

## **DOCKLANDS SCHOOL CHILDREN ENTER THE DRAGON'S DEN WITH HSBC UK**

HSBC UK has partnered with schools from across the Docklands area of London in a 'Dragon's Den' style initiative to help develop pupils' business skills, whilst generating ideas to tackle environmental or social issues for the area.

Over 200 Year 5 children from six schools took part in the programme, which saw pupils develop business plans and presentations on how to improve their local area, culminating in the final at HSBC's 8 Canada Square office.

The children presented their social and environmental improvement projects to a panel of six 'Dragons' from HSBC UK's Commercial Bank. Schools competing in the programme included Amhem Wharf, Harbinger, St. Luke's, Seven Mills, Cubitt Town and St. Edmunds Primary School.

Seven Mills won the top prize on the day for an idea which encouraged kids to read books by improving libraries in schools. Jasmin Brackpool from Cubitt Town School won the best presenter award for her outstanding confidence and presentation skills.

Since January, HSBC UK employees have supported the schools as the pupils prepared their presentations. The schools held their own 'Dragon's Den' event in March, with the winner from each school competing in the final.

The principle behind the initiative is to encourage children to learn business skills and awareness of proactive action to improve society and their local environment. Working in teams, pupils undertook research and data analysis to determine the viability of their projects, developed business plans, created presentations and undertook marketing activities.

Matt Osborne, HSBC UK Regional Director for Mid-Market Enterprises in London, was the lead Dragon. He said: "From Book Star to The Helpers, the children came up with some fantastic ideas which would make a real difference to their local communities. We were impressed at the thought and creativity they put into their business plans and all of the presentations were excellent. It was difficult to identify a winner but Seven Mills Primary School just pipped it."

Rebecca Abrahams, Head Teacher, St. Luke's CE Primary School added: "This was a fantastic initiative by HSBC and a very exciting project for our pupils to work on. Projects such as the one we are here to celebrate, enable us to work on these points in such a way that heightens engagement, status and therefore expectation and challenge."

*Ends*

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**Note to editors:**

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