



NOWRUZ ABERDEEN 2026

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

The Nowruz Aberdeen 2026 Committee in collaboration with Equity Lighthouse, are delighted to invite your pupils to take part in a city-wide **creative writing competition celebrating Nowruz**; the festival that marks the arrival of spring and is cherished and celebrated by communities across many cultures around the world. This competition offers pupils an opportunity not only to explore the theme of spring, but also to reflect on the cultural significance of renewal, hope, and new beginnings.

Pupils are invited to express what spring means to them through either an original poem or a short story. They may draw inspiration from nature, personal experiences, family traditions, or the diverse cultural stories that shape how spring is celebrated around the world. We particularly welcome pieces that highlight the richness of cultural identity and the ways in which different communities mark this season of renewal. **Entries will be judged on creativity, clarity of expression, and the ability to convey a meaningful sense of spring and its cultural resonance.**

As an added celebration of young voices, the best entries will be published in Nowruz Aberdeen 2026 - a digital book showcasing the creativity of students from all secondary schools in the city. **In addition, prize-winning pupils, their parents and the school headteacher will be invited to a civic celebration at the Town House, hosted by the Lord Provost on 20th March 2026**, where their achievements will be recognised as part of the wider Nowruz festivities.

We hope this opportunity will inspire young people to engage with both the spirit of Nowruz and the power of creative writing. Further details on submission guidelines, deadlines, and judging criteria are attached.

Thank you for supporting this opportunity to celebrate creativity, cultural diversity, and the voices of young people across Aberdeen.

Please submit all entries to hello@equitylighthouse.com **by the deadline of 2nd March 2026 12pm (noon).**



NOWRUZ CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION 2026

WHAT DOES SPRING MEAN TO YOU?

WHO CAN ENTER?

- S1-S3
- S4-S6

WHAT TO CREATE

Please write a **Poem** — any style, up to 40 lines or a **Short Story** — up to 500 words (theme - spring, renewal, culture, identity, new beginnings).

CULTURAL FOCUS

Celebrate the richness of spring traditions from around the world. Share your own cultural stories, family customs, or personal reflections.

HOW TO ENTER

- One entry per student
- Submit through your English teacher
- Must be your own original work

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Creativity & originality
- Quality of writing
- Connection to spring
- Cultural insight or reflection

PRIZES (for BOTH categories)

- 1st Prize: £50 Aberdeen Business Card
- 2nd Prize: £30 Aberdeen Business Card
- 3rd Prize: £20 Aberdeen Business Card

DEADLINE: 2nd March 2026 12pm (noon)

Winning entries will be published in Nowruz Aberdeen 2026, a digital book showcasing creativity from students across the city.

Prize-winners will be invited to a civic celebration at the Town House, hosted by the Lord Provost on 20th March 2026.