

## press release

2 July 2009

### Westbourne School win South West region of Shares4Schools

- Westbourne School made a 51% profit in just eight months
- The team of 3 Year 12 students outperformed the FTSE 100 by 54.2%
- Schools invited to apply for funding for 2009/10 competition

**A group of three Year 12 students at Westbourne School, Penarth has beaten nine schools to become the South West regional winners of Shares4Schools, a national investment competition run by retail stockbroker, The Share Centre. The team made an exceptional £764.47 profit in just eight months, despite stock market volatility.**

The group turned their initial investment of £1,500 at the start of October 2008 into a 51% profit, leaving them with £2,264.47 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, Westbourne School 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 the team's investment experience, Anna Protheroe, a member of the successful team said:** "We are thrilled to have beaten all the other schools in the South West. 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 was based on a foundation of larger, well known companies that offered solid growth, but we also dabbled in smaller, riskier shares to try and make a quick profit. Taking part in Shares4Schools was great fun and it has helped me to realise that I would like to work in the financial services industry one day."

**Commenting on the benefits of Shares4Schools, Lindsay Emyr, international baccalaureate coordinator at Westbourne School said:** "I am delighted with the progress

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the students have made over the last eight months. Shares4Schools has not only given them a better understanding of how the stock market works, but it also gave them the opportunity to improve important transferable skills such as research techniques and team working. The real money element of the competition helped to keep the students motivated and encouraged them to think about their investment decisions more wisely.”

Westbourne School, 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](http://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 South West:

School	Location	Value	Gain
<a href="#">Westbourne School</a>	Penarth	£2,264.47	+51.0%
<a href="#">The English International School of Spain</a>	Malaga, Spain	£2,124.38	+41.6%
<a href="#">St Cyres School</a>	Penarth	£1,836.87	+22.5%
<a href="#">Writhlington School</a>	Bath	£1,666.81	+11.1%
<a href="#">Filton College</a>	Filton, Bristol	£1,500.56	+0.0%
<a href="#">Bournemouth &amp; Poole Col...</a>	Bournemouth	£1,462.22	-2.5%
<a href="#">St Bartholomew's School</a>	Newbury	£1,416.49	-5.6%
<a href="#">Kingdown Community School</a>	Warminster	£1,414.59	-5.7%
<a href="#">Ashton Park School</a>	Bristol	£1,361.40	-9.2%
<a href="#">Reading School</a>	Reading	£1,308.77	-12.7%

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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](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  
[Inezd@lansons.com](mailto:Inezd@lansons.com) / [neilg@lansons.com](mailto:neilg@lansons.com) / [rachelc@lansons.com](mailto: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](http://www.share.com)