

NOTES & QUERIES FRESH INK PRIZE

Official Terms and Conditions

Version 1.0

Last Updated: JUNE 5, 2026

1. Introduction

The Notes & Queries Fresh Ink Prize ("the Prize") is an annual award established to support emerging greeting card businesses within the United Kingdom.

The purpose of the Prize is to identify and support an early-stage greeting card business that demonstrates exceptional creativity, professional execution, commercial promise, and a clear vision for future growth.

By submitting an application, entrants agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

The promoter of the Prize is:

Notes & Queries Inc
7110 Golden Ring Road, Suite 108, Essex, Maryland, 21221, USA
Vanessa@nandq.com
("the Promoter")

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for the N&Q Fresh Ink Prize, applicants must:

- a) Be a resident of the United Kingdom.
- b) Be an artist, illustrator, designer, or greeting card publisher operating a greeting card business.
- c) Have been actively operating their greeting card business for fewer than five (5) years as of the published application deadline.
- d) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

e) Submit all required application materials before the closing date.

The following individuals are not eligible:

- Employees, directors, officers, or contractors of Notes & Queries Ltd.
- Members of the judging panel.
- Immediate family members of judges or employees involved in administering the Prize.
- Any individual or business that has materially assisted in the judging or administration of the Prize.

The Promoter reserves the right to request documentation verifying eligibility at any stage of the process.

3. Entry Requirements

To enter The N&Q Fresh Ink Prize, applicants must submit:

Portfolio

A portfolio containing a minimum of twenty-four (24) greeting card designs.

Physical Samples

A minimum of twenty (20) physical samples of each range or collection being presented for review.

Business Plan

A brief business plan outlining:

- Current stage of business development
- Years in operation
- Key challenges facing the business
- Growth opportunities identified
- Business goals for the next 12–24 months

Award Impact Statement

A written statement explaining how the £5,000 award would be used and the anticipated impact on the business.

Applications that are incomplete, illegible, misleading, or submitted after the published deadline may be rejected at the sole discretion of the Promoter.

4. Competition Timeline

Applications open and close on the dates published by the Promoter.

The Promoter reserves the right to amend application deadlines, judging timelines, finalist announcements, or award presentation dates where reasonably necessary.

Any changes will be communicated through official Fresh Ink Prize channels.

5. Judging Process

The Fresh Ink Prize is a skill-based competition.

All eligible entries will be reviewed by an independent judging retailer panel selected by the Promoter.

Entries will be assessed using the published judging rubric:

Category	Points
Creative Excellence & Originality	25
Product Quality & Presentation	20
Range Development & Brand Cohesion	15
Market Appeal & Retail Readiness	15
Business Vision & Growth Potential	15
Impact of the Award	10
Total	100

Judges' decisions are final.

No correspondence regarding judging decisions, scores, rankings, or deliberations will be entered into.

The Promoter reserves the right not to award the Prize if no entry sufficiently meets the objectives and standards of the competition.

6. Finalists

The Promoter may, at its discretion, select a shortlist of finalists.

Finalists may be asked to:

- Participate in interviews.
- Provide additional documentation.
- Submit further product samples.
- Participate in promotional activities relating to the Prize.

Failure to comply with reasonable requests may result in removal from consideration.

7. Prize

The winner will receive:

£5,000 GBP (Five Thousand Pounds Sterling)

The award will be paid in the manner determined by the Promoter, typically by bank transfer.

The Prize is:

- Non-transferable
- Non-exchangeable
- Not assignable to another party

The Promoter reserves the right to substitute an equivalent prize if circumstances outside its reasonable control make this necessary.

The winner is solely responsible for any tax obligations that may arise from receipt of the award.

Applicants are encouraged to seek independent professional advice regarding taxation.

8. Winner Notification

The winner will be notified using the contact information supplied in their application.

If the winner:

- Cannot be contacted;
- Fails to respond within fourteen (14) days;
- Refuses the Prize; or
- Is subsequently found to be ineligible;

the Promoter reserves the right to withdraw the award and select an alternative winner.

9. Intellectual Property

Entrants retain full ownership of all intellectual property rights in their submitted artwork, designs, illustrations, branding, and related creative materials.

By entering the Fresh Ink Prize, entrants grant the Promoter a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to:

- Review submitted materials for judging purposes.
- Reproduce images for judging and administration.
- Use submitted images in marketing, publicity, educational, and promotional materials relating to the N&Q Fresh Ink Prize.
- Archive materials relating to the Prize.

This license shall continue for a period of five (5) years following submission.

Ownership of submitted intellectual property shall remain with the entrant at all times.

10. Publicity

By entering the Prize, entrants agree that if selected as a finalist or winner, the Promoter may publish:

- Business name
- Creator name
- Biography
- Business description
- Photographs
- Product images
- Award-related interviews

for purposes connected with the administration and promotion of the Fresh Ink Prize only.

Reasonable efforts will be made to seek approval of biographical information prior to publication.

11. Verification and Due Diligence

The Promoter reserves the right to verify:

- Business age
- Identity
- Residency
- Ownership of submitted work
- Accuracy of information supplied

Applicants may be required to provide:

- Business registration records

Failure to provide requested information may result in disqualification.

12. Disqualification

The Promoter reserves the right to disqualify any entrant who:

- Provides false or misleading information.
- Plagiarizes or infringes the rights of another party.
- Attempts to improperly influence judges.
- Breaches these Terms and Conditions.
- Submits unlawful, defamatory, discriminatory, offensive, or inappropriate content.

Disqualification may occur at any stage of the competition.

13. Data Protection

Personal data supplied in connection with the Fresh Ink Prize will be processed in accordance with applicable UK data protection legislation, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Personal information will be used solely for:

- Administering the Prize
- Communicating with applicants
- Judging activities
- Publicity associated with finalists and winners
- Legal and regulatory compliance

Applicants should refer to the Notes & Queries Privacy Policy for further information.

14. Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Promoter shall not be liable for:

- Lost, delayed, damaged, or incomplete submissions.
- Technical failures or interruptions.
- Postal or courier delays.
- Events beyond its reasonable control.
- Indirect or consequential losses arising from participation in the Prize.

Nothing in these Terms excludes liability for death, personal injury, fraud, or any liability that cannot lawfully be excluded under English law.

15. Changes, Suspension, or Cancellation

The Promoter reserves the right to amend, suspend, postpone, or cancel the Fresh Ink Prize where circumstances beyond its reasonable control make such action necessary.

Any material changes will be communicated through official channels.

16. Governing Law

These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.

Any dispute arising from or relating to the Fresh Ink Prize shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

17. Acceptance of Terms

Submission of an application constitutes acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

Applicants acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agreed to be bound by all provisions contained herein.

Notes & Queries Fresh Ink Prize

Supporting the next generation of greeting card publishers, artists, illustrators, and creative entrepreneurs.