



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

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Target 2 Point 5 - Students Target Government's Inflation Goal

Armed with a thorough knowledge of the UK economy, first-rate presentation skills and brilliant teamwork, 160 of the country's keenest economics and business studies students will be gathering shortly for the area finals of the Target 2 Point 5 Interest Rate Challenge.

Spread over six locations - Nottinghamshire, London and Northamptonshire on 13 February; West Sussex and Gloucestershire on 14 February and Manchester on 26 February - the six area finals follow on from the closely-fought regional heats held in November last year, which involved 219 teams in 40 centres.

The area finals similarly involve teams of four students, with one team from each participating school or college, taking on the role of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee. They have to argue the case for their choice of interest rate to meet the 2.5% inflation target set by the Government for the Committee. Given the excellent presentations in the regional heats, the judges (Bank staff and MPC members) will have an even harder task at this stage of the Challenge. Students give 15-minute live presentations to the judges on their assessment of the UK economy and the outlook for inflation, followed by questions from the judges about their interest rate decision.

The enormous effort the teams put into the Challenge area finals is rewarded with the six winning teams receiving a cheque for £1,000 for their school or college, and the runners-up £500. But another month must go by before those six winning teams meet again to determine who will win the 'Challenge' trophy and a £10,000 cheque at the national final held at the Bank of England in London.

Note to Editors

If you are interested in photographing the team(s) from your area, or in interviewing team members, please contact your local school directly or call the Bank of England Press Office on 020 7601 4411.