either upload one PDF copy of their essay electronically or post a hard copy to: Schools Liaison Officer, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, CB3 0DG by midnight on the 8 March 2019. Further submission information can be found on the essay competition website: https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/admissions/events-prospective-students/essay-competitions.

Students are only permitted to enter one competition. There is a strict limit of five submissions per school for each essay competition. If more than five students from the same school enter
the same competition, a teacher from that school will be contacted and asked to select the five entries; failure to do so will result in all submissions from the school to that competition being disqualified. When submitting your essay you will be asked to provide contact details of one of your teachers. The College will contact this teacher in order to verify your essay submission. Without this verification, the submission will be considered incomplete.

Essays should be less than 2500 words long, and contain a list of works consulted and cited at the end. This bibliography is excluded from the world limit, but any footnotes are included. Applicants must ensure that pages are numbered and that their full name is on each page.

**Prizes:**

The prize fund (per competition) is £300 with a first prize of £200 and highly commended applicants being awarded a £25 book voucher. The prize giving ceremony will take place during the July Open days.

**For further information about the competition or the Classics course, please contact:**

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