



Beauty queen dream for Angela

College student Angela James is within touching distance of her dream to become Miss England 2010.

Former King's Wood School pupil Angela, 18, who joined College in September 2008 and is taking A Levels in PE, Law and Psychology, has beaten 30,000 other girls to win through to the Grand Final of the last 50 competitors – which will be broadcast for the first time on Sky TV.

Along with revising for and taking her A2 exams and holding down a part-time job in a Romford shoe shop, Angela, from Noak Hill, is now also busy preparing for the final of the Miss England contest which will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Birmingham on August 31st. If she is crowned Miss England, she will compete in the Miss World event which is being held in Vietnam in December.

Her dad Lyn said: "It's really quite exciting for her. She has done really well to get this far, but it is quite a lot of work. Gone are the beauty contest days of just lining up in swimwear and evening dresses. Now the contestants have to raise money for charity, design and make an eco dress, record a DVD of their various talents and take part in a sports competition."

Angela is currently looking for ways to raise as much money as she can for the Variety Club of Great Britain. During the semi final part of the competition, she raised over £2,000 for the Help the Heroes charity. She is also designing an eco dress from chicken wire and leaves.

The keen model, athlete and dancer, who has been chosen for the Essex Heptathlon Squad and recently won a gold medal in the 60m hurdles at the South East England Championships, has made a DVD of herself training for a hurdling event. At the final she will also face an interview by a panel of judges.

Her supportive mum and dad, Marion and Lyn, who regularly drive her to contests and cheer her on, are used to travelling all over the country but are very proud of their multi-talented daughter. Lyn said: "Angela knows what she wants and has her head screwed on. After finishing College, she is keen to do some travelling and she has modelling work to fall back on. She's also been offered more work at the shoe shop in Romford where she works part-time.

“In that respect we don't have to worry about her. She sets her mind to something and does it – and usually achieves what she has set out to do.”