Rules & Conditions of Entry

By submitting an entry, I confirm that I have read and agree to the following rules.

1. Originality & Academic Integrity
    - The essay must be entirely my own original work. It must not be written in collaboration with others or with the assistance of AI tools.
    - Any suspicion of plagiarism or AI use will result in disqualification from this competition and any future MCCS essay competitions.
    - MCCS reserves the right to use plagiarism-detection and AI-detection tools as part of the assessment process.
    - The essay must not have been previously submitted for assessment, including as part of university coursework or any other competition.
2. Eligibility & Conflicts of Interest
    - The competition is open to currently enrolled students only. Proof of student status may be requested.
    - I confirm that I am not a current MCCS committee member, nor an immediate family member (partner, parent, sibling, or child) of a current MCCS committee member. Submissions from either group will not be considered.
3. Referencing & Formatting
    - Harvard referencing must be used to accurately acknowledge all sources.
    - The essay must not exceed 2000 words, excluding the reference list.
    - The essay text must use Arial, font size 12, with standard margins.
    - Essays must be submitted in .pdf or .doc/.docx format only.
4. Submission & Deadline
    - Entries must be submitted by Friday 22 May 2026 at 11.59pm (GMT).
    - Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.
    - Must be submitted by email to contact@ukmccs.org
    - Winners announced: Friday 26 June 2026.
5. Intellectual Property & Publication
    - By submitting an entry, I grant MCCS a non-exclusive right to publish, reproduce, and share my essay (in full or in part) for educational and promotional purposes, with appropriate attribution.
6. Judging & Decisions
    - All entries will be reviewed by an MCCS-appointed judging panel.
    - Essays will be judged relative to the entrant's level of study.
    - The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding individual scores or outcomes.
    - MCCS reserves the right not to award a prize if no entry meets the required academic standard.
    - Essays will be reviewed and winners announced on Friday 26 June 2026.
    - Winners will be notified via email.
7. Blind Judging
    - Essays will be judged blind.

- Entrant details must be provided only on a separate cover sheet.
- Each submission will be allocated a submission number by MCCS following receipt.
- The submission number will be used for all assessment and judging purposes.
- Any essay containing identifying information within the main text may be excluded from assessment.

8. Prizes
    - Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash.
    - MCCS reserves the right to substitute prizes with alternatives of equivalent value if necessary.
9. Competition Changes
    - MCCS reserves the right to amend, suspend, or withdraw the competition at any time where necessary.
10. Data Protection
    - Personal data submitted as part of the entry will be used solely for the purposes of administering the competition, in accordance with MCCS data protection policies.
11. Membership
    - All entrants will receive one year of complimentary MCCS student membership.
    - Membership will be activated using a unique, single-use code issued by MCCS following submission and verification of eligibility.