PIONEERS

How's it going Liz?

We're fast approaching the deadline for Pioneers submissions - it's only three weeks away! By now you should be well into the final stages of making your project, and hopefully you've been collecting pictures and video at every stage so you can crack on with your submission video.

This issue of the newsletter contains tips on running some final checks on your submission to make sure that what you're submitting is the best it can possibly be. There's a reminder of the categories for which we award prizes, so that, if you want to, you can tailor your entry toward one of them. We've also got cool makes in the final stages of development to show you, a reminder about summer camp at Google HQ, and, as always, we share the love from Twitter!

Before you click 'Submit'...

Now, we know that some of you have probably steamed ahead on your makes and are ready to submit your entries already. With that in mind, we present to you...the link to the submission page! That's right, we're now taking submissions for those of you ready to rock.

That said, **don't rush your make or video**! If you think you're finished, we've got some tips to help you submit the highest-quality entry possible. Remember to take your time and create the **best** entry you can, not the quickest one. You still have three weeks, so use your time wisely!

Besides the **theme prize**, we give out a range of other prizes for Pioneers, and it's not always the most technically advanced project that wins. Tailoring your entry toward a certain prize can be a good idea, especially if your make isn't really working out like you hoped. Here's the list of prizes to win each cycle, and insider tips on why we awarded them last time:

- **Inspiring journey**: the winners of this award experimented with a range of technologies, learned new skills, and produced a final project that worked perfectly. They 'pivoted' their design a couple of times to accommodate available resources, and they weren't afraid to take risks.
- **Best explanation**: the team that won this prize perfectly balanced laying out what they made with detailing how they made it. They explained everything clearly, so that anyone could understand how their project worked and how they built it.
- **Technically brilliant**: the team that used the most impressive combination of technologies won this award last time. They created a project that was clever, efficient, and just a bit hacky.

- **We appreciate what you're trying to do**: making is a hobby which involves mistakes along the way, and it's best to carry on without getting discouraged! That you haven't finished or it didn't work doesn't mean that you can't submit your project to Pioneers and explain what you wanted to do and how. Tell us what you learned, how your understanding changed, or the story of why none of you have eyebrows any more, and we'll love you for it.

Tip-top tips for a top-quality submission!

Even though the main thing you'll need is the video, there are a few other things we're hoping to see in your submission for you to get top marks. If you're feeling ready to submit, go over this list to make sure you're **really** ready and haven't forgotten anything important.

Your Video:

This is the main thing we will use to assess your make, so it needs to be awesome. Make sure you **all** watch it through a few times and check these things:

- Introduce yourselves and your project in some way. We don't mind whether you do this using titles, end credits, or by talking directly to the camera, as long as we get an idea of who you are and what your project is. The more creative and entertaining your video, the more the judges will like it!
- Be sure that people can be heard clearly during filming and explanations. If you find that words in some footage are impossible to hear, you can add subtitles, which is easy to do in most video editing suites, including Windows Movie Maker and iMovie.
- Ask someone who was not involved in the project to watch your video before you submit it. Find out from them if they think there are any parts that are hard to understand, and why they think that - you can then go back and explain those bits more clearly. Remember: the judges are smart folks, but they aren't as close to your project as you are. Some things that seem obvious to you might not be obvious to them.

Your Code:

If your project used code, we'd like to take a look at it. You'll need to submit it along with your video, so have it ready. This means storing it somewhere online in 'the cloud':

- You can link us to your GitHub page if you have one (we recommend this option).
- You can save your code as a .doc (Word), .txt (Notepad), or Google Doc file, save it online on a cloud service like Google Drive, OneDrive, pastebin (no account required!), or iCloud, and paste the link into the field on the form. **If you've got more than one script, attach the link to the folder instead.**
- If you borrowed code from someone else, make sure you reference their work by telling us where it came from. Using someone else's script is fine as long as you credit the original developer!

Your Plans:

If you have copies of schematics, diagrams, or plans from your work, we'd love to take a squizz at them! They will help us understand your process better and give us insight into your brilliance!

- If you have a GitHub page, you can save the images on your repo and share the link with us (again, this is the option we recommend).
- You can save your plans as .gif, .bmp, .jpg, or .png files, save them online on a cloud service like Google Drive, OneDrive, pastebin (no account required!), or iCloud, and paste the link into the field on the form. **If you've got more than one image to share with us, attach the link to the folder instead.**
- If you used plans you found online, or bought kits which you tweaked or used as the basis of your project, let us know that in your entry, too!

Google summer camp: 28 July '17

Just another reminder about the special summer camp for the Pioneers winners! All winners of the first and second cycles are invited to join us at the camp being held at Google HQ in London on the 28th of July. Again, we urge all our entrants to mark the date in their calendars...just in case you win Pioneers glory and score an invite to this exclusive event! If you haven't already, it might be worth starting to sound out your team to see how many of them might be able to make it if they win.

