

press release

6 November 2009

Schools across the Midlands take on the stock market as they compete in the 7th annual shares4schools competition

- 9 schools across the Midlands are taking part in the 2009/10 competition
- Budding financiers invest real money in the stock market

The 2009/10 Shares4Schools investment competition is now underway, with 70 schools competing nationally to make the biggest profit in just eight months. There are 9 schools across the Midlands taking part, all hoping to be crowned the most profitable school of its region.

Every school started the competition with a real investment pot of £1,500. From now on they must buy or sell at least one investment every month. At the end of the competition schools get to keep any profits they make. The national winner and four regional winners will then be invited to attend a special 'winners day' ceremony in London.

Andrew Peplow, business studies teacher at The Perse School, comments on how the competition can improve the student's skills inside and outside the class room.

"The competition helps with understanding the wider business environment and links well to understanding of both political and economic factors. The competition provides a different kind of pressure from exams and tests. Students develop confidence in their ability to make important decisions that really matter and often have immediate consequences."

Explaining the educational benefits of the competition, Ian Benning, Shares4Schools coordinator, said: "Feedback from schools suggests that it is the 'real' money element which separates Shares4Schools from fantasy-based competitions. Teachers have found students spend more time researching their investments and think twice before committing to a share when real money is involved. Plus, participating in the competition also helps to develop team working and decision making skills."

-- Ends --

Notes to editors:

The Share Centre is able to provide regular regional updates including, photographs and performance figures if required. Please contact our press office for more details.

Schools in the Midlands competing in the 2009/10 competition:

School	Location
Dianogly City Academy	Nottingham
Spalding Grammar School	Spalding
Trent College	Nottingham
Q3 Academy	Birmingham
The King's School	Grantham
Holgate School	Nottingham
Wellingborough School	Wellingborough, Northamptonshire
Perse School	Cambridge
Bablake School	Coventry

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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 pfege, 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, along with the four regional winners.

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 the School with two authorised representatives who 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

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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.

About The Share Centre:

The Share Centre Ltd was formed in 1991 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