

## press release

10 March 2009

### Lancaster Royal Grammar move to top of investment league

Students at **Lancaster Royal Grammar School** have jumped into first place in the North region of the national investment competition, [Shares4Schools](#), despite the UK recession and ongoing rocky financial markets.

Lancaster Royal Grammar School has secured the top spot for the North, beating ten of its peers with just a £42 profit. Although this may sound like a rather modest victory, Lancaster Royal Grammar is one of only eight schools making a profit in the competition, in which students use real money to invest in the stock market.

Commenting on the competition and the school's current success, **Russell Wearing, Head of Economics and Business Studies**, said: "The school has taken part in Shares4Schools every year since 2006, but this year trading conditions have been even tougher. However, it hasn't put off this year's students. In fact, they see the current market fluctuations as a challenge to make money in a falling market.

"Investing real money in the stock market changes the way pupils make decisions, and it is this realism that sets the competition apart from fantasy competitions. The opportunity to invest in such a volatile market has made the students more aware of the issues which affect the performance of share prices, as well as helping to supplement their wider studies."

In order to stay one step ahead of their regional peers, Lancaster Royal Grammar School has decided to look at investments other than FTSE100 shares. "The students have decided to change their investment strategy by investing in tracker funds," said Wearing. "The Blue Chip companies we invested in were struggling to make good returns, so the students decided to bet against the market hoping that it will drop further. The students have researched the market and have predicted further falls on the back of more bad news to come with rights issues emerging in the next few months."

The students of Lancaster Royal Grammar School still have three months to go before the competition closes on the 5 June. The final victors for the North, and the main national league, will be recognised at the Shares4Schools awards ceremony to be held at County Hall in Westminster, London on 1 July.

---Ends---

**Notes to editors:**

North			
Regional rank	Name of school	Fund value	National rank
1	Lancaster Royal Grammar School	£1,542.49	6
3	The Blackpool Sixth Form College	£1,496.69	10
2	Ilkley Grammar School	£1,489.49	9
4	St Nicholas Catholic High School	£1,360.09	20
5	Pendleton College	£1,281.05	25
6	St Michael's High School	£1,273.01	26
7	Cramlington Learning Village	£1,236.21	28
9	Bradford Grammar School	£1,213.43	31
8	Cardinal Langley RC High School	£1,182.27	35
10	Rivington & Blackrod High School	£792.16	47
11	Carlton Bolling College	£518.15	48

\* Fund values and positions correct as of 8.30 am on 10/03/09.

# thesharecentre:

## For further information please contact:

The Share Centre  
Lisa-Marie Nelson  
PR Executive  
01296 439 426  
[Lisamarie.nelson@share.co.uk](mailto:Lisamarie.nelson@share.co.uk)

Lucy Forgan  
PR Assistant  
01296 439 256  
[Lucy.forgan@share.co.uk](mailto:Lucy.forgan@share.co.uk)

Lansons Communications  
Inez de Koning / Neil Gregory / Rachel Cashmore  
0207 294 3623 / 0207 294 3611 / 0207 566 3663  
[thesharecentre@lansons.com](mailto:thesharecentre@lansons.com)

## About Shares4Schools:

1. Shares4Schools is a competition organised by The Share Centre, a leading retail stockbroker. Established in 2003 and endorsed by pfeg, this unique competition brings Economics and Business Studies to life as students invest real money in the stock market. The competition is open to schools throughout the UK, with teams of students competing in regional and national leagues.
2. The Share Centre Ltd was formed in 1990 to provide low-cost share services for private investors. The Share Centre's range of services includes buying and selling shares (by Internet, telephone and post), provision of regular valuations, Investment Advice and Individual Saving Accounts. For more details contact 0800 800 008, or visit [www.share.com](http://www.share.com)
3. Shares4Schools can be used as part of broad lesson plans or with just a smaller group. It is designed to be self-sufficient, enabling teachers to give as much or as little direction as they feel appropriate. For regulatory reasons, the dealing account is in the name of two authorised representatives of the school, one of whom will carry out the investment decisions: these can be teachers, parents or any other nominated adult. So whilst the competition delivers a broad range of learning experiences, it is not a drain on valuable teaching time.
4. Funds are invested in the school's name through an online dealing account provided by The Share Centre. The value and make-up of the investment portfolio is visible 24/7 via the Shares4Schools website, using 15 minute delayed prices from the London Stock Exchange. The portfolio value goes to make up the league table, so changes in the values of investments are quickly reflected in the team's league position. To reflect realism, dealing costs are payable as normal, although The Share Centre will, at the end of the competition, donate to the school the total of its dealing charges.
5. Monthly competitions are set by email and the correct answers are published at the end of each competition period, along with the name of the winning team.
6. The Shares4Schools trading account is based on The Share Centre's successful Investment Club service.