

press release

2 July 2007

Queen Elizabeth's crowned winner of national school investment competition

- Queen Elizabeth's Community College, Crediton wins fourth year Shares4Schools competition with 26.8% gain (30% gain incl. dealing commission refunded)
- 29 schools made profits
- Schools invited to apply for funding for 2007-08

A group of Year 12 students from Queen Elizabeth's Community College in Crediton has won the 2006 – 2007 Shares4Schools national investment competition run by retail stockbroker, The Share Centre.

The group turned their £1,500 at the start of last October into a 26.8% profit, leaving them with £1,901.66 when the competition closed on June 8th 2007 (please see graph attached). The same amount invested in tracking the FTSE Allshare would have returned just over 7%.

Gavin Oldham, Chief Executive of The Share Centre comments: "To put their achievement into context the winning school out performed the Allshare by a factor of 4, a result most fund managers would greet with delight."

Lizzy Dinsdale, team captain for the group said: "It's been fantastic to take part in this competition. Having the chance to invest real money in real companies has brought the whole experience to life. We feel really proud that we have won and that all of our hard work has paid off."

With as little as £46.72 between the two schools at the top of the league, the final week of the competition turned out to be a real nail biter. Caterham High School in Ilford finished second with a profit of 23.7%, with St Bartholomew's in Newbury finishing third returning a healthy profit of 20.6%.

Mark Hill, Economics and Business Teacher from Queen Elizabeth's Community College said: "Shares4Schools has been of immense value to the teaching and learning of our students. It has added an extra dimension to my teaching, as well as the students understanding of what happens in the real world of the stock market. Our participation has been hugely enjoyable. For the last four weeks of the competition we have all been glued to the league table, biting our nails".

55 schools took part in the national league competition each starting with an investment fund of £1,500. 29 of the schools taking part managed to make a profit in a difficult market. The pupils were encouraged to work with local businesses to gain part of the sponsorship to fund their investment and some school PTAs chose to provide funds, recognising the educational value.

Queen Elizabeth's, alongside 4 other regional winners, will be invited to the official winner's day in London on 27th June. The celebrations will be held at Bloomberg Media Centre and The Bank of England.

Registrations for the 2007/8 competition are now being accepted via the website www.shares4schools.org until 28th September. Schools that register by 13th July will also be considered for one of the 30 sponsorships, each worth £750 from The Share centre. This will help successful registrants towards raising the £1,500 investment 'pot'.

– Ends –

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Notes for editors

Rank	School	Location	Sponsors	Fund Value	Gain/Loss %
1	Queen Elizabeth's Community College	Crediton	College & TSC*	£1,901.66	26.8
2	Caterham High School	Ilford	School & TSC*	£1,854.94	23.7
3	St Bartholomew's School	Newbury	Vodafone & TSC*	£1,808.91	20.6
4	Bolton School Boys' Division	Bolton	School & TSC*	£1,769.95	18.0
5	Highbury Grove School	London	School & TSC*	£1,705.36	13.7
6	Liskeard School & Community College	Cornwall	Winterfloods Securities Ltd & TSC*	£1,701.11	13.4
7	Holgate School	Nottingham	School & TSC*	£1,678.86	11.9
8	Lancaster Royal Grammar School	Lancaster	School & TSC*	£1,672.86	11.5
9	Sacred Heart Catholic College	Liverpool	School & TSC*	£1,664.40	11.0
10	Kinross High School	Kinross	School & TSC*	£1,660.65	10.7

* TSC - The Share Centre

2. Performance graph



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3. 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
4. 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.
5. 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 normal, although The Share Centre will, at the end of the competition, donate to the school the total of its dealing charges.
6. Monthly competitions are set by email and the correct answers are published at the end of each competition period, along with the name of the winning team.
7. Shares4Schools has been awarded the pfeg Quality Mark, showing that it meets the quality standards of the Personal Finance Education Group.
8. The Shares4Schools trading account is based on The Share Centre's successful Investment Club service.

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