

Further competition information

The competition task:

Produce a 3-minute video clip or write a maximum of 500 words in the form of an essay or poem on “why you would want to be High Sheriff for the day”.

Within your response, you should include elements of the following:

- 1) What part(s) of the role of High Sheriff interests you the most, and why.
- 2) Your own strengths, skills and experiences that make you a good candidate for the role of Young High Sheriff.
- 3) What you would want to learn, or develop within yourself, if you were to be successful.
- 4) How you might help improve your local community if you were successful."

Notes for applicants:

- This is NOT an exam or piece of coursework, where you are responding in a formulaic way to score marks
- We DO want you to write to the brief and address the suggested points above
- You DO need to be selective in choosing what to include and what to miss out, so you keep to the word count
- But most importantly, we are keen to see YOUR ideas, personality, flair and interests shine through. Please make this a personal response and do NOT use AI

1.2 Competition rules:

- The competition is open to Years 9, 10, 11 at your school. - please adjust eligible year groups
- Your competition entry must be original and all your own work.
- There is a 10% tolerance on word count and timing of video clips.
- All submissions must be submitted via Google Classroom – Young High Sheriff 2026 by Deadline: 5 October 2026

- Late entries will not be considered, however, the High Sheriff reserves the right to extend the entry period and change deadlines, if the required number or quality of entries is not reached.
- For safeguarding reasons, video clip filming must be undertaken in a public place.
- Winners' entries may be shared via PR locally and potentially nationally and winners will be photographed for same purposes with the High Sheriff and judging panels.
- Judges' decisions are final and judges will disregard any inappropriate submissions.
- Participants agree to take part in two or three facilitated workshops with other competition finalists to share ideas and develop a plan for a crime prevention initiative.
- **Winners will be announced at the Young High Sheriff for a day Competition Winners Event on Monday 9th November.**
- Video clips should not include personal information, such as age, school or where you live.
- Entries must not contain defamatory, obscene, offensive, or any other unsuitable material; the High Sheriff reserves the right to disqualify entries containing such matter. Entries must be suitable to be broadcast, published or used online by the High Sheriff, your school, the competition organiser for audiences of all ages. If the story has troubling content, the High Sheriff, School and the competition organiser may if required take advice from the school's safeguarding lead or NSPCC, and may refer the troubling content to the relevant authorities. For information, please see your school's safeguarding policy.

1.3 Judging criteria:

Before judging starts, the school will use their existing processes to check for plagiarism and/or use of AI and only those found to be authentic pieces of work by students will be presented to the judging panels.

The school will conduct an initial round of judging, if necessary, to identify the top 25 entries to be submitted to the final round of judging, which is conducted by a panel of community VIP judges.

All entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

Presentation 0-5 marks · Presentation of the video / essay / poem is sophisticated and shows personal flair · It enhances the overall idea and concept of the piece · compelling ideas for how they might improve their local community of successful

Understanding 0-5 marks · Answers will display a good understanding of the role and/or history of the High Sheriff · A convincing and compelling personal response that includes details of their own strengths that make them a good candidate for the role

Written structure 0-5 marks · Answers will be well-organised and coherent, with evidence of what they would want to learn from the experience of successful

· Well-crafted and fluent with inventive structural features · Extensive and ambitious vocabulary used appropriately

Evidence of research 0-5 marks · Content demonstrates that research of the current and past role of the High Sheriff, has been carried out · Clear reflection on these to identify what parts of the role interest them most

SPAG 0-5 marks · High level of accuracy in all spelling · Any punctuation used is relevant and correct · The response is grammatically correct · Overall and particularly for spoken entries, your goal is to communicate successfully

If you are selected as a competition finalist, you and your parents / guardians will be invited to the competition winners' event. At that time, your parents / guardians will be asked to complete a form providing consent to photography at the winners' event and to using your name and school in press and PR communications. If you are 18 or over at the time of the winners' event, you will be asked to provide this consent.

Written entries will be printed and circulated to judges.

- Please ensure your name is visible on your entry when printed.

- Your entry, (if written) should be printable on A4 paper. We advise you run a test print of your entry, before submission, to ensure you are happy with the presentation when printed.

At the end of the competition, all personal data will be deleted. Your entry will be retained for PR purposes only.