

## press release

2 July 2009

### Wellingborough School wins Shares4Schools national investment competition

- Wellingborough School made a staggering 135% profit in just eight months
- The team of 12 students outperformed the FTSE 100 by 138%
- Schools invited to apply for funding for 2009/10 competition

**A group of Year 12 students from Wellingborough School, Northamptonshire has won the 2008/09 Shares4Schools national investment competition, run by retail stockbroker The Share Centre. The winning team made over £2,000 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 135% profit, leaving them with £3,523.19 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, Wellingborough 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, Guy McDonald, a member of the winning team said:** "We worked really well as a team. We decided to split into sub groups taking ownership of certain shares and reporting back to the main group. As we became more confident in our share picking skills we started to search for smaller, riskier shares, which certainly helped to boost our profit potential. Shares4Schools has given us a great insight into the stock market; I would definitely recommend the competition to other Year 12 students."

**Commenting on the team's investment strategy, David Williams, deputy head of Wellingborough School said:** "Overall the team's strategy was to pick relatively few investments, making their shares easier to manage. They chose at least two-to-three companies that were recognised as good performers and then some smaller, riskier shares. Given the time

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the competition runs for, it was important for us to agree when we should buy or sell a share. Quite simply we decided that if a share was not working for us we would sell it and if it was performing we'd keep it."

Wellingborough School, along with the competition's 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.

Top ten league results for the 2008/09 national Shares4Schools competition:

Rank	School	Location	Value	Gain
1	<a href="#">Wellingborough School</a>	Wellingborough	£3,523.19	+134.9%
2	<a href="#">The Grange School</a>	Aylesbury	£2,762.07	+84.1%
3	<a href="#">Westbourne School</a>	Penarth	£2,264.47	+51.0%
4	<a href="#">Trent College</a>	Nottingham	£2,131.25	+42.1%
5	<a href="#">Pendleton College</a>	Salford	£2,129.16	+41.9%
6	<a href="#">The English International</a> School of Spain	Malaga, Spain	£2,124.38	+41.6%
7	<a href="#">Bablake School</a>	Coventry	£2,017.92	+34.5%
8	<a href="#">Perse School</a>	Cambridge	£2,013.28	+34.2%
9	<a href="#">Holgate School</a>	Nottingham	£1,954.45	+30.3%
10	<a href="#">Spalding Grammar School</a>	Spalding	£1,863.01	+24.2%

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## 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)