

Subject:

BURKE MEMORIAL PRIZE

Circular No:
2005/12

Date of Issue:
1 June 2005

Target Audience:

- Principals and Boards of Governors of grant-aided post-primary schools;
- Post-primary Independent Schools;
- Education and Library Boards;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment

Summary of Contents:

Information for schools on the awarding of the Burke Memorial Prize 2005

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

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Status of Contents:
Information for schools

Related Documents:
Forms: BM1 Letter to pupils;
BM2 Application form;
BM3 Terms and Conditions

Superseded Documents:
None

Expiry Date:
28 September 2005

DE Website:
This circular is available on
<http://www.deni.gov.uk>

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BURKE MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Department of Education currently administers a number of trust funds from which the payment of an annual prize is made out of the income generated by each particular fund. Among these is the Burke Fund which was established in 1883 as a memorial to Thomas Henry Burke, Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who was murdered, along with Lord Frederick Cavendish, Chief Secretary for Ireland, while walking in Phoenix Park, Dublin in 1882.

The Burke Memorial Prize, which was last awarded in 1994, is given to the best answerer in GCSE examinations taken in Northern Ireland. The Department is relaunching the prize in 2005 and will make an award annually in October on the basis of results obtained in the June examinations. Previously only the children of persons in receipt of salary paid out of public funds in Northern Ireland were eligible to apply but under revised terms and conditions, the prize is now open to all pupils taking GCSEs in Northern Ireland.

This year's prize will be an award of £150 for the best performance at GCSE in the Summer 2005 examinations. Candidates taking examinations in Northern Ireland with any UK awarding body are eligible to apply but **it is the responsibility of any pupil who wishes to be considered for the prize to submit an application to the Department. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 28 September 2005 and candidates must include a copy of all their GCSE results slips with the application.**

I would be grateful if you could draw the re-introduction of the Burke Memorial Prize to the attention of pupils in your school about to sit their GCSE exams. A letter and application form are enclosed, together with a full list of the current terms and conditions of the prize, and I would be grateful if you could issue copies of these to eligible pupils. The documentation is also available on the Department's website at www.deni.gov.uk .

If you have any queries regarding the prize, please contact Mrs Kirstin Martin in Curriculum and Qualifications Branch at the Department, e-mail kirstin.martin@deni.gov.uk or telephone 028 91 279636.

LISA BOAL
Curriculum and Qualifications Branch