



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

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Target Two Point Zero - Interest Rate Challenge Winner Announced

Six months of preparation and study paid off for Leeds Grammar School as their team won the seventh national final of the Bank of England/Times Interest Rate Challenge, held today at the Bank's headquarters in Threadneedle Street, London. Their efforts were rewarded as the Governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, presented them with the Challenge Trophy and a cheque for £10,000 for the school.

Speaking at the presentation the Governor said, "Whenever I have talked to students and teachers about the Challenge, I have been impressed by their commitment and enthusiasm. They say that, as well as helping to develop important skills like presentation, communication and team work, the Challenge brings textbook economics to life. I hope the Challenge makes economics fun".

The Challenge started with 265 teams from across the United Kingdom competing in regional heats and area finals, which produced today's six finalists. At each stage the teams had to imitate the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) process, assessing the UK and global economic conditions to determine the most appropriate interest rate to achieve the Government's 2.0% inflation target. The teams, each of four students, then presented their decision to a panel of judges. For today's national final the judging panel comprised of Sir John Gieve, Deputy Governor for financial stability, MPC member Kate Barker, Gary Duncan, Economics Editor at 'The Times' and Paul Tucker, Executive Director for markets.

Sir John Gieve, who chaired the judging panel said, "We had six excellent presentations, all of which showed imagination, enthusiasm and a real understanding of the economy. They were clearly based on a lot of hard work".

The winner's, **Leeds Grammar School**, opted to maintain interest rates at 5.25%. The team from **Haberdashers' Aske's School for Boys, Elstree, Hertfordshire** were the runners-up, winning £5,000 for their school. They recommended an interest rate of 5.5%. The third-placed team, **Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne**, who received a cheque for £2,000 for their school, recommended 5.25%. The other finalists were **Peter Symonds' College, Winchester**; **Wilson's School, Wallington, Surrey** and **Bablake School, Coventry**, who each received £1,000.

Notes to Editors

If you would like to interview team members or take a photograph of the team from your area, please telephone the Bank of England Press Office on 0207 601 4411 for contact details. Further information on the Challenge can be found at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/Pages/targettwopointzero/default.aspx>

A webcast of the final will be available at a later date.