

**Looking Up!** …..**Competition Brief**

**Aims**

This an observation and research competition about ‘Looking Up’ for S2 pupils (and their teachers) attending each of the secondary schools in Dundee.

Why? Because we seldom do, and our historic buildings in the city have many clues to our history, from a grand past we tend to forget about today.

When people wander around any city, they normally view it from street level, i.e. at ground floor shop level. Any building that the viewer sees in its whole form are usually at a distance. They do not see much of the interesting details that can give clues about the building’s past.

Because most pedestrians seldom look above up to first floor, and even less towards the top of a building, they are unaware of the details high up that can tell a story about the building and why it is there.

It is easy to forget that our older city buildings have a lot of details built into their architecture giving clues to the period of history that the building was built, or its usage, its status in the city, or even the changes and alterations that it has gone through over the years.

**Who?**

Each competing school should identity a team of a maximum of six pupils, comprising ideally an equal mix of boys and girls, possibly with an interest in art, English, history and graphic communication (and photography!).

**Where?**

The attached map highlights a simple trail through a few of the city’s historic city centre streets, You are being asked to select **five** historic buildings along the trail. You are also asked to take three photos – one of its entire primary elevations and the other two of particular features as per description below.

Please always be aware of and respect other pedestrians and vehicles and always take care.

**Assessment**

This exercise is not necessarily a photographic competition, but the participants’ will be assessed on what they find, research and understand. However, photography is the means by which we are asking for as evidence of what you are identifying as the buildings’ features, so a reasonable zoom option will be beneficial. If you can access a pair of binoculars…bring them as well.

Although you are being asked to identify only five buildings as part of the ‘competition’, participants will be encouraged to generally ‘look up’, identify and note any other interesting features they might spot along the trail.

In addition, you need to provide carefully considered answers to the following questions.

1. In what year was the building constructed?
2. What was it originally used for? Use your imagination if this is unknown….
3. Who was the original owner or the architect?
4. What is its current use?
5. What is the primary material used in its construction?
6. Can you find a historical photograph of the building?
7. Explain the purpose of ‘features’ selected and why you have chosen them to be photographed. Alternatively, a sketch drawing of the ‘features’ will suffice.

To assist, participating schools will be issued with additional guidelines in advance of the event.

**Buildings**

The aim is to identify, then photograph or draw, interesting or unusual architectural features on five of Dundee’s city centre’s historic buildings, while trying to find out something of their history.

This should involve ‘Looking up’ for anything of interest above ground floor level. Items can be old forgotten shop or street signs to pieces of sculpture, redundant wall brackets, odd looking chimneys, finials, unusual windows, guttering and drainpipes, and other unfamiliar decorative features. You can consider any detail that has been crafted with pride to adorn a building to give it status or odd bits that once had a function in the past and may give a clue of the building’s usage.

You should record your ‘Looking Up’ building feature photographically, but if the item is too small or difficult to photograph, then you could provide a sketch drawing. It’s your choice.

Your entries will be judged both on the descriptive quality of your observance as well as your understanding of the object in addition to the photographs or drawings. There might be objects you are interested in but cannot find anything to explanation of them as to what they are, but don’t be off, have a go at your own explanation.

The judges will assess your submissions on the basis of all of the above.

**Event Programme**

The event will take place on Tuesday 4 March 2025, starting at 9.30am. The meeting point will be the main entrance to the McManus Galleries, Meadowside, Dundee. Please be sharp. The school pupils should be accompanied by at least one teacher on the day. There is no time limit on how long it takes to walk the trail, and schools can revisit the buildings on the trail at any time after the launch date if they wish.

NB: if the weather is inclement on the day of the competition, please dress accordingly and also be as inventive with your photography as the weather permits!

**Submission**

Refer to the attached check list for each of the five buildings you have selected.

Completed submissions should be returned to DHET at 29 Exchange Street, Dundee DD1 3DJ ([www.dhet.org](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r02/___http%3A//www.dhet.org___.YzJlOmR1bmRlZWNjOmM6bzpkN2M1ZmFkNzcxODk3OTQwMWZhODQ0ZDNiNDVkOTVhNTo3OjRlY2E6NTgzZDZjNjg4ODUwOGZmMjY5NWVjMjkzZmM4YmM5NDE5MjE2MjA0Y2UwNTJhMzAzYTJkMTg3Y2JlNjZjNTcxYzpwOlQ6Rg)) by no later than close of business on Thursday 27 March 2025.

The submissions will then be assessed by the judges over the following two weeks. The judges’ decision will be final.

All schools who have participated, will be invited to attend a results and prize giving event at DC Thomson, Headquarters Building, Ward Road, Dundee, Main Reception on Monday 21 April 2025 starting at 4.30pm and will be asked to give a short presentation of their submission at their time. This will form the final 10% of the judges’ marks.

All the entries will form part of a two-week public exhibition to be held in the DC Thomson Foyer.

20 January 2025