



NEWS RELEASE

Fingal Celebrates Young Poets as part of Centenary Programme

*Winners of Centenary Poetry Competition announced at Awards Ceremony in
Swords*

Dublin, 8th April 2016 The winners of Fingal County Council's *A Poem for Ireland* Poetry Competition were announced at an awards ceremony yesterday evening in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Swords. In attendance were the Deputy Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Eoghan O'Brien, judges Maighread Medbh and Christodoulos Makris, Senior Executive Librarian Yvonne O'Brien, Librarian Alan Dunne and the winning students, along with family members, friends and school representatives.

Alisa Oriol from Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan, was awarded overall winner of the County Competition. Alisa, who is in 2nd Year, will now have her poem submitted to a national panel of judges, set up by Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). The judges will then shortlist eight national finalists who will take part in the National Final later the month. President Higgins will present a prize of €1,000 to the overall winner, the National Runner Up will be awarded €500, the National 3rd prize will be awarded €250 and all National Finalists will receive €50 vouchers.

The other county finalists celebrated at last night's awards ceremony were:

1st Year Winners

Erin Campbell, Loreto Secondary School Balbriggan

Lucas Flynn, Fingal Community College

Sara Ali, Hansfield Educate Together Secondary School

2nd Year Winners

David Sweeney, Fingal Community College

Rachel Smyth, Donabate Community College

Amy Jane Ryan, Lusk Community College

Zoe Gifford, Hansfield Educate Together Secondary School

3rd Year Winner

Rachel Sweetman, Loreto Secondary School Balbriggan

4th Year Winners

Shelley O Connor, Loreto Secondary School Balbriggan

Marcus Ring, Fingal Community College

Ricca Ogario, Fingal Community College

5th Year Winners

Aoife Kelly, Loreto Secondary School Balbriggan

Hannah Leonard, Fingal Community College

6th Year Winners

Shauna Byrne, Loreto Secondary School Balbriggan

Nadine Cooney, Fingal Community College

Nicole Cooney, Fingal Community College

Enda Delane, Colaiste Choilm

Blake Corrigan Colaiste Choilm

The Department of Education and Skills, the Public Library Service, Libraries Development, and Local Government Management Agency held the *A Poem for Ireland* Poetry Competition for post-primary schools, as part of the commemoration events for Ireland 2016. The county competitions were launched in early 2016 and promoted by schools and libraries. Post-primary school students year were invited to submit a poem on the topic 'Your Ireland'. Class winners were sent from the schools to the local library branch where a judging panel decided on an overall winner.

A Poem for Ireland Poetry Competition is part of Fingal County Council's Centenary Programme, which will see over 50 lectures, film screenings, performances, re-enactments, talks and exhibitions cumulate in a special Commemorative Day in Swords on Sunday 24th April 2016.

For further information on the full Fingal 2016 Centenary Programme visit:

www.fingal.ie

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