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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES – QUEEN COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION (QCEC)

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, March 18, 2024 – The prestigious Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition (QCEC) marks another milestone in fostering literary excellence and cross-cultural dialogue among young minds across the Commonwealth nations. With a legacy spanning seven decades, this renowned competition continues to inspire, empower, and celebrate the voices of tomorrow.

Initiated by the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) in 1883, the QCEC remains a beacon of literary brilliance, encouraging young writers aged 18 and under to express their thoughts, ideas, and aspirations on various contemporary issues. The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition serves as a platform for young talents to showcase their creativity, critical thinking, and visionary insights. By addressing topics ranging from climate change and gender equality to technological innovation and social justice, participants engage in meaningful discourse that transcends geographical boundaries and cultural differences.

This year's competition theme, "One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth," invites entrants to consider how they deal with adversity, and how community and culture can be used to encourage resilience and hope in a world with a growing number of global issues. This theme is further divided into two (2) age categories with age-appropriate topics:

SENIOR CATEGORY (Born between 16 May 2005 and 15 May 2010 (14-18 years of age))

- "It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."– Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. What small steps can you take to help tackle the climate crisis?

- Write a speech highlighting what you think is the most challenging issue facing the world today, and how Commonwealth values can be used to solve it.
- At the heart of Samoan way of life is 'aiga', meaning 'family' values including selflessness, hospitality, co-operation, respect and dignity. What core values and ideas from your culture can be used to enhance co-operation and community in the Commonwealth?
- The Commonwealth's London Declaration aimed to strive for peace, liberty and progress. Write a letter to your President or Prime Minister about how to achieve those aims.

JUNIOR CATEGORY (Born on or after 16 May 2010 (under 14 years of age))

- What new habit could you adopt to positively contribute towards a greener Commonwealth?
- Write a dialogue between yourself and a grandparent about resilience and hope. What can you share with the older generation, and what can you learn from them?
- You are taking part in a beach clean-up and discover that you can speak to sea creatures. What are they saying, and how do you respond?
- You're on a school exchange in a Commonwealth country different to your own. How do you make friends with people your age? (Consider similarities and differences in culture that may unite you).

Person who are interested in participating in this competition are encouraged to visit the official QCEC website <<https://www.royalcwsociety.org/essay-competition/qcec2024>>, where they can find detailed guidelines and submission instructions. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2024.

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For further information, please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade at telephone number 784-456-2060