Instructions for participating schools

We are inviting all schools in Barking and Dagenham to take part in a homework competition as part of the Council’s ‘Borough and Me’ project, which aims to inform residents of Barking and Dagenham about what is changing in the borough with regards to new homes, jobs and infrastructure, while supporting them to actively engage with these changes. The competition will involve students from participating schools completing a project that involves thinking about what would make Barking and Dagenham an even better place to live during Summer half term.

All students aged between 7 to 11 are eligible. Each school will be asked to select their three best entries, which will then be entered in to a special ‘Borough and Me’ exhibition at the One Borough Festival. These entries will be judged by the Leader of the council along with other local celebrities. All winning entries will be awarded prizes (for their schools). The council has partnered with Manor Junior school in developing the competition.
The Borough and Me homework competition

- Think like urban planners!

We are asking students to think like urban planners. This means considering in the round what makes a great place to live and coming up with new ideas that might be applied in Barking and Dagenham. In so doing, we hope students will think about the big issues facing cities the world over, from overcrowding to climate change, as well as what councils like ours need to do in order to address them. To support the homework competition, colleagues at Manor Junior school have designed and piloted a homework booklet that provides several project options for students to choose between, all of which fit well into the national curriculum. See these options as well as examples of the entries from their pilot below:

- **Creative writing.** Interview someone you know well that has lived in the borough for a long time and describe what life used to be like, how this is different to now and how they would like it to be in the future.

- **Poetry.** Write a poem about how Barking and Dagenham has changed through history and how you would like it to change in the future.

- **DT.** Build your own sustainable neighbourhood using recycled materials or create a building that could become part of Barking and Dagenham in the future.

- **Art.** Design a mural or sculptor that could be put up in Barking station to welcome visitors to the borough that represents our history and values.
Once your school has agreed to participate, we will share the booklet with you directly. To take part in the competition, all you need to do is distribute the homework booklet to participating students and ensure that they are given the opportunity to watch a short video about the competition that provides some useful background and context (starring local hero Bobby Zamora!). Timeframes for all of this are set out below.

**Beyond the competition**

We are conscious that your school might like to take the opportunity to incorporate the homework task into a broader programme of study. For Manor Junior School, this involved designing a week of activity related to urban planning, building on a week of study centred on sustainability. The homework task represented the culmination of these activities.

The homework competition can also be linked to work on the environment, local history, design and technology and art. If this is something you would like to do, we would be happy to share the lesson plans and additional materials developed by Manor Junior. But it is not necessary to take part.

**Why get involved?**

The competition will give students the opportunity to have their work showcased at a major borough wide event. The three winning entries at the Borough and Me exhibition will receive cash prizes for their schools. We are also hoping to secure, through sponsorship, additional prizes for all projects nominated from individual schools.

From the council’s perspective, we hope the competition will encourage students, and their parents, to engage with our existing plans for the future of the borough. But we also hope that the competition will help us to understand what matters most to young people.
What do you need to do and by when?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key date</th>
<th>Key task</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Register your interest with Michael Kynaston (<a href="mailto:Michael.kynaston@lbld.gov.uk">Michael.kynaston@lbld.gov.uk</a>) at B&amp;D council. Get in touch with him if you have any questions or concerns.</td>
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<td>Pre-Summer half term</td>
<td>Launch the project to your students by showing them the video and sharing the homework booklet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer half-term</td>
<td>Students to complete homework task.</td>
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<td>(24 May to 3 June)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Throughout June</td>
<td>Identify the three best projects from your school for entry into the Borough and Me exhibition at the One Borough Festival. Coordinate collection of winning projects with Michael.</td>
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<td>20 July</td>
<td>One Borough Festival. Ensure winning students and their families know about the Borough and Me exhibition and have committed to attending.</td>
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One borough; one community; no one left behind