



*'My earnest hope is that participating in the Pushkin Prizes in Scotland and St Petersburg will enable these talented young writers to forge friendships for life, and to understand and respect each other's cultures and countries better.'*  
Lady Butter, CVO Founder and Chair



**30<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 30 years of young writers  
in Scotland and St Petersburg

## How to enter

1. Visit the Pushkin Prizes website – [www.pushkinprizes.net](http://www.pushkinprizes.net)  
There you will find photographs from the most recent Pushkin Prize-winners' Week, you can read folios by previous prize-winners and you will find advice, encouragement and guidance from published writers – including Keith Gray, Catherine Forde, Gill Arbuthnott, Alan Gibbons and Joan Lennon.
2. On the How to Enter page on the website, follow the Ten Steps to create the folio of creative writing you will be submitting by Wednesday 20th December 2017.
3. Remember – you can write on any theme, and in any genre. Our judges are looking for original, imaginative writing by young writers who pay attention to detail – accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar adds considerably to the impression of a thoughtfully prepared folio.
4. Follow the instructions in the Conditions listed below.
5. Young writers in St Petersburg who wish to enter the Pushkin Prizes should contact Natalya Ushmanova, the Director of The Pushkin Prizes in St Petersburg. Her details are on the website.

## Conditions

- The Pushkin Prizes are open to all S1 and S2 (or equivalent) pupils in Scotland
- Each folio should include 3 pieces of original writing; individual pieces should be complete – not fragments or extracts – and no longer than 1200 words. Submissions must be the pupil's own, original work.
- Pupils' folios may contain poetry or prose, or a combination of both
- We welcome entries in English, Gaelic and Scots – Gaelic entries must be accompanied by a translation into English or Scots
- Entries should be typed, double spaced, on one side of A4 paper, and pages should be numbered. Handwritten entries will only be accepted if they are written in pen and clearly legible
- Entries should not be bound or illustrated
- Special Endeavour entrants should submit up to 3 pieces of original writing
- Each entry must be attached to a completed entry form. This can be downloaded from the website, and should be signed by the teacher co-ordinating the entries, a responsible adult or parent/guardian
- Entries cannot be returned, so please keep originals. When notified, winners will be asked to email their folio
- All entries must be received by

**WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2017**

- They should be addressed to:  
Lindsey Fraser,  
The Director,  
The Pushkin Prizes in Scotland,  
6/2 Wellington Place,  
Edinburgh EH6 7EQ

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## Acknowledgements

The Pushkin Prizes in Scotland and St Petersburg are funded entirely by donations, grants and sponsorship. Among our supporters we are especially grateful to the following:

James and Morag Anderson, J Asman, Mrs R Galitzine, Vadim and Natalya Kharlamov – The Speaker Group Company, St Petersburg, The Graham Kirkham Foundation, Mrs M A Lascelles Charitable Trust, Major David McMicking, Dowager Countess of Mansfield, The Robertson Trust, Rotary Club of Pitlochry, Dr David Summers Memorial Trust and various anonymous donors.

You can help by donating via our website – you'll find the 'Donate' button on the home page. If you would like to discuss other ways of supporting The Pushkin Prizes in Scotland and St Petersburg, please contact the Director.

Patrons: The Duchess of Abercorn OBE  
Mr Evgeny Lebedev  
Chairman: Lady Butter CVO  
Vice-chair: Baroness Linklater of Butterstone  
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Mr William Thomson CBE

[www.pushkinprizes.net](http://www.pushkinprizes.net)  
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Charity No. SCO20387



# THE PUSHKIN PRIZES IN SCOTLAND AND ST PETERSBURG 2018

A unique creative writing competition open to all pupils in their first and second year at secondary schools in Scotland, and pupils studying in English language specialist schools in St Petersburg.

Twelve young writers will be selected to join Pushkin Prize-winners' Week in April 2018 at the Moniack Mhor Writers' Centre with tuition from professional writers.

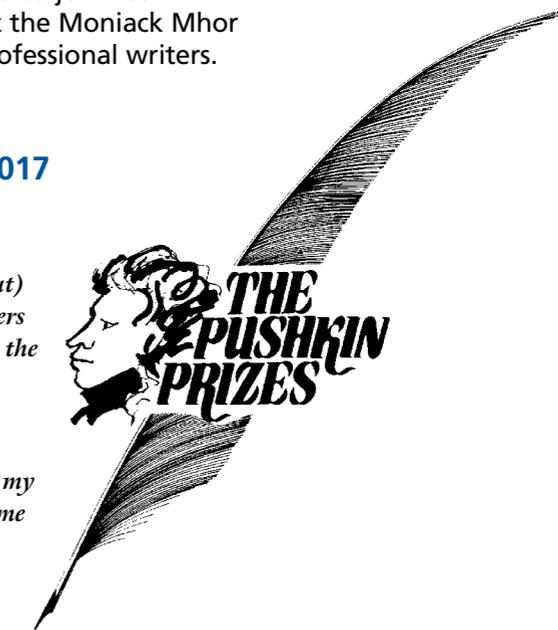
**CLOSING DATE:**  
**Wednesday 20th December 2017**

*'There are so, so many amazing things about being a Pushkin Prizewinner... (but) I think the best thing, overtaking the others by a fraction, is the people you meet and the friendships you make.'*

Pushkin Prize-winner, 2017

*'Pushkin Prize-winners' Week has boosted my desire and confidence in my dream to become a writer...'*

Pushkin Prize-winner, 2017





## The Pushkin Prizes in Scotland

The Pushkin Prizes – Scotland’s foremost creative writing initiative for young people – offers young writers in their 1st and 2nd years at secondary schools in Scotland the chance to win a place on a residential creative writing course at Moniack Mhor, Scotland’s Writers’ Centre in April 2018.

