

press release

9 May 2011

It's tense at the top for The Share Centre's Shares4schools competition

- Just £31.95 separates first and second position
- Four schools in the running for first place
- The Share Centre's competition has developed students' business and financial acumen

The Share Centre's Shares4schools leaderboard is closer than ever with only two weeks left of the national competition. Four of the 72 schools taking part are in the running for first place. Tarbert Academy, last year's Scottish regional winners, has had the lead for the majority of the competition but the tables are turning with just £154.85 between first and fourth place.

The competition, that aims to bring economic and business studies to life, is certainly showing the Year 12 students the real volatility of the stock market with the school in first place changing frequently.

The Tarbert Academy team commented on their holdings as they watch their progress in trepidation: "It is getting tense and very exciting with the top of the table being so close. We are disappointed to let our long lead slip, but we are confident that we researched our stocks and they were the right decisions at the time. We remain on top in Scotland which is an achievement in itself for a small school like ours and we still intend to deliver the killer blow before the end of the competition."

Investments have varied across the schools with successes coming from well-timed decisions and changes in the market. Popular investments have been in the mining and life insurance sectors.

St Cyres School, in Penarth Wales, has taken part in the competition for the last four years and this is their best year yet. They currently sit in second place with just £31.95 from first spot.

The small team of just two students, Ben and Duke, said: “We have had a defensive strategy throughout the competition. Trading at this time must be critical because of the charges involved. We are keeping a close eye on our investments and our competitors.”

Ending on 20 May Shares4schools gives students a seven month snapshot of how the stock market works and introduces a real personal finance learning opportunity into schools.

“It has been a revelation watching our students develop business and financial acumen. They have been astute, carefully balancing risk taking with growing confidence, and they have done it well,” explained Judith Schafer, teacher at Tarbert Academy.

---Ends---

Note to editors:

The Share Centre is now on Facebook and Twitter.



Join us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter

For further information please contact:

The Share Centre

Rebecca Kempzell

PR Executive

01296 439 426

Rebecca.kempzell@share.co.uk

Stephanie Reynolds

PR Manager

01296 439 256

Stephanie.reynolds@share.co.uk

Lansons Communications

Inez de Koning / Lucy Willatt / Lisa Grando

0207 294 3623 / 020 7566 9717/ 0207 294 3669

inezd@lansons.com / lucyw@lansons.com / Lisag@lansons.com

To view all our press releases and more from our investment advisers please go to blog.share.com

Risk Warnings:

Investing in general, and the products and services mentioned above may not be suitable for all: if in doubt, individuals should seek independent financial advice. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back their original investment. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

The bases and levels of taxation relating to ISAs, CTFs and SIPP's are subject to change and the value of these tax allowances may depend upon the circumstances of the individual.

About The Share Centre:

The Share Centre was established in 1990 to provide value-for-money share services for private investors. Its range of services includes buying and selling shares (by Internet, telephone and post) and a comprehensive share administration and safe custody service. Tax-efficient investment 'wrappers' including ISAs, CTFs and SIPP's are also available.

The Share Centre's Advice team provides comment on market sectors, individual shares and funds on www.share.com. Access is available to customers and registered users of the site. Registration is free. To understand how our Advice team arrive at their views please read our [Investment Research Policy](#). The Share Centre blog is also available at <http://blog.share.com>.

In addition, account customers can receive individual telephone advice on UK-listed shares and on funds traded via the CoFunds trading platform.

The Share Centre Limited is a member of the London Stock Exchange and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority under reference 146768.

Registered in England No. 2461949. Registered office: Oxford House, Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 8SZ.