



St Albans High School for Girls

The Bank of England's Target 2.0 Student Investor Competition

On Wednesday 18 November 2009, Nabaa Khandwala, Sophie Tomlinson, Prina Shah and Rosy Blake from Year 13, impressed the judges in the Bank of England's Target 2.0 Interest Rate Challenge. The team spent two months preparing for the competition in which they had to give a fifteen minute presentation on the level at which they would set the interest rate. They had to analyse and follow the changes of an incredible amount of economic data, from unemployment rates to bond yields. They studied the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee's meetings and considered leading economists' forecasts.

The team delivered a sophisticated presentation, arguing that the interest rate should be maintained at 0.5% to complement the government's quantitative easing strategy, which they suggested should continue in the short run. After the presentation, the girls had to field challenging questions from the panel of Bank of England judges. They managed to show their advanced knowledge and understanding of the macro-economy through their analytical responses. Competition was very fierce and they narrowly missed being chosen as the one team to go through to the finals.