

A new summer programme

This summer, a group of 16-year-old students are taking _____ in a three-week programme designed to teach them new skills and _____ them used to working with people they have never met before. _____ things go according to plan, in two years' time, nearly one in six teenagers will be involved in the programme with _____ eventual aim of offering it to _____ young person in the country. _____ far, our group has spent two weeks living _____ from home (many for the first time), initially on an outdoor course, with activities _____ as rock climbing, rafting and trekking, and then spending a week in self-catering accommodation where they are planning and setting up a volunteering project. At that moment, the students are putting their plans into action not _____ by cooking for themselves, but also by organising a night outside sleeping rough in order to raise money for a local homeless shelter.

Competition: Your Ideal School

Is your school just as you want _____ to be? Or are there things you and your classmates _____ change, given the opportunity? This is your chance to express your ideas about _____ the ideal school is like. Our competition is open to _____ student between the ages of twelve and eighteen. You can enter _____ an individual or your whole class can work together on a team entry. Your entry can take any form – a piece of writing, a picture or even architectural plans. It is completely _____ to you. What we are looking for is evidence _____ originality and above _____, the genuine views of young people.

By _____ part in this, you will help in a study being carried out at a leading university. All work _____ the competition will be kept at the university and used in research. Entries cannot be returned _____ of this. But it also means that, even _____ you do not win, your ideas will still be heard and will remain for future educationalists to study.

Entries must reach us no later _____ Friday 30 April. Winners will receive valuable prizes of computer equipment and software for their schools

Shopping online versus shopping locally

Most people want a busy shopping street _____ their town with butchers, bookshops, boutiques, cafes and restaurants, _____ makes it depressing to see so many shops becoming vacant. Experts predict that _____ to 40% of shops will be forced to close in the next five years.

No one wants to see their high-street shops disappear, _____ why would people want to shop locally? Internet shopping sites offer discount prices along with 24/7 shopping and deliveries. _____ to a recent report, some products, such as toys, are as _____ as 60% cheaper online.

Local shops should be more _____ clubs which provide personal service and social relationships, and each shop should be _____ as something unique. To meet this end, in some parts of the world shops shut for hours during the day, then do excellent business in the evening, when they aim to give customers _____ more satisfying experience than they would ever have from shopping online.