



Emily receives £1,500 bursary for achieving against the odds

Havering Sixth Form College student Emily Pearlman has been presented with a highly sought after Helena Kennedy Foundation Award after succeeding in education against all the odds.

Emily, 19, who lives in Romford, has now gone on to study Philosophy at the University of Essex and was one of more than a hundred students who gathered for the special awards ceremony to celebrate their achievements in overcoming personal or financial obstacles, yet still managing to achieve academically.

Former Frances Bardsley School pupil Emily gained four A Levels while at Havering Sixth Form College last year, achieving an A in Philosophy, despite suffering from dyspraxia.

The Helena Kennedy Award means Emily will receive a £1,500 bursary per year to support her financially while studying, as well as being eligible for emotional support such as mentoring, guidance and work placements provided by the Foundation.

Emily said: "Thanks to the Helena Kennedy Foundation I can now enjoy higher education without the stress of financial worries plaguing my mind. The bursary has given me access to vital books and resources I need throughout my studies, and important equipment I need to overcome the barriers of my dyspraxia.

"Not having to worry about travel costs and membership subscriptions to clubs and societies has also given me a more enriched quality of life. And it's not just the financial relief of the bursary itself that's supporting me - knowing that there is a dedicated support network behind me that I can turn to, whatever my situation, gives me the motivation and confidence to excel.

"I'm extremely grateful for everything the Foundation is doing, and for giving me this amazing opportunity!"

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, President of the Foundation and host of the ceremony said: "I am delighted to have presented Emily with one of our awards in recognition of her huge achievement in reaching university. Each student who receives an award has been selected because they are special and have shown real talent and determination."

Dyspraxia is an impairment of the organisation of movement and affects the planning of what to do and how to do it. Sufferers may also have associated difficulties such as problems with language, perception and thought. It is also known as Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) and used to be called Clumsy Child Syndrome.