



Christ Church Student wins ASX Sharemarket Game

Year 10 Christ Church Grammar School student Hugh Vines has outperformed students across Australia, New Zealand and Japan to be crowned the National and WA winner of the 2020 ASX Schools Sharemarket Game 2. Hugh managed to grow his portfolio by over 23% and will receive \$1000 in prize money for achieving first place in the competition.

The ASX Schools Sharemarket Game is designed to give students from Years 6 to 12 a practical understanding of investing and the sharemarket. As part of the game students receive a virtual \$50,000 which they can invest over a 10-week period, in 220 companies listed on the ASX. The prices students buy and sell at are the same prices as they would get in the live market so this is as close to real life share trading as you can get.

During the 10-week period that Hugh participated in the game, worries about the pandemic and events such as the US election caused the sharemarket to stay fairly steady throughout the game, with the ASX 200 index lifting just 1.9% between 28 August and 6 November 2020. Despite the lack of fluctuation in the market Hugh made the most of his opportunities, growing his initial \$50,000 into \$61,420.86.

Hugh's success in the competition wasn't just pot-luck but rather based on a firm understanding of market forces *"My tactic was to evaluate companies that seemed to have been on an extreme low and started to rise. I also thought about the sort of companies that would survive and flourish during this time of crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic. I predicted the incline that was to occur on my stocks and read the markets movements accordingly."*

With the sharemarket rising slowly but steadily over the period of the game, Hugh decided it was best to stay level-headed throughout *"I held my purchases as I was confident the rise of my stocks would not diminish. At times my peers would tell me to sell or to purchase more but I ultimately disregarded their opinions and stuck to the original game-plan."*

When asked for advice on how to diversify a portfolio, his investment tip was simple but effective *"The stock-market is like a puzzle – you just have to find the pieces that fit!"*.

For further information:

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