

Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee Annual Competition 2012: sponsored by Yakult

'Fit for purpose: microbes and healthy living' was the topic for the 24th Annual MiSAC competition for the best one-page, illustrated news article for a healthy living magazine aimed at improving understanding of the contribution of the activities of microbes to healthy living.

More than 60 group entries from 55 schools and colleges yielded over 500 separate entries consisting of some 250 from Key Stage 3 and 160 from KS4. Overall, nearly 500 students were involved from England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire, and from British schools in Belgium and Germany.

Members of MiSAC were joined on the judging panel by Dr Linda Thomas and Leanne Hewitt from Yakult (see above). Of the suggested topics, '*mycoprotein*' and '*the normal flora of the gut*' generated the most interest, as well as '*modification of the normal gut flora (probiotics, prebiotics)*'. Appropriately illustrated and attention-grabbing layouts found favour as did evidence of good science and use of an entrant's own words. The requirement to give a name to the magazine, a title to the article and sources of further information provided an outlet for imaginative and witty talents. The results list and winning entries can be viewed on the MiSAC Annual Competition webpage (www.misac.org.uk) and on the Awards section of Yakult's website (www.yakult.co.uk/hcp).



Dr John Grainger
(Chairman of MiSAC)