



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

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Interest Rate Challenge winner announced today



Six months of preparation and study paid off for **St Paul's School**, Barnes with their team winning the twelfth national final of Target 2.0, held today at the Bank's headquarters in Threadneedle Street, London. The Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Charles Bean, presented them with the Challenge Trophy and a cheque for £10,000 for the school. Speaking at the presentation the Deputy Governor, who chaired the judging panel, said: "This year 284 teams took part in the competition and it is a great achievement to have made the final. We have enjoyed six excellent presentations today, all of which have demonstrated an impressive grasp of the key economic issues currently facing the MPC. I hope this experience has brought economics to life for the students and also demonstrated the uncertainty surrounding policy making."

The Challenge started with 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 monetary policy 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 Charles Bean, the Bank's Deputy Governor for monetary policy and member of the MPC; Paul Fisher, Executive Director, Markets and member of the MPC; Dr Martin Weale, external member of the MPC; and Anatole Kaletsky, Editor-at-Large of The Times.

The winners, **St Paul's School** opted to maintain interest rates at 0.5% and to leave the amount of quantitative easing at £325bn. They also recommended a Government funded operation advised by the Bank of England to provide credit to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). The team from **The Grammar School** at Leeds were the runners-up, winning £5,000 for their school and the third-placed team was **Queen Mary's Grammar School**, Walsall who received a cheque for £2,000. The other finalists were:

Brighton College; Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, Elstree; and Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh 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 on the [Target Two Point Zero pages](#).

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