**St. John’s College, Oxford**

**Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition 2018/19**

The St. John’s College Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition will be running for the ninth time during the academic year 2018/19. The competition is open to all UK students currently studying in Year 12 (Lower Sixth) or equivalent, whether or not they are currently studying a Classical or Ancient subject. Each student may submit one essay (only) of up to 2,000 words on any of the following four questions:

1. Is love a narrative force to be reckoned with in epic? Discuss with examples from Greek and/or Latin poetry.
2. What role did the gods play in the life of the ancient city?
3. ‘Does a carpenter or a shoemaker have certain functions and activities, while a human being has none? Or just as an eye, a hand, a foot and generally each and every part of the body appears as having some function, in the same way is there a function for human beings too?’ (ARISTOTLE). Do human beings have a function? What is it?
4. Why are mythological scenes so prevalent in Greek and Roman art and archaeology?

***Aims and Guidelines*:**

The competition gives UK students of any subjects, currently studying in Year 12 or equivalent, an opportunity to write an essay on the classical world. The organizers are interested in providing an occasion for independent research, to encourage curiosity and reflection in those who have studied the ancient world before and those who have not.

The essay titles have been chosen to take account of the research expertise at St. John’s College and to encourage the widest possible approach to investigation of the ancient world. There will be prizes awarded for each category. All applicants will receive a certificate of entry.

All primary texts can be considered in translation or in the original language. Where either primary or secondary sources have been used they should be acknowledged with full references given.

All essays should:

* Be word-processed with double-spaced lines.
* Include ONLY your initials and date of birth in your header or footer (to allow anonymous marking).
* Be submitted, together with a cover sheet, by **4 pm on Thursday 21st February 2019** by e-mail to the following address: access@sjc.ox.ac.uk using the subject line “Classics Essay Competition”. Please ensure that you send the file in an openable format i.e. .PDF.

All entrants will also be invited to attend a Study Afternoon at St John’s College, Oxford on Thursday 25th April 2019.

If you have any outstanding questions, please contact access@sjc.ox.ac.uk.