

RES Young Economist of the Year Competition 2007

Announcement of Winner

The Royal Economic Society has today announced the winner of its inaugural Young Economist of the Year 2007 essay competition.

Zoe Hart from Colchester Royal Grammar School beat strong competition from 750 other entrants to win the competition with a sharp analysis of the economics of teenage pregnancy in the context of the labour market and benefit system.

Two runners-up were also chosen. Winson Tsang (The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe) impressed the judges with a thoughtful, analytical economic rebuttal of conventional anti-immigration views. Alec Scragg (Colchester Royal Grammar School) was praised for a well-executed economic critique of carbon-neutral housing policy as a good way of cutting emissions.

The final judging process was performed by Stephanie Flanders (Economics Editor BBC Newsnight) and Charles Bean (Chief Economist, Bank of England) with John Vickers (RES President) in the Chair.

Commenting on the results, John Vickers said:

“This was a difficult choice. Each of the shortlisted entrants was ahead on some criteria, so the final judgment in good part reflected our weighting of criteria. Placing a premium on analytical acuteness and boldness of topic choice, we are delighted to announce Zoe Hart as the winner of the Royal Economic Society Young Economist of the Year 2007”.

Over 750 entries were received for the 2007 competition. Entrants were required to write between 1,000 - 2,000 words on how the ideas and analysis of an economist can be applied to major problems and issues of current concern.

A team of ten experienced Economics teachers met during the summer to read and judge every entry, identifying the shortlisted entries.