



PRESS RELEASE: Enterprise and the Commonwealth, Tuesday 19 February 2013

Prince of Wales introduced to Commonwealth Essay Competition

On Monday 18 February, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales was introduced to the Commonwealth Essay Competition as part of a workshop for students aged 12-18 years-old held at the Pitt Building in Cambridge.

Taking the 2013 Commonwealth Theme 'Opportunity through Enterprise' for inspiration, students attended a day-long seminar to explore issues of employment and employability in the Commonwealth. The event marks three weeks before the Theme is formally launched in the presence of HM The Queen at the Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster Abbey on Monday 11 March.

As part of the day, excited students attended a creative-writing workshop, where they used the essay competition as a vehicle to explore different ways of expressing their views, before presenting their recommendations on tackling youth unemployment in the Commonwealth to The Prince.

The day coincided with the launch of an online submission platform, through which students will be able to submit their essays electronically at www.thercs.org/youth/essay/register.

Run by the Royal Commonwealth Society since 1883, the 2013 Commonwealth Essay Competition is being run in partnership with Cambridge University Press. As the world's oldest and largest schools' international writing competition, the competition celebrates and nurtures the creative talents of young people, providing a platform for students to compete with their peers in each of the 54 nations of the Commonwealth. Past winners include the Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong and author and journalist Elspeth Huxley.

Michael Lake, Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society, said:

"The 2013 Commonwealth Essay Competition offers students an opportunity to explore enterprise in a creative and international environment. We are thrilled that young people were today able to share their learnings with HRH The Prince of Wales."

Claudia Bickford-Smith, Director of International Education, Cambridge University Press, said:

"Cambridge University Press is delighted to be sponsoring the Commonwealth Essay Competition 2013. This is the first year of our involvement, so we were especially pleased to welcome everyone to the Pitt Building in Cambridge for this exciting, educational and creative event around this year's theme of Opportunity through Enterprise."

In 2012 over 8,000 young writers took part and 1,000 participants from 245 schools, in 38 countries across the Commonwealth received an award for their entry.

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Notes to Editors

The Royal Commonwealth Society: Founded in 1868, the RCS conducts a range of events and activities aimed at promoting international understanding. Its educational, youth and

cultural programmes include one of the world's oldest and largest schools essay competitions, and an innovative international youth leadership programme. HM Queen Elizabeth II is Patron and Peter Kellner is Chairman. Headquartered at the Commonwealth Club in London, the RCS has some 4000 members in the UK and a presence in 40 Commonwealth countries through a network of branches and Commonwealth societies. The RCS is a registered charity in England & Wales (226748) See www.thercs.org.

Cambridge University Press: Cambridge University Press is the publishing business of the University of Cambridge. Its purpose is to further the University's objective of advancing learning, knowledge and research. Its peer-reviewed publishing lists comprise 45,000 titles covering academic research, professional development, over 300 research journals, school-level education, English language teaching and bible publishing.

Cambridge University Press dates from 1534 and plays a leading role in today's international market place. Cambridge has over 50 offices around the globe, and it distributes its products to nearly every country in the world. It publishes titles in 70 different languages drawn from authors in 120 different countries.

A pioneer in academic and educational publishing, Cambridge University Press is committed to supporting innovation in learning and teaching. Cambridge publishes without boundaries, ensuring its resources are accessible across the globe, in print, online and other digital formats.

The Commonwealth: The modern Commonwealth was established with 8 members in 1949. In 2012, it has 54 members with a total population of over 2 billion. It is an association of governments and peoples, built around shared language, institutions, challenges, aspirations and values. The Commonwealth promotes democracy, development, and diversity within its member countries and across the world.

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