



### **7-10-2025 2nd Student Competition for the Creation of a Historical Narrative and Poster entitled “Asia Minor – Pontus: Memories”, school year 2025–2026**

The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, the Special Synodical Committee on Cultural Identity of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece, and the Chair of Pontic Studies of the Department of History and Archaeology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki are jointly organizing, for the 2025–2026 school year, the 2nd Student Competition for the creation of a historical narrative and poster on the theme “Asia Minor – Pontus: Memories.”

Students of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades of High Schools belonging to the Secondary Education Directorates of A', B', C' and D' Athens, East Attica, West Attica, Piraeus, East Thessaloniki, West Thessaloniki, Arcadia, Argolis, Achaea, Elis, Corinthia, Laconia, Messinia and Chios may participate in the competition until January 22, 2026.

The awarded students will take part in an educational trip to the Regional Unit of Magnesia, visiting sites related to Greek history and the culture of Asia Minor and Pontus. Their work will be posted on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and on the website of the Special Synodical Committee on Cultural Identity of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece and the winning posters will be used to create the poster for next school year's competition.

The theme of the competition is creative reflection on the Greek Orthodox roots, the active presence of Hellenism in Asia Minor and Pontus, and the violent displacement from their homeland.

Students are invited to create a historical narrative or a poster addressing one or more of the following themes:

1. the flourishing of Hellenism in the region of Asia Minor and Pontus,
2. the Pontic Genocide and the Asia Minor Catastrophe,
3. the settlement and development of Asia Minor and Pontic refugees in Greece and
4. the preservation of historical continuity in the new homeland.

Through their work, students will become researchers of the past by studying historical sources; they will broaden and enrich their historical knowledge of Hellenism in Asia Minor and Pontus; they will learn to evaluate sources by cross-checking their reliability; they will become aware of the influence and reach of Greek Orthodox culture both in the East and in mainland Greece or elsewhere, where refugees resettled; they will become familiar with the principles, ideals and customs of Hellenism in Asia Minor and Pontus; they will have the opportunity to express themselves freely and creatively through the production of an original work; they will make use of their talents and express their sensitivity.