

News Release

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Nation's top achievers rewarded

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Seven students, a teacher, a governor and a multi-national employer have won a prestigious national education award as part of Edexcel's Achievement in Education Awards 2003.

The winners all receive £1,000 sponsored prize money to spend on furthering their education or on an item of their choice, as does their college, school or training provider.

Winners of the student categories will now be entered for the Outstanding Student of the Year Award, later in June, judged by a celebrity panel including chef and I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here contestant Antony Worrall-Thompson, Falkland's war veteran Simon Weston OBE, ex-TV newsreader turned teacher Anne Dawson and former MP and journalist Martin Bell OBE. The winner will receive £5,000 to spend on furthering their education, and their school, college or training centre will also receive £5,000.

Antony Worrall-Thompson said: "I was delighted to be invited to help judge the Edexcel Outstanding Student of the Year Award. I studied an Edexcel course and it gave me a great start to my career. I am looking forward to meeting the students who are just setting out on theirs."

All the awards will be presented at a special dinner at the London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square on 9th July 2003, hosted by television presenter Kate Humble. The guest of honour is the Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke MP, Secretary of State for Education and Skills, who will be presenting the top prize to the Outstanding Student of the Year.

John Kerr, chief executive at Edexcel, said: "Winning one of these awards is a great achievement. They not only recognise high attainment but also hard work and commitment and many of the winners have had to overcome additional challenges.

"At Edexcel our qualifications are designed to enable our students to explore and demonstrate their abilities to their highest potential."

Edexcel will also announce the winner of the Outstanding Educational Journalism Award and the Outstanding Student of the Year Award at the dinner on the 9th July at the London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square

Edexcel is one of the country's leading exam boards, which sets vocational and academic courses at more than 6,000 schools, colleges and accredited training centres.

Notes to editors

Student Award Categories and winners

Amina Al-Yassin from North West London - Young Learner's Achievement Award
Zohra Khalpey from Essex - Academic Achievement Award
Raul Castro-Lopez from Telford - Vocational Achievement Award
Adrian McCutcheon from County Down - Learning Through Work Achievement Award
Lisa Veale from South Wales - BTEC National Achievement Award
Louise Davis from Bristol - BTEC Higher National Achievement Award
Sandra Cookson from Lancashire - Lifelong Learning Achievement Award

Other Award Categories and winners

Coca Cola Enterprises Ltd - Outstanding Employer Award
Lesley Temple from Kent - Outstanding Governor Award
Paula White from Staffordshire - Outstanding Teacher/Trainer Award
Educational Journalism Award to be announced on 9th July at the presentation evening.

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Edexcel is the leading provider of academic and vocational qualifications, formed as a result of the merger between BTEC and London Examinations. Qualifications include GNVQs, NVQs, GCSE, A/S and A levels, and the Higher Nationals and other BTEC qualifications.