

Monday, 7th July 2025
5pm to 9pm

Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton
Avenue, London



City Pay it Forward

Enterprise Challenge

2025





Versus



Kind support by
the Drapers' Company



Special thanks to Kathy McClintock, Board Member
at City Pay it Forward, for organising the Competition

Introduction

The City Pay it Forward 2025 Enterprise Challenge: Create a healthy snack product with real world potential.

This year's Grand Finale builds on the incredible success of last year's event and marks the culmination of a remarkable journey. The top four student teams from the Harris Federation and United Learning return to compete for the coveted crown. Last year, Team Harris emerged victorious, but in 2025 the competition is fiercer, the ideas bolder, and the stakes higher.

Over the past three months, more than 400 students from over twenty secondary schools have taken part in this transformative challenge, supported by an incredible network of dedicated staff from the schools, mentors and volunteers from across the City.

At City Pay it Forward, we believe in the power of action-based learning. The Enterprise Challenge is not just a competition, it is a launchpad for confidence, creativity, and real-world problem solving.

These experiences do more than enrich classroom learning. They ignite ambition, cultivate leadership, and unlock pathways to social mobility, the very heart of our mission.



Quentin Nason

Founder, City Pay it Forward

We are proud to be partnering with our amazing colleagues at the Harris Federation and United Learning to celebrate the creativity and ambition of students taking part in this year's Enterprise Challenge.

At City Pay it Forward, we believe that real world learning inspires confidence, curiosity, and yields lasting life skills.

This competition gives students the chance to step into the shoes of entrepreneurs, solve problems, and present bold ideas in front of a live audience and a panel of distinguished judges.



Kelechi Onukogu

Board Member, City Pay it Forward

I am thrilled to host this year's Enterprise Challenge. Over the past several months, students have worked closely with their mentors to design innovative, healthy snack products with real world potential. I am excited to hear their ideas and to see how our panel of expert judges responds to their creativity and insight.

This challenge helps students develop vital life skills such as teamwork, problem solving, and presenting with confidence in front of a large audience. These experiences will stay with them far beyond the classroom. I am proud to support the work we do at City Pay it Forward and to be part of a programme that empowers young people to think boldly and aim high.

About City Pay it Forward

City Pay it Forward is a volunteer led charity dedicated to advancing financial literacy and social mobility through real world learning. We partner with schools to deliver practical, engaging programmes that link classroom knowledge to everyday life and future careers.

Our work begins in primary schools, where we authored and distributed an award-winning financial literacy curriculum to all 21,000 UK primary schools, laying the foundation for early financial confidence.

In secondary schools, we bring financial education to life through investment clubs, careers insight days, and enterprise challenges. One of our flagship programmes is the Enterprise Challenge, a competition between students from the Harris Federation and United Learning. Using the language of entrepreneurship, students apply financial concepts in ways that are engaging and relevant.

Experiential learning is central to our approach. By connecting the business community with the education sector, we create powerful opportunities for students to gain real world insight, develop essential skills, and raise their aspirations.

City Pay it Forward makes financial education truly transformative.

Learn more at www.citypayitforward.com



Sir Jon Coles

CEO, United Learning



We are delighted to be participating the Grand Finale again this year and I wish all competitors the very best of luck.

Students have once again demonstrated creativity, critical thinking, collaborative skills and entrepreneurial spirit and I commend the dedication they have shown. This has once again been a very exciting competition that has provided students with the opportunity to develop both their personal and employability skills whilst offering insights to the world of work.

Whether our students today go on to be entrepreneurs of the future they should know that their accomplishment of securing a place in the final is one to be very proud of.

Hoping all the competitors and their families enjoy this wonderful event.



Sir Daniel Moynihan

CEO, Harris Federation



Congratulations to all the young entrepreneurs who have reached the final of this year's City Pay It Forward Enterprise Challenge. It's a real achievement and a reflection of the effort, teamwork and creativity you have shown throughout the competition.

Since Harris Academy Sutton's win last year, there's been growing interest in this fantastic competition across the Federation.

Opportunities like this matter, particularly for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. With over one in three Harris students eligible for free school meals, we know how important it is to provide access to experiences that build confidence and broaden horizons.

Whatever the outcome today, you have done something to be proud of. Presenting in a venue like Drapers' Hall and engaging directly with professionals from the world of business, is something that will remain with these young people going forward.



Professor Morag Shiach

Master, Drapers' Company



Many congratulations on making it to this Grand Finale, and welcome to Drapers' Hall. I hope you find this building both beautiful and inspiring.

All the work you have done to get to this point has given you new skills that will be helpful to you in the future. You should be very proud of yourselves.

Now try to enjoy the evening and remember that everybody watching this evening is looking forward to hearing what you have to say.

Good Luck!

17:00	Reception
17:55	Welcome
18:00	Newstead Wood School
18:30	Harris Academy Chafford Hundred
19:00	Holland Park School
19:30	Harris Academy Ockendon
20:00	Dessert & Coffee/Judges' Deliberations
20:40	Winner announced and prizes awarded
21:00	Carriages

About the Drapers' Company

More than six centuries ago, a group of merchants came together to promote their trade in woollen cloth in the City of London.

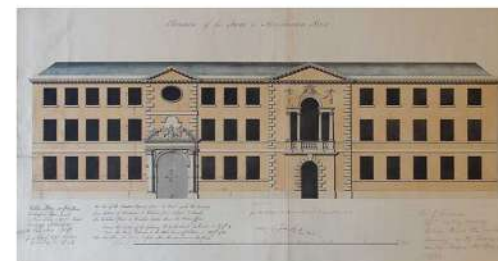
To fully secure their monopoly over the drapery trade in London, the guild petitioned for a Royal Charter which was granted by Edward III in 1364. The Royal Charter allowed the Drapers to set pricing and trade standards such as the measure known as the "Drapers' ell" by which all cloth was sold, and to oversee the training of apprentice drapers. The Company also cared for the people who worked in the trade such as by providing interest-free loans to those who were struggling or sheltered accommodation and pensions for the elderly.

