

Dear _____,

I am writing to request permission for a group of our students to take part in the School Enterprise Challenge, a free global business start-up Awards Programme, run by the UK-based charity Teach A Man To Fish.

Through the School Enterprise Challenge, our students would plan and set up a real school business that would generate real profit, while at the same time the students would be developing key business and soft skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership and problem solving. Over the course of a few months, we would be sent weekly educational guides by email to walk our students step-by-step through the programme: coming up with a business idea, developing the idea into a full business plan and then launching and running the business. If we complete all three steps of the programme and meet the Achievement Criteria, we would receive our Award Level certificate and be eligible for prizes worth up to \$5,000!

The programme has numerous potential benefits for our school and our students. Last year, schools participating for the first time generated an average of \$225 in just three months. We could decide what we want to spend our own profits on: educational activities at our school, a social cause of our choice or reinvesting in growing the business.

As well as the learning benefits for students, including the experience of planning and setting up a real business, it offers a great continuous professional development opportunity for teachers, who can gain knowledge of experiential learning techniques (learning by doing).

I appreciate that participation in the programme will require a time commitment from both teachers and students; however it would be up to us to choose how we would like to fit in. We could integrate the business into the curriculum across various subject areas, or we could start by running it as a lunchtime or after-school club. The School Enterprise Challenge team also offer continuous support through emails, as well as mentoring and school partnership opportunities.

I hope that you will grant us permission to take part and I would be happy to answer any concerns or questions you might have about the programme. If you would like to know more – including downloading an Information Pack or viewing the School Enterprise Challenge Child Protection Policy - I would recommend visiting the School Enterprise Challenge website at www.schoolenterprisechallenge.org.

Yours sincerely,