

Local winner of Oireachtas Essay Competition

THE Leinster winner of the inaugural Oireachtas Essay Competition, Aiste an Oireachtais, Prachi Agrawal of Dominican Sion Hill in Blackrock, received their award from Ceann Comhairle, Seán Ó Fearghail TD, on Friday, March 10 in Leinster House.

The new competition devised by Independent NUI Senator Rónán Mullen with the support of An Ceann Comhairle and the Oireachtas Education Unit, is aimed at Senior Cycle (5th and 6th Year) and AS/A Level students across the Island of Ireland.

The Ceann Comhairle spoke about the essay saying, "The judges thought this was an



Prachi Agrawal with her parents Alka Raipuri and Deepak Raipuri

PIC JOHN MC ELROY.

excellent piece of work that was very well argued. It exhibited an extraordinary degree of

maturing for someone so young. Prachi Agrawal should be very proud." Students were invited

to submit essays in Irish or English on the theme 'Parliamentary Politics Matters' or



Senator Rónán Mullen, Prachi Agrawal, Seán Ó Fearghail TD (Ceann Comhairle) & Grainne Clarke (Teacher, Dominican College, Sion Hill)

"Tábhacht na Polaitíochta Parlaiminte". The winner will be awarded €4,000 in prizemoney for themselves and their schools. Eason is Principal Sponsor of the Competition with educational publishers CJ Fallon and Folens being Associate Sponsors.

Participants had to register by 15th November with the final date for submitting entries being 8th December.

The Ceann Comhairle spoke about the essay saying, "The judges were very impressed with

Parachi's good critical engagement with the essay topic, independent judgements and conclusions offered which had a very reasonable justification."

Speaking about the competition, Senator Mullen said, "We were delighted with the number of submissions and the quality of essays. I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we were pleasantly surprised with the local media coverage and the level of interest from schools across the

country. "We believe the competition is quite timely as there are many challenges facing society today. To work for the wellbeing and security of all, we need a healthy, functioning democracy. The interest and engagement of young people is essential for this. "We hope this competition has succeeded in making young people more interested in the political process and has helped each student to find their role in our democratic system."

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