**ISA’s – The Lowdown**

Whether you’re looking to build up a financial cushion, get on the housing ladder, or create a nest egg for your children - more often than not, if you are looking to save for the future, there is an ISA for you.

**Cash ISA’s are great for an Emergency Fund**

What would you do if you had a financial shock, such as an unexpected large bill, loss of overtime or redundancy?

Having 3 to 6 months of your regular income saved in a cash ISA is a great way to help cushion those shocks and give you the breathing space to plan for how you will cope in the medium to long term.

You can pay into Cash ISA’s monthly, meaning that you can build this fund up gradually over time.

**Lifetime ISA’s are for helping you buy your first home**

It’s never been tougher to get on the housing ladder with house prices increasing at a far higher rate than wages.

However, if you are aged between 18 and 39 you can open a Lifetime ISA and save up to £4,000 per year\*.

What’s special about a Lifetime ISA?  For every £4 you save the government adds £1 into your Lifetime ISA  boosting your savings by 25%, helping you build that deposit that little bit quicker

*\*Please note that further specific limits and restrictions apply to Lifetime ISA’s.*

**Stocks and Shares ISA’s are for funding long term goals**

Do you want to save for a wedding, house improvements, or that dream holiday?

Then stocks and shares ISA’s offer a way to save up to £20,000 a year free of tax.

You can mix and match regular saving along with lump sum deposits with flexibility to invest in a wide range of investments.

**Junior ISA’s are for building your children’s nest egg**

Are you looking to help your children have a strong financial start in life? Then a Junior ISA is a great way to do this – with the ability to save up to £9,000 per year.

Anyone can pay into it, meaning that parents, guardians and grandparents can help your children build a nest egg for their eighteen birthday and beyond.

It is also a great way to demonstrate to your children the value of regular saving over time.

For the specific rules regarding ISA’s please visit <https://www.gov.uk/individual-savings-accounts>

It is important that individuals  understand the risks of investing.

The value of investments can go down as well as up which means you may get back less than you put in.

If you are unsure about the suitability of an ISA, please seek advice from your usual tax or financial advisor.