

## ITN launches My News in 65 journalism competition for school children



- My News in 65 competition launches for children aged 7-14
- Children asked to enter a 65 second clip about an important story in their life
- Mary Nightingale, Jon Snow, Ayshah Tull, Charlene White and Sian Williams will judge the entries and decide the winners

Top journalists from across ITN's newsrooms will judge children's journalism skills in a new competition linked to the leading broadcast news provider's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

ITV News presenter Mary Nightingale, Channel 4 News presenter Jon Snow, Channel 4 News reporter and former BBC Newsround journalist Ayshah Tull, ITV News London presenter Charlene White, and 5 News presenter Sian Williams have all signed up as judges for the contest, My News in 65.

Children aged 7-14 are invited to consider being journalists and make a 65-second clip about a story that is important to them to enter into the competition. The clip can be based around three different themes: happiness and laughter, change, inspiration.

The competition opens on 2 November and aims to open the doors of journalism to a wider range of people by encouraging children to start thinking about a journalism career early on in life.

One winner will be selected from children aged 7-10 and another will be chosen from children aged 11-14. The competition opens on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and closes on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, with the winners announced on ITN's news and social media platforms.

The winners will be given the chance for their clip to be showcased across ITN's news platforms; mentoring sessions with a journalist or presenter; an invite for a newsroom tour and a chance to practice their presentation skills in the hot seat, as well as a new iPad.

ITN CEO **Anna Mallett**: "Our 65-year anniversary is a chance to highlight to children the opportunities that lie within journalism. We hope the My News in 65 competition will also help facilitate discussion with teachers, parents and peers about the importance of accurate news, how to recognise fake news and the role of social media in spreading, or sometimes distorting the facts. Ultimately though, we want them to have fun crafting their own story to be judged by some of the most experienced journalists in the industry."

Channel 4 News presenter **Jon Snow**: "I hope this competition gives children the belief that they can also go out and tell stories now and in the future. I've done it for 44 years and it is a fantastic job. ITN's 65-year anniversary is a brilliant opportunity to encourage children to engage with journalism and I am delighted to be judging the entries."

ITV Evening News presenter, **Mary Nightingale** said: “A momentous occasion like ITN’s 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary warrants an equally momentous celebration, and what better way than sharing the spirit of ITN with some of our youngest viewers? For children, the coronavirus period may have led to school closures but whilst at home we also saw time and time again the amazing creativity and ingenuity that they possess. Whether that be through raising money, looking after family and friends or just finding a way to have fun in lockdown, we saw how much they could achieve and the passion they had to do so. And now it’s their turn to tell us. I can’t wait to hear the stories that emerge when the lens is turned for our competition.”

**Charlene White**, ITV News London and CITV presenter, said: “I was inspired from an early age by Sir Trevor McDonald and having worked recently with young people making IRL with Team Charlene, I know the breadth of creativity our next generation of journalists possess – and their thirst for truth and passion for questioning. I can’t wait to see the entries and I know we’ll be spoilt for choice.”

5 News presenter **Sian Williams**: “I’m so proud to be a judge in this initiative. Journalism has been my life for 35 years and perhaps it’s never been more important to tell a story well, which connects and has real meaning to your audience. If YOU have a story that needs telling – tell it to us! And have a go at engaging in one of the most exciting, challenging, creative careers out there.”

Channel 4 News reporter **Ayshah Tull** said: “I realised I wanted to be a journalist at 15 (I know, super old!) but as soon as I went on a field trip to a newsroom, I knew that’s what I had to be. It’s such a rewarding and fun profession. You get to be creative, write, talk to loads of different people. I hope this competition gives kids the belief early on that they can do this, and I can’t wait to see what they all come up with.”

The competition is part of the Unlocking Journalism initiative ITN is organising as part of a range of events and activities to mark its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For the wider initiative ITN is partnering with Broadcast publisher MBI and media organisations and charities such as PressPad to offer a number of online events for teenagers and students considering a career in journalism. The events will start in November and will aim to offer insight, application tips, mentoring and interactive discussions for those considering courses, schemes and apprenticeships, as offered by ITN and Broadcast.

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#### **Notes:**

Details of how to enter the competition can be found here: <https://www.broadcastnow.co.uk/itn-65/competition>

The site includes tips and resources for children to use before they start filming their stories.

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## ABOUT ITN

For sixty-five years, ITN has been one of the UK's foremost television production and news organisations. Combining cutting-edge technology and innovation with expert story-telling flair and energy, ITN is recognised globally for its quality, integrity and creativity.

ITN makes the award-winning daily news programmes for ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5, providing comprehensive and impartial news to the British public and reaching millions of viewers every day. ITN Productions, ITN's independent production division, produces high quality content across seven distinct areas: television production; sports; advertising; industry-specific programming; education content; entertainment and news footage syndication; and post-production.

Each year, ITN produces over 650 hours year of non-news unscripted content for UK and International broadcasters including ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5, the BBC, Netflix, Discovery, Amazon and NBC.

ITN's programmes have won hundreds of major awards over the last decade, including Emmy Awards, Baftas and RTS Awards. Documentaries *Watani: My Homeland* and *For Sama* were both nominated for Academy Awards.

ITN Productions Television produces hit global series and specials in the UK and US including: *History 101*, *Drug Lords* (Netflix); *North Korea with Michael Palin* (Channel 5); *Queen's Green Planet*; *Harry and Meghan: An African Journey*, *Trevor McDonald and the Killer Nurse*, *Inside the Court of Appeal* (ITV); *Inside the Supermarket* (BBC One); *Killer Instinct with Chris Hansen* (Discovery ID); *Elizabeth* (Channel 5/SBS); *Flight 370: The Missing Links* (DNI); *The Road to Waco* (Smithsonian Channel); and *The Turpin 13: Family Secrets Exposed* (Oxygen Channel). It also produces Channel 5's flagship daily daytime show, *Jeremy Vine*.

ITN Productions Sport is the worldwide production partner for World Athletics and was the host broadcaster for the 2019 World Athletics Championships in Doha. The Sport division also works with clients including the English Premier League, International Cricket Council, IOC, Team GB, News UK and CBS.

ITN Productions Advertising creates bespoke commercials and branded content for a wide range of clients including O2, M&S, Matalan, Tesco, TSB, Virgin Holidays and the National Lottery.

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