

## News Release

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# STUDENT FINALISTS GIVE SOUND ADVICE ON EVE OF SUMMER EXAMINATIONS

With millions of exam scripts due to be taken over the next month, time is running out for the million plus students who are set to start their exams on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Now students who are going through the process themselves are offering advice to others in the run up to exams. They have suggested some top study tips and some basic philosophy which might just help.

All the tips come from students who are finalists for the 2003 Edexcel Achievement in Education Awards. A panel of celebrity judges, including top media chef Antony Worrall Thompson, ex-MP and journalist Martin Bell, Falkland's war veteran Simon Weston, and ex-TV newsreader turned teacher Anne Dawson, will decide who deserves the top award of Outstanding Student of the Year to win a share of the £30,000 prize money. The winner will be announced on the 9<sup>th</sup> July at a prestigious award ceremony in London attended by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills Charles Clarke MP.

Commenting on the new tips, John Kerr, Edexcel's Chief Executive, said: "Too many students put their exam results in jeopardy through lack of attention to the basics. Some answer too many questions, and others don't realise there is a back page to the exam paper. I hope that these tips from students who have recently taken exams, make a real difference as to whether some students pass or fail."

- ◆ "Just think of all the things you will get out of these exams – a place in the sixth form, a place at university, a better chance at the career of your choice. Knowing I'll have a better chance at a career later in life than someone who couldn't be bothered to take the time makes me go for it" said Lara Couzens. "Keep yourself motivated by keeping a record of your achievements" added Louise Davis.
- ◆ During exams, carry on revising for those left to take. "Read through past papers, practice timed answers, but take regular breaks as well."
- ◆ "Deep breaths before an exam. Before you turn that page, close your eyes and breath deeply three or four times".
- ◆ "Don't listen to friends who say "don't revise" - they don't care about **your** future" said Chris Chant.
- ◆ "Try to get a good night's sleep before the exam and try to eat at least an hour before the exam – a banana or other "brain food" is good. Take a bottle of water in with you" Says Louise Davies.
- ◆ When you are told to turn the paper over, read the exam paper from cover to cover and then re-read it again – don't just jump in and answer the first question.

More follow

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- ◆ When “budgeting” your exam time, give yourself ten minutes at the end to reread from cover to cover to check spellings, and see that the questions have been answered and generally check through the paper, said Frances Ring. Look at where the marks are to be gained and allocate time appropriately (and stick to it). Answering three questions fairly well is better than answering one very well and leaving two badly done. Underlining key words in the question may help to focus your mind and jog your memory.
- ◆ “Use coloured pens or highlighters on the exam paper to highlight things you want to include in your answers”
- ◆ And the obvious – “dnt use txt in xams coz xminrs nds 2 no what u r 2 saing”.

## NOTES

Photographs of students are available.

Lara Couzens, from Hornchurch ESSEX is a finalist for the Young Learner Achievement Award  
Frances Ring from Beckenham KENT and Christopher Chant Orpington KENT are finalists for the Academic Achievement Award

Louise Davies from BRISTOL is a finalist for the BTEC Higher National Achievement Award

All other quotes are from more than one student finalists for awards

Edexcel is a 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.

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