### Eligibility

S1 and S2 pupils (or equivalent) from any school in Scotland are welcome to enter. Most entries are sent by teachers on behalf of the entrants, but we welcome entries from creative writing groups, after school clubs, libraries, or individual entries. Every entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form, downloadable from the website.

### Entering the Prizes

Each entrant should submit a folio of three pieces of writing in any genre – prose, poetry, drama, non-fiction of any kind. The judges are looking for 10 young writers who have something interesting, imaginative, important, thought-provoking or amusing to communicate, and who write with confidence, care and originality.

### History of The Pushkin Prizes

Although his writing is not widely read in the UK, Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin is revered in Russia. He was a contemporary of Robert Burns whom he admired greatly. Like Burns, Pushkin wrote in the language of the people whose stories he was telling. Indeed there are those who believe that Pushkin established the Russian language as a literary medium. The Founder and Chairman of The Pushkin Prizes is Lady Butter, Pushkin’s great great grand-daughter and she established the Pushkin Prizes in the 1980s because she, among others, recognised that creative writing is a skill which sometimes suffers in the move from primary to secondary

education. ‘Our children are our future, and Pushkin inspires them to search for the right words to express themselves in writing.’ A parallel competition in St Petersburg, the Russian city most closely associated with Pushkin, will select two young writers to join our Scottish prize-winners for Pushkin Prize-winners’ Week 2018.

It gave me an insight into how authors work. I got to step out of my comfort zone a bit and write something that was a very different style to my usual.  
*Pushkin Prize-winner, 2017*

It has helped her develop a much greater understanding of herself as a person who aspires to write, which seems a really valuable thing for a 13-year-old!  
*Parent of Pushkin Prize-winner, 2017*



## The Judges

We have been honoured that some of Scotland’s finest writers have been judges of The Pushkin Prizes over the years. They include poets, novelists, dramatists and journalists – Gill Arbuthnott, Meg Bateman, Julie Bertagna, Gerry Cambridge, Jenny Carr, Stewart Conn, Ron Butlin, Douglas Dunn, Margaret Elphinstone, Matthew Fitt, Anne Fine, Vivian French, Debi Gliori, Rosemary Goring, Keith Gray, Diana Hendry, Mollie Hunter, Jamie Jauncey, Joan Lennon, Joan Lingard, Magnus Linklater, Catherine Lockerbie, Norman MacCaig, Edd McCracken, Catherine MacPhail, Edwin Morgan, Nicola Morgan, Alison Prince, David Robinson, Dilys Rose, Iain Crichton Smith and Roderick Watson.



### Pushkin Prize-winners’ Week

Our week starts with a Prize-giving in Archers’ Hall, Edinburgh. Then it’s on to the Moniack Mhor Writers’ Centre where our winners follow an informally structured programme, writing individually and in groups under the guidance of such writers as Catherine MacPhail, Diana Hendry and Gerry Cambridge. The social programme – exploring the centre’s beautiful surroundings, cooking and eating together, a lively ceilidh in the ‘hobbit house’ and

a storytelling evening – ensures a busy, stimulating and creative week’s activities, plus 11 new friends.

I like everything here. How the students work, how the teachers communicate with them. They are full of enthusiasm. It is joyful for them. It doesn’t happen very often, when people study with pleasure.  
*Natalya Ushmanova, Prize Co-ordinator, St Petersburg*

Keep up to date with the Pushkin Prizes.  
**website – [www.pushkinprizes.net](http://www.pushkinprizes.net)**  
**Facebook – [@PushkinPrizes](https://www.facebook.com/PushkinPrizes)**  
**Instagram – [@PushkinPrizes](https://www.instagram.com/PushkinPrizes)**

**SCOTLAND’S LANGUAGES**  
Just as we encourage entrants to write in any genre, we also encourage entries in English, Scots and Gaelic to reflect the country’s rich linguistic landscape. Gaelic entries should be accompanied by an English or Scots translation by the author.

## The value of creative writing

For 30 years we have worked with S1 and S2 pupils throughout Scotland, providing a focus for creative writing. We deliberately leave the subject and genre up to the children, giving them the freedom to write in a form that best suits them and their ideas. You’ll find previous winners’ work on our website – prose, poetry, plays and journalism on a wide variety of subjects. Creative writing uses core skills of listening, communication and presentation – skills that are vital right across the curriculum, and in everyday life and work too. These skills inform the programme for Pushkin Prize-winners’ Week, and have led previous winners into successful careers in a wide range of areas including archaeology, teaching, politics, medicine and veterinary science.

I probably owe many of my achievements to the fact that the Pushkin Prizes caught me at such a crucial moment of my life, and sent me spinning off in the right direction.  
*Pushkin Prize-winner, 2009*

I consider the standard of the teaching and learning at Moniack Mhor to be excellent, particularly in the breadth and challenge it offers its students. Discussions around literature are not limited to workshops and tutorials but continue throughout the day in an informal way: when walking, cooking or even travelling on the bus. The standard of students’ work blossomed under this nurturing environment with students producing quite exceptional poetry and prose.  
*Lorna Swinney, Teacher at Larbert High School*

### A place for a teacher at Pushkin Prize-winners’ Week

Every year we offer a teacher an opportunity, free of charge, to learn from professional writers, to expand their knowledge of creative writing techniques and to develop ideas with which to inform their classroom practices. All those interested should contact the Director as soon as possible.

### The Special Endeavour Award

Entries are welcome from pupils who, for any reason, require additional support with their reading and/or writing, but who enjoy creative writing. Those supporting entrants in this category should mark the entry form appropriately and include a statement outlining the challenges in writing/reading faced by the entrant. The winner will be offered a place at Pushkin Prize-winners’ Week and provision is made for additional support if necessary.

