St Benet’s Hall, University of Oxford
Senior Essay Prize

The purpose of the essay is to give school students the experience of writing on a general question for which there is no ‘right answer’. The markers are looking for a clear argument supported by relevant material chosen by the student. Students may draw on any subject discipline they wish. The essay must be their own unaided work.

The competition will be judged by Fellows of St Benet’s Hall with support from a team of experienced school teachers. A prize of £150 will be awarded to the best essay, and the prize-winner will be invited to a celebratory meal at St Benet’s. The judges may award a runner-up prizes consisting of a book-token and a commendation.

How to enter

- School students **resident anywhere in the British Isles, aged 15-18 on 31 August 2017**, are invited to submit an essay of **up to 2000 words** on **one** of the questions below. At the end of the essay, please include a list of all sources (including online resources and websites) used to research and write the essay. This list is not included in the word count.
- Please submit your essay as an email attachment to **senior.tutor@stb.ox.ac.uk**. The essay must be accompanied by a completed entry-form, which must be in a separate Word document or pdf. Do not put your name on the essay itself.
- The closing date for entries is **9 September 2017**, and results will be notified on **30 September 2017**.

Regulations

- The judges’ decisions are final.
- The judges reserve the right not to award a prize if they consider that the essays submitted have not reached a high enough standard.
- It is regretted that the judges will not be able to provide feedback (written or verbal) on the essays submitted. Receipt of the essay will be acknowledged but no entries will be returned.

Questions

1) What, if anything, should be done about the "obesity epidemic"?
2) "Every act you have ever performed since the day you were born was performed because you wanted something" [Andrew Carnegie]. Do you agree?
3) Does celebrity entail a loss of dignity?
ST BENET’S HALL SENIOR ESSAY PRIZE COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Name:__________________________________________________________________________

Email address:____________________________________________________________________

School:__________________________________________________________________________

Year at school: __________

Date of birth: __________

I declare that the essay submitted is my own independent work.

Signature:________________________________________________________________________

Date: _________________

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY A TEACHER:

Name of Teacher:___________________________________________________________________

Position:__________________________________________________________________________

Email Address:_____________________________________________________________________

I declare that the submitted essay is the student’s own independent work, and has not been produced in the course of her/his ordinary studies.

Signature:________________________________________________________________________

Date: __________

The personal data provided in conjunction with the St Benet’s Hall Essay Prize will be stored and used by St Benet’s Hall in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. It will never be transferred to any other organisation or individual. Your personal data will be held on a secure database and used in relation to the Essay Prize only.