Heriot-Watt University "Turing's World" Short Story Competition

Alan Turing (1912-1954) was a British scientist whose pioneering research made fundamental contributions to Computing, Mathematics and Biology:

- establishing fundamental limits to what computers can and can't do: the Halting problem;
- developing techniques and hardware to break encrypted information: the Bombe;
- designing one of the first digital computers: the ACE;
- characterising requirements for artificial intelligence: the Turing test;
- exploring the mathematical basis of how living things form and grow: morphogenesis.

In recognition of these accomplishments, the anniversary of Turing's birth is being celebrated internationally in 2012.

The Heriot-Watt University "Turing's World" Short Story competition invites people aged 15-19 studying Computing in UK schools to write a short story influenced by Turing's work. There are no limits to what a story might be about or where or when it is set, provided it clearly picks up themes from Turing's contributions.

The competition will be judged by staff of the School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences, and by guest judge Ken Macleod, the best selling Science Fiction author.

Prizes will be offered for the best and runner up stories for each of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. All entries will be published online. A selection of stories including the winner and runner up will be published in booklet form.

Stories should be a maximum of 2,500 words, written in English and printed rather than handwritten.

You can find out more about Alan Turing from:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Turing

or from:

Andrew Hodges, *Alan Turing: the Enigma*, Vintage, 2012

Submission Details:

To submit an entry (maximum of 3 entries per School or College) please email the story as a Word or PDF document to **edu.liaison@hw.ac.uk**

Alternatively you can post the entry to:

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Rules

1. The competition is open to students studying Computing related subjects in UK secondary schools/colleges, hence termed "institutions".
2. Entry is free.
3. Entry is institution based. Each institution may enter up to three submissions.
4. Entries will consist of a short story in English of up to 2,500 words length on the topic "Turing's World", as described in the further details.
5. Entries can be emailed but must be verified independently by a postal letter on headed note paper bearing an institutional stamp and counter signed by a Head Teacher or person of equivalent authority.
6. Entries which do not meet the submission requirements may be disqualified without appeal.
7. An entry will be deemed to grant Heriot-Watt University permission to:
    a. mention the institution's participation in further publicity about the competition;
    b. publish the entry but with the author retaining copyright.
8. Entries will be judged by staff in Computer Science in the School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences at Heriot-Watt University, and by external judges as identified in the further details. Their decisions are final and are not open to appeal.
9. Once the competition results are announced, institutions submitting winning entries may use their achievements for publicity purposes.
10. Prizes will be offered for best and runner up submissions for each of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
11. An institution accepting a prize will be deemed to grant Heriot-Watt University permission to mention their entry for publicity purposes.
12. If prizes are donated by third parties, then institutional acceptance of a prize will be deemed to give that third party permission to mention their entry for publicity purposes.