



8 May, 2024

The Speaker's Art Fund / Battle of Worcester Society Art Competition

Dear Head of Years 7/8,

I am writing to you about an exciting opportunity for your Year 7/8 students to participate in an art competition sponsored by The Speaker's Art Fund of the UK Parliament in collaboration with The Battle of Worcester Society.

This art competition will be open to students attending secondary schools across Worcester.

Young people will be encouraged to produce pieces of artwork - the format would be entirely at their own discretion - which would then be exhibited at The History and Heritage Pod and /or The Commandery Civil War Centre at this year's Worcester Festival during September.

The theme for the Competition will be:

'How the Battle of Worcester has influenced the world we live in today.'

The main focus of our project will be making connections between the past, and its relevance to the world in which today's young people are growing up, in particular raising awareness of the Battle of Worcester within the context of the English Civil Wars; the origins of the war; Charles II and Oliver Cromwell: who they were, and what they stood for; the legacy of the war, and its impact on British parliamentary democracy today.

- The Battle of Worcester was the final engagement of the English Civil Wars. In 1786 future US President John Adams visited the city and wrote: "The people in the neighbourhood appeared so ignorant and careless at Worcester that I was provoked and asked 'And do Englishmen so soon forget the ground where Liberty was fought for? Tell your neighbours and your children that this is holy ground, much holier than that on which your churches stand. All England should come in Pilgrimage to this Hill, once a year.'"
- The City's motto is 'Civitas in Bello et Pace Fidelis': 'City faithful in Peace and War', which is generally accepted as recognising Worcester's loyalty to the Royalist cause, although the reality was somewhat more nuanced!

- An exciting new development is the Gates Monument - designed by noted sculptor Kenneth Potts MRSS – a member of the Society’s Executive Committee. Pending approval of government funding, the monument will be a major piece of public art situated in the Sidbury area of the city, close to where the New Model Army stormed one of the City gates.
- The Commandery Civil War Centre is located in Worcester, and is housed in what was the Royalist Headquarters during the battle. The Commandery remains one of our key working partners.

When all of this is considered, there’s no doubt that the Battle of Worcester was a significant event in British history, and a major influence in the nation’s transition from monarchical rule to parliamentary democracy.

Small prizes will be awarded to the winners - in addition, our MP might be invited to give the winners a tour of the parliamentary estate. There would also be 'Highly Commended' and 'Commended' categories to make the project as inclusive as possible.

The Battle of Worcester Society includes dedicated volunteers and re-enactors who are able – diaries permitting – to visit schools and provide a unique ‘hands on’ perspective on the civil war period. If you’re interested in arranging a visit to your school, and for other queries please contact the Society in the first instance by email, using this link

<https://thebattleofworcestersociety.com/contact/>

Completed artwork – with full name, school and class details entered on the back of each submission – should be sent to: **Church Farmhouse, Church Lane, Himbleton, Worcestershire WR9 7LG**

Closing date for receipt of art work: Friday 12 July 2024

Finally, we’re looking forward enormously to seeing the wonderful and creative artwork that young people across Worcester are inspired to produce!

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Daniels

Chairman
Battle of Worcester Society

USEFUL SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

Read more about The Speaker's Art Fund here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/commons/the-speaker/speakers-art-fund/>

Read more about The Battle of Worcester Society here:

<https://thebattleofworcestersociety.com/>

Click here for links to online resources, and links to other organisations

<https://thebattleofworcestersociety.com/academic-resources/>

Discover Worcester's Civil War Story through an interactive experience at The Commandery

https://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk/avada_portfolio/worcesters-civil-war-story/

The Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service has some excellent online resources

<https://www.explorethepast.co.uk/powickhams/civil-war/>

This BBC News report includes some excellent details on artefacts recovered from the battlefield following excavations prior to the Southern Link Road development

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-49551833>

Another BBC News report detailing plans for the proposed Gates Monument in the heart of the City

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz9l70420g2o>

This site includes basic background information on flags, standards and banners used by both sides during the civil war period together with illustrated examples. Perhaps students might be inspired to design their own banners?

<https://www.warlordgames.com/spotlight-english-civil-war-standards/>