

press release

2 July 2009

Pendleton College win North region of Shares4Schools

- Pendleton College made a 41.9% profit in just eight months
- The team of four Year 12 students outperformed the FTSE 100 by 45%
- Schools invited to apply for funding for 2009/10 competition

A group of four students from Pendleton College in Salford has beaten 10 schools to become the North regional winners of Shares4Schools, a national investment competition run by retail stockbroker, The Share Centre. The winning team made a solid £629.16 profit in just eight months, despite stock market volatility.

Pendleton College turned their initial investment of £1,500 at the start of October 2008 into a 41.9% profit, leaving them with £2,129.16 when the competition closed on the 5 June 2009. The same amount invested in tracking the FTSE 100 would have returned a loss of 3.2%.

Commenting on the team's success, Gavin Oldham, chief executive of The Share Centre said: "Students participating in this year's competition have faced some of the toughest trading conditions since Shares4Schools started back in 2003. Despite this, Pendleton College rose to the challenge to achieve an amazing capital gain. I am sure the students will take this knowledge forward and capitalise on it in whatever career they choose."

Commenting on how the team made its investment decisions, Hayley Cooling, a member of the successful team said: "We are delighted to have beaten the other schools in the North. When we started the competition most of the team had no idea how the stock market worked, but using real money motivated us to invest it wisely. Our investment strategy included researching companies thoroughly and investing in different sectors so that we weren't reliant on just one. Shares4Schools has been a brilliant experience and cemented my decision to pursue a career within the financial industry."

Commenting on the benefits of Shares4Schools and the team's investment strategy, Nathan Robinson, business studies and IT teacher at Pendleton College said: "The students started off with very little knowledge about the stock market. However, by working

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together and committing to good solid research the team's confidence grew. The students pulled information from newspapers and online share tips, which were rudimentary to the success of the team. The real money element of Shares4Schools was definitely a major factor in motivating the students."

Pendleton College, along with the competition's national and three other regional winners, recently attended the official winner's day celebrations at County Hall, Westminster. The day included a speech from special guest Dame Clara Furse, the London Stock Exchange's last chief executive, as well as a question and answer session with The Share Centre's Advice team. Students were then treated to a trip on the London Eye.

Registrations for the 2009/10 competition are now being accepted via the website www.shares4schools.org until 25 September. Schools that register before August will be considered for one of many sponsorships, each worth £750 from The Share Centre. This will help successful registrants towards raising the £1,500 needed to take part in the Shares4Schools competition.

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Note to editors:

Photograph available.

Regional league results for the North:

School	Location	Value	Gain
Pendleton College	Salford	£2,129.16	+41.9%
Lancaster Royal Grammar School	Lancaster	£1,567.53	+4.5%
Bradford Grammar School	Bradford	£1,543.80	+2.9%
Ilkley Grammar School	Ilkley	£1,535.50	+2.4%
St Michael's High School	Liverpool	£1,503.37	+0.2%
Cramlington Learning Village	Cramlington	£1,486.61	-0.9%
The Blackpool Sixth Form	Blackpool	£1,441.30	-3.9%
Cardinal Langley R C High School	Manchester	£1,435.83	-4.3%
St Nicholas Catholic High School	Northwich	£1,376.50	-8.2%
Rivington & Blackrod High School	Bolton	£882.73	-41.2%
Carlton Bolling College	Bradford	£1.55	-99.9%

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For further information please contact:

The Share Centre
Lisa-Marie Nelson
PR Executive
01296 439 426
Lisamarie.nelson@share.co.uk

Lucy Forgan
PR Assistant
01296 439 256
Lucy.forgan@share.co.uk

Lansons Communications
Inez de Koning / Neil Gregory / Rachel Cashmore
0207 294 3623 / 0207 294 3611 / 0207 566 3663
Inezd@lansons.com / neilg@lansons.com / rachelc@lansons.com

About Shares4Schools:

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.

How does it work?

Each team must raise an investment pot of £1,500 to invest in the stock market, with the aim of achieving the highest fund value over the period from October to June. Schools are encouraged to raise the initial investment pot through sponsorship from local businesses, funding from the Enterprise Initiative Fund and their PTA.

In addition to promoting and administering the competition, The Share Centre offers a limited number of sponsorships of £750 which schools can apply for when registering their interest in the competition.

All participating schools retain the proceeds of their investment fund to use at their discretion, and the team with the highest value fund at the end of the competition will be recognised at a special ceremony in London.

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.

About trading:

The Shares4Schools trading account is based on The Share Centre's successful Investment Club service.

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

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normal, although The Share Centre will, at the end of the competition, donate to the school the total of its dealing charges.

About The Share Centre:

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