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Media release

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**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Young Geographers of the Year announced by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

... **The winners of the 2018 Young Geographer of the Year competition and Rex Walford Award were announced today, after answering the question ‘What makes the Arctic unique?’**

[Young Geographer of the Year](#) is a national competition run by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) to encourage pupils to engage with geographical issues. This year, the Society received 1,100 entries from over 260 schools, with thousands of additional pupils taking part in in-school competitions.

The 2018 Young Geographer of the Year competition was an opportunity for geography pupils to explore the unique qualities of the Arctic, in creative and engaging ways.

Steve Brace, the Society’s Head of Education and Outdoor Learning, said:

“It’s over 1,000 miles from the UK to the Arctic Circle. This year’s Young Geographers of the Year have comprehensively spanned this distance to produce thoughtful and compelling entries that reveal exactly what makes the Arctic unique.

“By examining the Arctic’s people, wildlife, and its land, sea and ice-scapes, our winners got under the frozen skin of this fascinating region and highlighted many of the challenges that face the Arctic.

“Thousands of young people took part in this competition – with many schools holding their own semi-finals before submitting their top ten entries to the Society.”

The Society’s Young Geographer of the Year competition recognises the best entries across four categories: Key Stage 2 (pupils aged 9-11); Key Stage 3 (11-14); Key Stage 4 or GCSE (14-16); and Key Stage 5 or A Level (16-18). Pupils in the first three categories were asked to submit an annotated diagram or poster, while A Level pupils were asked to submit a 1,500 word essay, which could include illustrations, maps or graphs.

The awards were presented to the overall winners and highly commended pupils at an award ceremony this morning at the Society.

The overall category winners are:

- **9-11 years:** Suraya Nurbhai, Croydon High School Juniors, Croydon
- **11-14 years:** Pau Ingles-Prats, Weydon School, Surrey
- **14-16 years:** Hannah Heus, St Helen and St Katharine’s, Oxfordshire
- **16-18 years:** Eve Russell, St George’s Academy, Sleaford
- **Rex Walford Award (new or student teacher):** Kathryn Crawshay, The Wellington Academy, Wiltshire

The Young Geographer of the Year competition is run by the Society in conjunction with *Geographical* magazine and is kindly supported by Esri UK, Ordnance Survey, Stanfords, Philip's and Cotswold Outdoor.

ENDS.

Notes to editors:

1. For further media enquiries, please contact the RGS-IBG's Press Officer, Giulia Macgarr, at g.macgarr@rgs.org or 020 7591 3019.
2. The Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers) is the learned society and professional body for geography. Formed in 1830, our Royal Charter of 1859 is for 'the advancement of geographical science'. Today, we deliver this objective through developing, supporting and promoting geographical research, expeditions and fieldwork, education, public engagement, and geography input to policy. We aim to foster an understanding and informed enjoyment of our world. We hold the world's largest private geographical collection and provide public access to it. We have a thriving Fellowship and membership and offer the professional accreditation 'Chartered Geographer'. www.rgs.org
3. Young Geographer of the Year is run by The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) and *Geographical* magazine. The competition began in 2000 and has become a regular feature on many schools' calendars. Announced in the July edition of the magazine, the competition is open to young geographers under the age of 19 years. The prizes are kindly sponsored by Esri UK, Ordnance Survey, Philip's, Stanfords and Cotswold Outdoor.
4. Winning and highly commended entries of Young Geographer of the Year 2018 can be viewed at www.rgs.org/ygoty and are listed in full in the table below:

KS2 (9-11 years)	Suraya Nurbhai	9-11 years Winner	Croydon High School Juniors, Croydon
	Zariya Bennett	9-11 years Highly Commended	Croydon High School Juniors, Croydon
	Zahra Qadeer	9-11 years Highly Commended	Lady Eleanor Holles School, Middlesex
	Sofia Estrada	9-11 years Highly Commended	British School Muscat, Oman
KS3 (11-14 years)	Pau Ingles-Prats	11-14 years Winner	Weydon School, Surrey
	Marcus Baker	11-14 years Highly Commended	St Paul's School, London
	Alessia Simonutti	11-14 years Highly Commended	British School Muscat, Oman
	Anika Lucas	11-14 years Highly Commended	St Helen and St Katharine, Oxfordshire
KS4 (GCSE) (14-16 years)	Hannah Heus	14-16 years Winner	St Helen and St Katharine, Oxfordshire
	Jack Cheek	14-16 years Highly Commended	Brentwood School, Essex
	Rosia Li	14-16 years Highly Commended	Stowe School, Buckinghamshire
	Anna Mod��er	14-16 years Highly Commended	Avonbourne College, Bournemouth
KS5 (A Level) (16-18 years)	Eve Russell	16-18 years Winner	St George's Academy, Sleaford
	Ed Hodgson	16-18 years Highly Commended	Oundle School, Peterborough
	Noa Goovaerts	16-18 years Highly Commended	St James Senior Girls School, London
	Isobel Wragg	16-18 years Highly Commended	The Mount School, York
Rex Walford (new or student teacher)	Kathryn Crawshay	Rex Walford Winner	The Wellington Academy, Wiltshire