



Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock

Rotary **YOUNG** **WRITER** **COMPETITION**



INFORMATION PACK

2026-27

Closing date of competition [Friday 12th February 2027](#)

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Information Pack for 2026 – 2027

THEME – ‘Friendship’

The ‘Friendship’ theme can be interpreted as broadly as the Young Writer wishes and does not need to conform to the dictionary definition of the word. It is intended to give young people the widest opportunity to share their creative talents in showing us what it means to them.

Introduction

This National Young Writer Competition is a well established and successful competition promoted by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland (RIBI).

Aims

This competition aims to encourage young people to:

- develop their writing skills and creativity
- express their thoughts and ideas through the written word
- interpret the theme thoughtfully
- enjoy writing as a rewarding means of self-expression

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all young people who live in Thurrock, or attend Thurrock schools and college communities, including those that are home educated or attend any young people’s community organisations in Thurrock, for example, Scout Groups, Girl Guides, Sea Scouts, Air Cadets etc.

PLEASE NOTE: Parent/guardians can enter their own child’s work. Please complete the correct entry form.

The three age groups are:

Junior	Up to and including 10 years old
Intermediate	11 to 13 years old
Senior	14 to 17 years old

With the age qualifying date of 31st August 2026, it should be noted that some junior entrants may be 11, intermediate entrants may be 14 and some senior entrants may be 18 at the time of some or all the stage competitions i.e., a competitor may be 17 on 31st August but turns 18 on 1st September is allowed to enter.

Competitors must include their date of birth on the entry form.

For entrants with motor control difficulties, an amanuensis may be used to record the entrant’s work to paper.

Please Note: Competitors, schools, colleges, and organisations can participate in a district that is outside the Borough of Thurrock but they may compete in only one Rotary club/district competition.

The Three Stages of the Competition

Local Heats

This local heat is organised by ‘The Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock’.

Entrants need to complete and attach the correct entry form to their writing and submit them to the event organiser, at youngwriter@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk by **Friday 12th February 2027**. The results of this local competition will be published on our website, www.graysthurrockrotary.org.uk as soon as possible after the closing date.

The winners’ work from our Thurrock Borough event will be entered into the **Rotary District 1240 Competition** which is organised during March 2027. The winners of the district competition will then be entered into the **Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland National Final**. The results of this final will be available during May 2027.

Competition Guidelines

Task

To produce a handwritten or typed story in prose entitled, '**FRIENDSHIP**'. The written entry could be fiction or non-fiction, a story or a poem, as long as the piece relates to the theme. Entry conditions:

- Prose entries should be up to a maximum 550 words
- Poetry entries should be up to a maximum of 40 lines
(Entries that exceed the maximum numbers will be disqualified.)
- No pictures and/or drawings are to be part of the entry
- All entries must be legible and can be **written or typed**.
- All entries must be the **unaided work** of the young person

Entries should be sent to the youngwriter@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk or posted to:
Rotarian Paul Smith, 112, St Luke's Way, Runwell, Essex. SS11 7GE

Entries will not be returned unless accompanied with a stamped address envelope.

Originality, Use of Artificial Intelligence, Plagiarism or Close Copying

Entries must be entirely the competitor's own original work and must match the theme of the competition. Plagiarised, copied, traced, close-copied, or AI-generated work is not permitted in any Rotary Youth Competition.

It is important that we protect the work of creative individuals. While we are all inspired by the work of others, competitors must not use generative artificial intelligence (AI), or any app, tool or platform that creates, rewrites, edits, enhances or generates any part of the submission. The entry must be created solely by the competitor.

For the purposes of these competitions, "close copying" means that, to a reasonable person, the entry appears remarkably similar in significant respects to work created elsewhere.

Rotary reserves the right to investigate any entry where plagiarism, close copying or use of AI is suspected, and to disqualify any entry found to be in breach of this rule.

Judges

Judges with appropriate skills, appointed by Rotary, will apply the judging criteria below.

Judging Criteria

Judges will consider:

- imagination relative to the subject
- the ability to engage interest
- the ability to be consistent in the power of argument
- relevance to the theme.

