

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY  
in partnership with  
CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY**

**“DEAR FUTURE SELF”  
A WRITING COMPETITION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS  
2025**

**Introduction, Rules and Conditions**

**The challenge:**

The challenge is to write a message to your future self which is intended to be delivered and read in 25 years' time. Your message must be typed but can be in any form you wish – even rhymed verse if that takes your fancy! However, it should be between 500 and 700 words.

There are **three** alternative subjects for your message. You may choose any one of them. If you wish to submit more than one entry, you may submit entries on each subject BUT only one set of prizes is offered for this competition and separate prizes are NOT offered for the alternative subjects.

You must EITHER:

- (a) **select an employment, profession or business** which might be in any walk of life - something in which you have some interest, but not necessarily something you have definitely decided to do. You will then describe, in the message addressed to yourself, what kind of work you believe you might be expected to do in that employment and why it appeals to you.

You should imagine how the employment and demand for it might have changed in the next 25 years, explain the changes and the reasons for them.

Try to think what kinds of jobs are likely to become more important in future, and which might be needed less, and give some examples. Also, think how the jobs might be made more important or attractive.

**OR**

- (b) **describe what you think are the positions and function of the monarchy in modern Britain** and then describe in what respects (if any) you think it might or ought to have changed in 25 years' time.

You should imagine what changes will have taken place and why those changes occurred. If you think another system will have come into place in the next 25 years, what will that be?

**OR**

(c) **describe what changes you think it might have taken place in Canterbury or the local area.**

You might describe changes over 25 years in the structure of roads, buildings and transport, changes in local landmarks (or even new ones), changes in local businesses, changes in the flora and fauna, or even changes in the way of life. What effects do you think technology or climate change may have had?

Whichever subject you choose, the judges will be interested in how you have developed your ideas and whether you can provide evidence of research. The form in which you express your ideas will be less important than how effectively the writing is structured and the clarity of the message.

**Rules:**

1. There is no fee for entry.
2. Students may lodge as many entries as they wish.
3. At the date of submission, all entrants must normally be attending secondary school, 6th form college or equivalent in Kent, East Sussex or West Sussex
4. The message should be about **500-700 words** in length and typed (this document is about 650 words).
5. All entries must:
  - a. meet the challenge as set out above
  - b. be in PDF format and 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.
6. Judging will be by a panel of local judges. The judges' own opinions on issues are irrelevant.
7. The judges' decisions will be made known in March 2025.
8. The prizes will be: 1<sup>st</sup> £100; 2<sup>nd</sup> £50; 3<sup>rd</sup> £25.
9. Entrants will remain the owners of their submissions.
10. 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 [writingcompetition@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:writingcompetition@canterbury.ac.uk), no later than **31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**. Remember to put "Dea future self competition" in the subject line.

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

**Rotary Club of Canterbury**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycanterbury>

X (formerly Twitter): <https://twitter.com/RotaryCantUK>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rotaryclubofcanterbury>