



ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY
in partnership with
CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY

“DEAR FUTURE SELF”
A WRITING COMPETITION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
2021

Introduction, Rules and Conditions

The challenge:

To write a message to your future self which is intended to be delivered and read on a specific date in the future. Your message can be in any form you wish - even rhymed verse if that takes your fancy! Your message could be about:

- one of the big **issues** now facing us, OR
- a **building or any other structure** that is in existence now.

Some suggestions to inspire you are provided as a separate document, although you can write about any other issue or building/structure that you wish.

If you choose an **issue**, we want you to explain to your future self:

- why the issue is currently important, AND
- give arguments (in brief) on both sides of the issue.

Your message must also outline whether, why and how you expect the issue to have been resolved by the time the message is delivered and read.

If you choose a **building or any other structure**, we want you to describe to your future self:

- its current condition and purpose, AND
- any threats to it.

Your message must also outline what you believe will have happened to the building or other structure (and why) by the time the message is delivered and read.

We want you to show us that you understand the issue you have chosen, or that you have studied the building/structure that your message is about. In either case, you should have done some research and used your imagination to work out what the effect of the lapse of the time period that you have chosen is likely to be.

The judges will base their decision on the clarity of your analysis of the issue or your description of the building/structure, any research done, your imagination and thought about what effect time is likely to have had, and generally the extent to which you have shown us what your thoughts are.

The judges are more concerned to hear your real thoughts than they are about the way that you express them - so please just make your message clear and simple.

Rules:

1. There is no fee for entry.
2. Entries may be from individuals or teams of up to three.
3. Entrants may submit up to three entries each.
4. At the date of submission, all entrants must be normally attending secondary school, 6th form college or equivalent in **Kent, Essex, Sussex and Surrey***. (*UPDATED)
5. The message should be about **500 words** in length and typed (this document is about 700 words). The message can take any form, including rhyming verse.
6. All entries must:
 - a. meet the challenge set out above
 - b. be in PDF format, headed "Message to my future self" with entrant(s) name(s)
 - c. specify the future date of delivery of the message (the date should be at least 10 years and no more than 40 years from 30th April 2021)
 - d. be sent by email with the subject line "Message to my future self", and accompanied by a covering message which clearly states all entrant name(s), age(s) and school(s) (or equivalent), together with the email address for any correspondence.
7. Judging will be by a panel of local judges. The judges' own opinions on issues are irrelevant.
8. The judges' decisions will be made known in June 2021. (We hope it will be possible then to have some event but will make an announcement about that when conditions are clearer.)
9. There will be three prizes:
 - 1st prize: £500
 - 2nd prize: £100
 - 3rd prize: £50
10. Entrants will remain the owner of their entries as between themselves and the organisers, but the organisers will have no obligation to maintain confidentiality nor to protect intellectual property in any material or ideas submitted.
11. Entrants agree to have their name(s), photograph(s) and some information about their idea appear in publicity for the Rotary Club of Canterbury and Canterbury Christ Church University.

Entries must be submitted by email to innovationcompetition@canterbury.ac.uk, no later than **30th April 2021**. Remember to put "Message to my future self" in the subject line.

For copies of these rules visit: <https://www.rotarycanterbury.org.uk/activities/future-self-competition-intro.html>

Rotary Club of Canterbury

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