Those lucky few who get to come along will be treated to a day of swag, workshops, fun, insider info, and a whole lot of chillin' like a villain at the UK headquarters of great Google itself! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, so get building, coding, creating, and as always: make those movies!

Share the love!

We really do love seeing what you get up to on #MakeYourIdeas!

The project by the team at Worksop College is a really pro-looking birdhouse...which tweets!
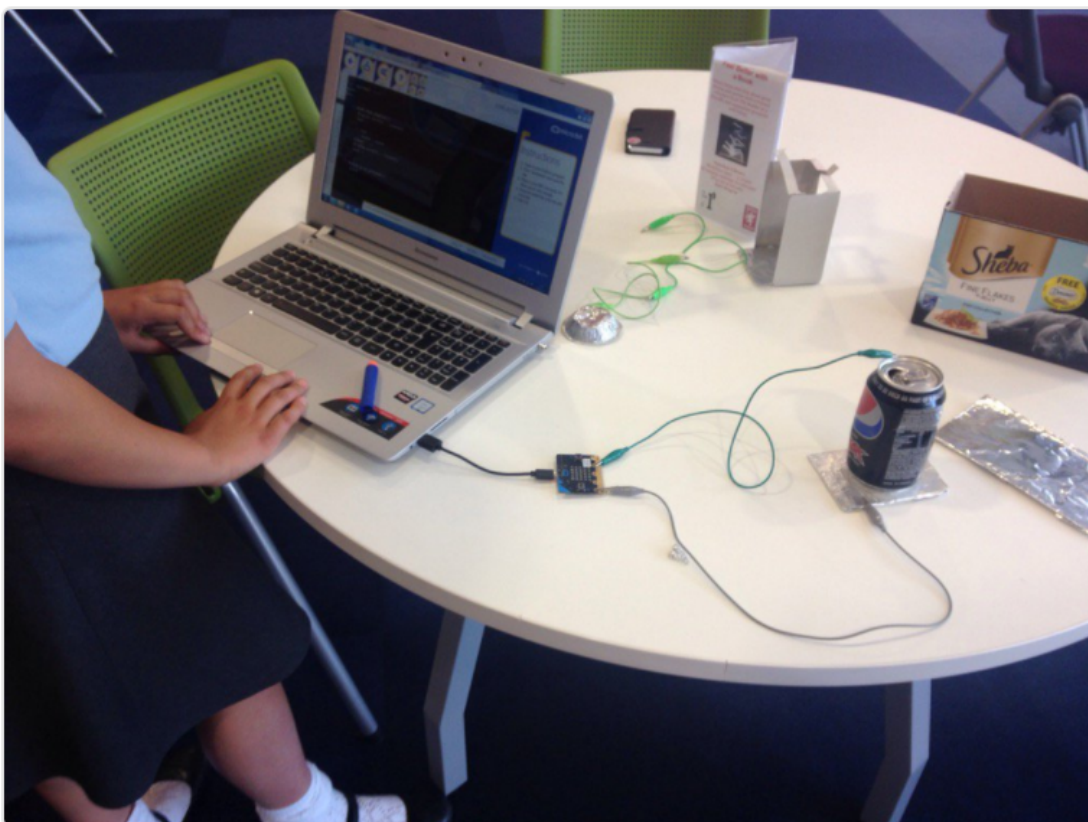

We love it when you guys use a bunch of different tech in your makes! This awesome-looking game from Team Taunton combines a micro:bit and a hacked Pepsi Max can (...Pepsi Hax?)

Team Taunton @GlassBoxTaunton Pioneers made real progress last night in Tin Can Alley game #makeyourideas

For the first time, someone has submitted a video to #makeyourideas about the first session of their Pioneers journey, so we thought we'd share both of Kayla's videos about her Pioneers team!

This video introduces their team members...short but sweet! (Free the guinea pigs!)

Pioneers Challenge "Make It Outdoors" - Session 1
... and our first time using a video camera :)

In the second video, Kayla and Emily talk about their noobiness and how excited they are to crack on and do some learning through Pioneers! (We love, love, LOVE the conclusion: "Errors are ok, you just fix them. We have new skills to use in our project." Bang on, guys!)

Maybe a bloke who cut off his own ear isn't the best of role models, but nobody denies Vincent Van Gogh was a genius. Take some advice from one of the greatest artists of all time on making your submission:

> "**Great things** are not done by impulse, but by a series of small **things** brought together... And **great things** are not accidental, but must certainly be willed."

Pay attention to the details and the big picture will take care of itself!

Olympia, **Mark**, and **Tim**
Raspberry Pi Foundation
UK registered charity 1129409

PS: Just in case you forgot, the closing date is 10 July!