





The School We'd Like competition: teachers' notes

This project has been specially designed to inspire students in three categories - primary, secondary and special schools - to work together in groups to develop an idea that would improve the quality of life for their school community.

By the end of the process one lucky group from each of the three categories will win £5,000 to spend on putting their idea into practice.

The aim is for groups - they can be a school council, a class, a group within a class, or even a study group - to collaborate with fellow students, teachers and the wider school community - parents, governors and staff, for example - to come up with an idea.

Not many students have experience of canvassing an idea, writing a pitch and developing a business plan for a project. So, to help teachers introduce and develop the concept of the competition in class, we have created some activities and resources.

The following resources will guide students through the competition entry process in a fun way, and give them some ideas for how they might tackle the task. But it is by no means prescriptive and ideas can be adapted and changed according to the needs and interests of the group and school.

There is also a section for badges you can use to name your group.

We hope you and your students enjoy taking part in The School We'd Like.





What would your school do with £5,000? - getting the brainstorm started

Lightbulb moments: coming up with an idea

- Brainstorm in class what people like about school - what are the best things about our school? What things could be improved in the school? Are there problems at school which could be solved?
- Then introduce the concept of a wishing well - if they could make just one wish and could spend £5,000 towards something that would make the school better, what would that wish be?
- Get the children to either draw their wish or write it down on a piece of paper and put in a bag/sock/hat. Explain it has to be something that would benefit the school community - think about what problem it might help to solve.
- Ask students to discuss in pairs the kinds of people who come to the school and use it - why do they use it? How important do you think it is for those people to use their school? Discuss responses and take time to reflect.
- Share responses. Ask which ideas would be of benefit to other people too. As a group vote for the strongest ideas. As a class, discuss what makes them strong ideas?
- Last year, there were a number of schools that made it through to the final who had developed their ideas following student and staff surveys. Ask your students to devise a set of questions so that they can get a clearer sense of what matters to people in and around school





What would your school do with £5,000? - getting the brainstorm started

Take it to the next level: developing the idea

As well as surveying the school community to find the seed for an idea, last year lots of schools also sought feedback to develop potential projects further.

This is a great way to get the wider school community really enthused and engaged about the project. We've included a sheet to help get some really useful peer feedback - there's one form for students aged 5 to 11 and another for 12 to 16-year-olds.

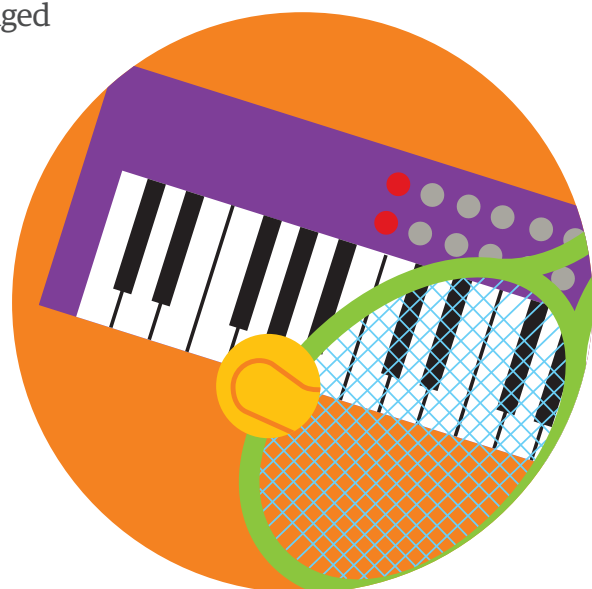
Here are a few ideas:

- Hold a debate. Get your students into teams to pitch their ideas to the rest of the class/group. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each one and ask the students to vote (either in a secret ballot or a show of hands). You can use our feedback template to help and a teller can be chosen to count the scores and make a tally chart of votes.
- Take the competition idea to assembly. Ask your headteacher if you can lead an assembly to discuss the ideas you have come up with. Get the teams to make posters/a display about their ideas around school and ask the whole school to vote on the idea.
- Organise a questionnaire. The competition is looking for evidence of collaboration and student voice, so you could survey the whole school, a parallel class, the whole year, parents and the wider community. Decide what questions you want to ask and think about what you will do with the data. How can you use the data to support your competition entry? This would be fantastic evidence for your entry form.

