

press release

6 November 2009

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

- 8 schools across Scotland 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 8 schools across Scotland 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.

Archie McNally, business studies teacher at Carnoustie High School in Angus, comments on what motivated the students to take part in the competition.

"Our motivation for entering the competition was the opportunity to invest real money. We have taken part in pro share games and in class share challenges but what sets this scheme apart is the real money element. Most of the students' learning is controlled, however this competition gives the students an opportunity to deal within the real world of investing, something which they couldn't learn in class. This will give the students a chance to improve important skills such as research techniques and team working and to develop a wider perspective outside of the classroom."

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

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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.

South West schools competing in the 2009/10 competition:

School	Location
Hutchesons' Grammar School	Glasgow
Community School of Auchterarder	Perth, Scotland
Tarbert Academy	Argyll, Scotland
Dollar Academy	Dollar, Scotland
Kings Park Secondary School	Glasgow
Carnoustie High School	Angus, Scotland
Wester Hailes Education Centre	Edinburgh
Mackie Academy	Aberdeen, Scotland

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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, 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 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 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