



Anthony's aiming to be table tennis champ

Student Anthony Kent is hoping to keep his eye on the ball and play his way to an individual title at the British Colleges Sports Table Tennis finals at Loughborough in April.

Anthony, 17, who is studying Sociology, Maths and Psychology at Havering Sixth Form College, won the Men's Doubles event last year with his partner Joe Stannard – beating colleges which specialise in table tennis - and now this year he's hoping to top that success with a win in the singles section.

The Essex Junior champion, who has represented the county for three years' running, started playing the sport at the age of 11 at his local youth club.

When the club closed down, he and a group of friends joined Fellows Cranleigh Table Tennis Club in Barking where his potential for the game was spotted.

Since he turned 15 he has been playing tournaments around the country at weekends and now trains for around eight hours a week, as well as coaching some of the younger players. His talent and dedication was recognised in 2005 with a Jack Petchey award

He also plays in the Romford, Ilford and Becontree local leagues and plays for Fellows Cranleigh in the British national League. In 2007 he qualified for the national championships at Cadet Level (under 15s) after winning his regional round.

To improve further, Anthony has attended training camps in England and France and has taken part in several tournaments overseas. He is also training for the England Schools Table Tennis Individual event after gaining a coveted place in the finals.

Anthony said: "I hope to continue playing table tennis for as long as I can as I love it and it's great exercise. I hope to keep on climbing up the senior rankings reaching as high as I possibly can."