



**BANK OF ENGLAND**

# News release

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19 May 2008

## **Target Two Point Zero - Inflation, Interest Rates and the Economy: The Challenge for Schools and Colleges**

### **Inflation, Interest Rates and the Economy: The Challenge for Schools and Colleges**

This week marks the launch of the ninth year of the Interest Rate Challenge, a competition designed to give 16 to 18 year old students across the UK the opportunity to take on the role of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and set Bank Rate for the UK to meet the inflation target of 2.0%. The Challenge involves teams of four students assessing a wide range of economic data and issues in order to consider the outlook for the economy and inflation before deciding on the appropriate interest rate.

Launching the 2008/2009 competition, Bank of England Governor Mervyn King said 'The Interest Rate Challenge remains **the** exciting opportunity for Year 12 & 13 students to demonstrate to the Bank their understanding of the key issues that affect the UK economy and the action required to keep inflation on target. The competition exposes students to new skills such as making presentations in public and answering questions under pressure, as well as encouraging teamwork. The Bank's Target Two Point Zero team looks forward to receiving entries from schools and colleges from across the United Kingdom for the 2008/2009 Challenge.'

Last year the competition attracted 279 teams and the winner of the national final was The Tiffin Girls' School, from Kingston-upon-Thames. This year, the regional heats will be held in November at venues across the UK, followed by area finals in February 2009. At each stage the teams will face a panel of Bank of England judges assessing the teams' presentations, developed from material provided by the Bank and from other sources, supplemented with regular articles published in The Times.

The national final in March 2009 will be hosted by the Governor at the Bank in London and the six finalists will be competing for both the Challenge Trophy and a top prize of £10,000 for their school, which will be presented by the Governor.

## Notes to Editors

We will be pleased to provide details of local entries over the next few months. General information about the Challenge and national final prizes can be found on

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/Pages/targettwopointzero/default.aspx>