

MATALAN Press Release

Wednesday 5 June 2002

NEW STORE IN ST. ALBANS OPENS ITS DOORS ON 13 JUNE

On Thursday 13th June, Matalan's new store in St. Albans will officially open its doors to customers. The Lord Mayor will kick-off the celebrations at 10am, cutting the ribbon that will create an arch of 1000 balloons, that people will be able to see from up to one mile away!

Face painters will be on hand between 10am and 2pm to welcome customers and keep kids entertained as they check out the new store. A band from Sandringham Performing Arts School will also be performing well-known songs for customers.

Representing an investment in excess of £1 million and creating 80 new jobs for the area, the new 26,000 sq ft store is one of 20 new stores that Matalan will open during 2002.

The new store on the St. Albans Retail park, will bring customers from St. Albans and the surrounding areas an unmatched range of clothing for women, men and children including premium brands such as Falmer, Lee Cooper and Wolsey. Matalan also sells an extensive range of top quality design led homewares including bed-linen, towels, soft furnishings, kitchenware, dinnerware, bathroom products and cards and gifts. Customers will also be able to benefit from hassle-free parking.

The store manager, Israr Ahmed , says; "We're very excited about opening on Thursday and hope customers will come along and enjoy a great morning, and be pleased when they see what we've got in store for them."

#

For further information please contact Zaria Pinchbeck or Angela Wigglesworth at Matalan's press office on 01423 565533 or 07900 815223.

More.....

Editor's notes:

- Matalan announced its 2001 preliminary results on May 1, 2002. Like for like sales grew by 8.3% for the 12 months to 23rd February, and profit before tax of £107.6m, up 30%.
- Matalan is the number one retailer of jeans in the UK;
- Matalan is the number one retailer of towels in the UK;
- Matalan is the UK's fifth largest fashion retailer and the only significant dedicated edge-of-town clothing retailer.
- Founded by John Hargreaves, the first Matalan Discount Club opened in Preston in 1985. Matalan now trades from more than 3 and a half million square feet in over 145 stores, and plans to have 200 stores by the end of 2005.
- In a recent survey by the retail analyst Verdict, Matalan was confirmed as the number one value-clothing retailer in the UK.
- Matalan's product range offers a comprehensive selection of homewares, ladies', men's and children's clothing and footwear - all under one roof. With emphasis on value, quality, style and choice, customers can choose from a range of in-house brands, as well as top fashion names including Wrangler, Falmer, Wonderbra and Lee Cooper.
- In January 2002 Paul Mason, former chief executive of Leeds based ASDA became chief executive of Skelmersdale based Matalan.
- For more information visit www.matalan.co.uk.

-ends-