The judges will not enter any discussion or correspondence regarding their decision; the decision of the judges will be final and not subject to any appeal..

Prizes

The winners of each of the 3 stages of this competition will receive a certificate, a trophy and a £50 Amazon voucher.

How to enter

Entrants need to complete the appropriate entry form below and submit it, along with their writing, to the event organiser, at youngwriter@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk by **Friday 12th February 2027**

Entries should be sent to the youngwriter@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk or posted to:
Rotarian Paul Smith, 112, St Luke's Way, Runwell, Essex. SS11 7GE

Entries will not be returned unless accompanied with a stamped address envelope.

In case of difficulty please contact the Rotarian mentioned in the Entry Form below.

Rotary Youth Competition

The Young Writer competition is one of several competitions for young people organised by The Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock. These are: Young Chef, Youth Speaks, Young Musician, Young Photographer, Young Artist, Technology Tournament, Youth Leadership Awards and Primary Mathematics. To find out more about these competitions and other opportunities for young people across Thurrock go to www.graysthurrockrotary.org.uk

Working with Children

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted a safeguarding policy when working with children, vulnerable adults and those with disability. The policy can be found online at [Rotary GB&I Safeguarding Policy](#)

ENTRY CONDITIONS 2026-2027

The form below, along with their written work, is to be submitted with the entrant's full name and age category.

Rotary respects your rights and does not claim copyright for works you submit to this contest. You will retain full copyright. In addition, your moral rights are respected. You will be credited whenever your work is published by **Rotary** (and its partners). Failure to publish a credit due to error or oversight shall not be deemed a breach of this condition.

By entering this contest, you agree that any (winning or shortlisted) work submit may be used by **Rotary** (and its partners) solely for marketing and promotional purposes of this contest or future contests and for no other purpose.

These uses include:

1. Judging the competition.
2. Displaying the entries on the competition website (and websites of partners).
3. Displaying the entries at public exhibitions to promote the competition.
4. Displaying the entries in a book, magazine or similar.
5. Publishing the entries on posters to promote the competition.
6. Sub-licensing the entries to the press for reproduction in connection with the competition and any related exhibition.
7. Inclusion within any materials promoting the competition or any exhibition of works from this competition organised by Rotary.

By signing the entry form you are agreeing to grant **Rotary** a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence in each entry throughout the world in all media for the issues described above for **3** years following the date of announcement of the winners.

Privacy Notice – Youth Competitions

[For the purpose of this privacy notice, Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland (RIBI) also includes Rotary clubs and districts and their members. The use of the term 'you', 'your' also means that of your child where the competition Entrant is a minor, i.e., under the age of 18 years].

Members of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland ("we") value the trust you put in us to process your personal information and will always be open and honest about the information we collect and how we will use it. We will never do anything with your personal information that you wouldn't reasonably expect us to in relation to the Youth Competitions and we will always make every effort to protect your privacy.

The RIBI Privacy Notice is available on our website, www.rotarygbi.org, and explains how we collect, process and share personal information. This 'Privacy Notice – Youth Competitions' is supplementary to the general RIBI Privacy Notice and explains in more detail how you can expect your personal information to be specifically used in relation to the Youth Competition events.

How we use your personal information for Youth Competitions

1. We are collecting your personal information (and that of your child if a minor) for the organisation and administration of the youth competitions only, it will not be used for any other purpose.
2. Club, District or Rotary Public Relations Officers may use your personal information to contact you to discuss public relation opportunities and will gain your specific consent at that time for the use of your information, such as photographs/interviews for newspaper articles, club or district websites etc. Where the entrant is a minor only the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Providing your personal information to others for Youth Competitions

3. The personal information will only be shared with others that require it for their role/the services they provide for the organisation and administration of the youth competition events. Initially, this will be at club level competitions but should an entrant progress to district or national levels of the competition, the information will also be shared with those relevant organisers.
4. Depending on the Youth Competition, it may be necessary to share some of your information with third parties such as providers of venue hire and catering services. Under such circumstances only the minimum amount of information for the third-party service will be provided, i.e., for caterers, only the name and allergy/special dietary requirement will be disclosed, no other information.
5. Those individuals and organisations that have access to personal information are also bound by the RIBI Privacy Notice.