Once your idea has been decided, it's time to:

- Look at the sustainability and cost of your plan - we've produced a guide to help you think through some of the key areas, such as how the project will be managed and maintained.
- Prepare your pitch to make sure it says everything you want it to and addresses the competition criteria. Again, we've put together some notes to help you with this.
- Then you can submit your entry via our online form - just make sure it gets here before 12 noon on 29 November 2013.

Enjoy - and good luck.





What does the school community think of your idea?

Peer review 5 to 11 years (page three)

Watch, listen or read your classmates' plans for their School We'd Like entry idea and then fill in the form with your feedback. Remember feedback should be clear, kind and something you feel will help make the project better.

| | |
|--|--|
| My Name: | |
| Name of the project: | |
| My favourite part was: | |
| My suggestions for things to change are: | |
| Please add this in: | |
| Please take this out: | |



What does the school community think of your idea?

Peer review 12 to 16 years

Watch, listen or read your fellow students' plans for their School We'd Like entry and then fill in the form with your feedback. Feedback should be clear, constructive and specific - it needs to be something that will help to improve the project and make it better.

Identify the areas where you think the project is strong and compliment it, but also offer some suggestions for improvement.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| My Name: | |
| Name of the project: | |
| Good aspects of the project: | |
| Suggestions for improvements: | |
| Next steps: | |



Stand out from the crowd: tips for writing your entry

When writing your project plan remember it needs to:

- Be an elevator pitch - imagine that a lift door has opened and the judges are there, holding the winning prize money. You have just as long as the lift ride to convince them your plan should be the winning one.
- Refer to the problem that the plan will help to sort out.
- Tell the judging panel what impact your plan would have - who would it benefit? How could it improve your school?
- Describe your long-term plans for the project - how will you make it sustainable?
- Illustrate where the idea originated and how you developed it. Why is it different and innovative?
- Talk about the skills you have learnt through the process.

The trick is to be specific but concise - entries must be no more than 650 words long.

Here are some tips to help you:

- Keep it focused, clear and to the point
- Draft your plan and edit it before entering the competition
- Read it out loud, get others to read it too including someone who knows nothing about the competition. Make sure it makes perfect sense.
- Ask others to check your grammar, spelling and sentence construction - listen to their feedback
- Use your elevator pitch to spell out in the introduction what you propose to do and how you plan to do it - you will grab the judges' attention with a strong introduction
- Then go on to develop your idea and give more details
- Think about your audience - the judging panel - make sure the language you use is appropriate for them.





Does it all add up? Time to think about budget, costings and project management

The competition judges are looking for creative and innovative ideas, but they also need to be realistic and sustainable. So, when developing your project plan it would be helpful to discuss the following areas. You will need to think about how you can use your group's skills to their full potential and look hard at the resources you already have and those you might need.

| | |
|--|--|
| Team name: | |
| Team roles: | |
| How much money will our plan cost? (Give a detailed breakdown if possible) | |
| What resources or equipment do we need? | |
| How much will those resources/equipment cost? (Give details) | |
| How long will the project take? | |
| Plans for further events to support and sustain the project | |
| Specific plans for using the prize money | |



The ultimate entry checklist

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of school: | |
| Primary/Secondary/Special school | |
| Contact number: | |
| Contact email: | |
| Teacher's name: | |
| Name of team: | |
| Number of pupils in team: | |
| Roles of pupils in team: | |
| What is your idea? | |
| Is it realistic? Are you happy with it? | |
| Who will it benefit? | |
| Are there any issues you can see as barriers to this project? | |
| Can you think of any health and safety issues? | |



Has your plan and entry demonstrated all the aspects in the judging criteria?

| | |
|---|--|
| Benefit/impact | |
| What impact will the idea have on your school? | |
| Innovation | |
| Why is your idea innovative and creative? | |
| Collaboration - the student voice | |
| How was the idea devised and who was involved in the process? | |
| Sustainability | |
| How will your idea be managed, delivered and sustained? | |

*Remember your entry must be submitted by 12 noon 29 November 2013. Terms and conditions apply - see guardian.co.uk/school-competition for details.



You're on The School We'd Like team

Why not cut out these badges, laminate them and attach a fastening and make them into badges for your team to wear as part of the competition.

