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THE PRIME MINISTER

I want to offer my warmest congratulations to all those receiving the Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Higher and Further Education for 2024–26.

This is a landmark year for the Prizes marking 30 years of recognising and celebrating the tremendous contribution our universities and colleges make to the life of our country.

The UK has always been a place of learning, invention, and ambition. Our institutions of higher and further education are among the very best in the world. They educate the next generation, train our workforce, and lead the cutting-edge research that drives progress, not just here at home but across the world.

This year's Prize-winners show the strength and breadth of that contribution. From AI-powered language learning to life-saving medical research, from innovation in fire safety to tackling modern slavery. Your work is improving lives, growing our economy, and helping to shape a fairer, more prosperous future.

I would like to thank all the winners commended this year for their commitment, creativity and contribution to our nation. I also extend my thanks to the Royal Anniversary Trust for their continued work on this prestigious Prize and for their dedication to shining a light on the very best of our higher and further education sectors.

Keir Starmer

25 November 2025