In 1593, the first school was entrusted to the Company's care starting a tradition of supporting education that endures to this day. Thomas Russell decreed in his will that a free school be founded at Barton in Staffordshire with a Master and Usher selected by the Drapers' Company and paid from an endowment of £21 a year.

Today, the Drapers' Company has evolved from a trade association into a grant-giving body. The Drapers are still a fellowship but now attract people, who find delight, purpose and companionship in serving others. Since then, the Drapers' Company has evolved into a grant-giving company with its purpose firmly planted in the 21st century. Today, it administers substantial charitable trusts providing vital support to individuals and organizations each year.

History of Drapers' Hall

For almost a century after becoming a guild, the City Drapers would meet in taverns or in each other's houses. By the 1420s, with the trade in woollen cloth flourishing, they decided to build their own hall. This first Drapers' Hall was in St. Swithin's Lane.



The present Drapers' Hall in Throgmorton Street was bought from King Henry VIII in 1543 for 1,800 marks (approximately £1,200). This had been the home of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex and Chief Minister to Henry, forfeited to the King when Cromwell was executed in 1540. Destroyed by the Great fire of 1666, Drapers' Hall was rebuilt between 1667 and 1671 to designs by Edward Jarman, one of three Surveyors appointed to oversee the rebuilding of the City. A second fire in 1772 did considerable damage and the Hall was once again rebuilt, this time to the designs of John Gorham, the Company's Surveyor. Made in the 1860s and again in 1898-9 when the Hall was new-fronted and the interiors altered, notably the Drawing Room and Court Dining Room in the 1860s and the Main Staircase and Livery Hall in the 1890s.

During the Second World War, a bomb exploded on the neighbouring Dutch Church in Austin Friars. The force of the explosion sent timbers flying into the Hall. Ceilings fell and windows were broken but overall the Hall escaped lightly. Since the war, an ongoing programme of conservation and carefully planned alterations maintains the Hall and its facilities whilst respecting its Grade II listing.

An architectural patchwork it may be, but Drapers' Hall is a monument to a fascinating progression of architects, surveyors and craftsmen who have all left their mark on this extraordinary building



Rupert Hargreaves | Judge

Rupert Hargreaves is City AM's Managing Editor. He has nearly two decades of experience in the media industry and has worked with some of the country's biggest publishers as well as starting his own.

Before joining City AM he worked at MoneyWeek, the UK's best-selling financial magazine.

Over his career, Rupert has interviewed hundreds of founders, entrepreneurs and business managers as well as fund managers. He has a passion for business, particularly small businesses managed by passionate founders who are seeking to make the world a better place. Rupert holds qualifications from the CFA Institute and the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI).



Hugo Warner | Judge

Hugo Warner created benugo, with his brother Ben, in 1998 and went on to grow the business across a range of different markets including high street restaurants and cafés, public spaces like the V&A museum and the Serpentine in Hyde Park, and within business and industry catering. When Hugo left benugo in 2011, they employed over 2500 people, across 52 operations throughout the UK.

Since leaving benugo, Hugo has opened another restaurant in his much-loved Hackney, run several development projects, and created and built The Fisheries, a people first, hospitality led workspace for over 500 individuals and micro businesses.



Trish Wakaimba | Judge

Patricia Wakaimba is the co-founder of The Water House Project, a fine dining restaurant in East London that she runs alongside her husband, chef Gabriel Waterhouse. As sommelier and front-of-house lead, Patricia brings over a decade of experience in food, wine, and hospitality. She oversees the restaurant's sustainability efforts, marketing, and PR— ensuring that ethical sourcing and environmental responsibility are integral to its operations.

With an MSc in Finance and a background in textiles, Patricia previously launched a design brand in Nairobi, working closely with communities and traditional techniques. Her values-driven approach helps set a new standard for thoughtful, modern hospitality rooted in care, connection and craft.



Joshua Collier | Judge

Joshua Collier leads up the Creme Egg Brand and Easter Egg portfolio at Mondelez International. Outside of his day-to-day role he leads Mondelez's Marketing Early Careers group with a particular focus on shaping the organization's "Marketing Community of the Future".

As part of this remit he has helped set up the Marketing Apprenticeship scheme, as well as running a number of taster work experience weeks for students who are part of Psalt and UpReach talent programmes.

He has a passion for social mobility and believes that the key to a thriving organisation is to promote "rebel ideas" where divergent perspectives create the best outcomes.



THE FINALISTS



Vinnie Ponsonby
Dolci-Mai Braun

Samia Begum
Mollie Quincey

THE FINALISTS



Julia Mammadova
Max Johansson
Stevfani Von Sauber

Lucian Benjamin
Noah Sigola
Kit Vjestica

THE FINALISTS



Sasha Barbur
Patrick Davies
Vinojan Kugan

Hassan Mian
Ola Egbinola
Mati Borowicz

THE FINALISTS



Imaan Adil
Hannah Fratila Racz
Athishayaa lyncharran
Veda Kottapalli

Charlotte Moore
Ziva Ogueri
Ashna Sundaresan
Piyara Waduthanthri

Contact Us:

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A background image showing a group of people, likely students or professionals, gathered around a table. They are looking at and pointing to documents, suggesting a collaborative work environment. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.