Retaining and deleting your personal information

6. All reasonable steps will be taken by those concerned to ensure the personal information they have access to is kept securely and will not be shared with anyone who does not have a legitimate reason to have access to it in relation to the organisation and administration of the competitions.
7. For all youth competitions, personal information will be kept on file for 3 months after the date of the National Final for that specific competition. After this date, the information will be securely destroyed (either by shredding, incineration or deletion from electronic devices) at club, district and national level. This timeframe is necessary to allow for any disputes to be settled before personal information is destroyed.

By signing the front of this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agreed to the Privacy Notices in respect of the use of personal information for yourself (and your child, where applicable).

SCHOOL or CLUB ENTRY - FORM A 2026/2027

TO BE COMPLETED BY A MEMBER OF STAFF

Please read the Rotary Young Artist Information Pack and Privacy Notice above before completing this form. By signing this form, you confirm you have read, understood and agreed to the contents of the Information Pack and Privacy Notice. Please return this form to the **competition organiser** by **Friday 12th February 2027**.

Entrant's Name: (please type or use CAPITAL letters)	Age on 31 st Aug 2026:
School/College/Organisation:	Please tick category being entered: Junior ☐ Intermediate ☐ Senior ☐

Brief sentence describing relationship of your written work to the theme – 'Friendship'

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Staff Contact Details (Please print)

Name:	Email:
	Tel No:

Rotary Details

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock	Rotary District Number: 1240
Rotarian Contact: Paul Smith	Email: youngwriter@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk

It is assumed that the member of school/club staff signing the entry form below has sought the permission from the parents/guardians of the student entrant under the age of 18 for the following:

- for the named Entrant to take part and be identified in the competition.
- for the information on this form to be used for all stages of the competition (should the entrant progress), and shared in accordance with the Privacy Notice with appropriate competition organisers at each stage.
- For Rotary, District or Club Public Relations Officers to contact the parent/guardian/entrant (where under 18 years of age) to discuss public relations opportunities.

By signing this form, you are also acknowledging that you have read and agreed to the Privacy Notices referred to within the Information Pack in respect of the use of personal information. In addition, you have agreed for photographic/video records to be taken and used by Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock for publicity purposes in printed, electronic and online formats.

Member of School/Club Staff (Print Name):	Signature:	Date:
Email address		

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY ENTRY – FORM B

2026/2027

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Please read the Rotary Young Artist Information Pack and Privacy Notice above before completing this form. By signing this form, you confirm you have read, understood and agreed to the contents of the Information Pack and Privacy Notice. Please return this form to the **competition organiser** by **Friday 12th February 2027**.

Entrant's Name: (please type or use CAPITAL letters)	Age on 31 st Aug 2026:
School/College/Organisation:	Please tick category being entered: Junior ☐ Intermediate ☐ Senior ☐

Brief sentence describing relationship of your written work to the theme 'Friendship'

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Parent/Guardian Contact Details (Please print)

Parent/Guardian's Email:	Parent/Guardian's Tel No:

Rotary Details

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock	Rotary District Number: 1240
Rotarian Contact: Paul Smith	Email: youngwriter@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk

It is assumed that by signing this form the parents/guardians of the student entrant under the age of 18 agree to the following:

- for the named Entrant to take part and be identified in the competition.
- for the information on this form to be used for all stages of the competition (should the entrant progress), and shared in accordance with the Privacy Notice with appropriate competition organisers at each stage.
- For Rotary, District or Club Public Relations Officers to contact the parent/guardian/entrant (where under 18 years of age) to discuss public relations opportunities.

By signing this form, you are also acknowledging that you have read and agreed to the Privacy Notices referred to within the Information Pack in respect of the use of personal information. In addition, you have agreed for photographic/video records to be taken and used by Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock for publicity purposes in printed, electronic and online formats.

Parent/Guardian (Print Name & Address):	Signature:	Date: