



History

TOWNSEND WARNER HISTORY COMPETITION 2007

Each year Vinehall enters some of its best historians into the Townsend Warner History competition. This is a hard-fought competition which most of the leading prep schools in the country submit teams. This year over 810 children across the country took part.

There is a tricky first round of 100 historical general knowledge questions (parents who have tried tackling this will understand how hard it is) and those who get through to the second round have to write an essay paper...

Seven candidates did well enough in the general knowledge paper to go through to the second round of the top 200 entries. The following got through to Round 2: George Wardle (178th), Claire Macfadyen (173rd), Alexander Moore (161st) and Hector Fraser (111th).



Alexander Cowan was Highly Commended and receives a certificate for coming 86th. Seth Maynard did exceptionally well and came 23rd. He received a certificate and book token. Finally James Mannion performed outstandingly and became the third Vinehall historian (along with Harry Smith, now reading Law at Christ Church, Oxford and Sam Gilbert at Sevenoaks), in the last eight years to win the entire competition.

The examiner said, "James Mannion wrote some outstanding essays containing much sophisticated detail and comment..."

The examiner continued, "It is always a pleasure to read the scripts. So many show real enthusiasm for history and a delight in telling a good story, and are a credit to those who teach them. A few scripts are always amazingly sophisticated. From the winner, James Mannion: "Although the young Tudor Edward VI was reputed as a weak and sickly boy, he was until his teens his father's son: cold yet academic and another Renaissance prince. His mother had the fortune to be favoured most of all of the wives of Edward's father, Henry VIII."

Unfortunately, we had to relinquish our hold on the Shield for Best School, but with lots of effort from our candidates, we should be able to put ourselves in contention once again.

A.G.W.