



Three students to receive £1,500 Helena Kennedy Foundation awards

Three Havering Sixth Form College students have each been awarded a Helena Kennedy Foundation bursary of £1,500 per year to assist them in their studies when they start University in September.

Muhammad Zaid (known just as Zaid), Chloe Edmunds and Joanne Gates were all successful in their applications for the awards, which aim to provide much needed support to students who have overcome significant obstacles, both financial and personal, to complete their further education.

The Trustees were moved and inspired by the commitment and dedication shown by all three students in continuing their education despite facing problems.

They will be formally presented with their awards – which total £4,500 over the three-year study period - at a reception being held at the House of Lords in October.

Joanne, who is studying Double Applied Health and Social Care, is also a Young Carer for her family. She helps clean the house, cook dinner and wash clothes as well as getting her sister ready for school each day and making sure her mum and dad take their medication. She has also won a Jack Petchey Award and has received offers for higher education study at the University of East London and London South Bank.

She said: "I am very happy to be awarded this grant as it will help go towards the cost of university and also the travelling costs. I am very grateful to have been chosen and it is definitely a worthwhile award to apply for."

Chloe, who has offers from the University of Essex and University of Portsmouth to study History, is taking A Levels in History, Law and Psychology. She has demonstrated an incredibly positive attitude in the face of adversity. She has also received a Jack Petchey Award for her hard work and achievement and was chosen to take part in the prestigious Windsor Fellowship USA Leadership programme last summer where she was an ambassador for the UK, working alongside Iraqi and American youths to build communication and abolish stereotypes.

Zaid is studying Chemistry, Physics and Maths A Levels, and has received an offer from Nottingham University to study for a degree in Pharmacy.

College Careers Co-ordinator Nikki Phelps said: "Each year the Helena Kennedy Foundation invites further education and sixth form colleges across the UK to nominate up to five students for an Award. To have just one successful recipient would be great news but to have three students awarded from one sixth form college is amazing considering the limited number of awards on offer - only 150 in the UK.

"Congratulations to these three students who so deserve this financial help. I hope that they will find this award a real help towards the cost of their University education."