

College students named online traders of the year

by Ben Francis

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FOUR students from Elizabeth College have been named 'UK Online Traders of the Year' after taking part in the IFS Student Investor Challenge.

Daniel Le Messurier, Harry King, Peter Brock and Ben Brown are all Year 11 business studies students at Elizabeth College.

Finishing as the second overall team in the UK, they were given the 'online traders of the year' accolade after making a virtual profit of nearly £15,000 in just three months of online trading using the values of real-world stocks.

Elizabeth College head of economics and business studies Ed Adams said the students had done exceptionally well.

'It's absolutely fantastic,' he said.

'35,000 students in more than 10,000 teams took part – to come second is a wonderful achievement.'

He added that the competition helped the students to understand how the knowledge gained from their studies can be used outside school.

'It's a great way of looking at the real world to see how investments work,' he said.

The students said they had done a lot of research into their virtual investments to ensure they made a profit.

Peter Brock, 15, said: 'We looked



The team of four students from Elizabeth College who have been named UK Online Traders of the Year in a national investment competition. Left to right, Daniel Le Messurier, Harry King, Peter Brock and Ben Brown.

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 13909771)

on Bloomberg to find out what the financial climate was like.'

Harry King, also 15, said that adapting their investment strategies during the competition had

contributed to their success.

'We started off with one specific strategy but we changed it when it wasn't working and that clearly paid off,' he said.

The next challenge is the semi-final stage of the competition, with the ultimate goal being winning an all-expenses-paid visit to New York City, including an

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educational visit to Wall Street.

Instead of running a virtual investment portfolio, the task in the semi-final will be to predict movements of random stocks that the team are allocated at the beginning of the week.

Daniel Le Messurier, 15, said that they would have to work hard to ensure further success.

'We'll have to do a lot of research in different financial magazines; a lot of it is luck, but hopefully if we put enough into it we could get to the final,' he said.

Peter added that the thought of winning the trip to New York was a great incentive to spur them on.

'It would be a fantastic experience, not only for the educational part,' he said.

■ The IFS Investor Challenge is a competition run by IFS University College, a London-based institution which specialises in educating individuals for placement in the financial services industry.