



Lance Hayes – an exceptional student

Former Abbs Cross School pupil Lance Hayes, who lives in Suttons Avenue, Hornchurch, has been singled out as an outstanding Havering Sixth Form College student.

Lance, who suffers from ADHD, is studying AS Citizenship, AS Geology, GCSE Maths and GCSE English. Despite his problems, Lance has been really focused since starting College in September 2009 and has worked very hard. He achieved an A in his Citizenship AS exam in January and is predicted to do well this summer too. This was the first ever A he had achieved in any exam and he was delighted.

His tutor Karla Parsons says his contribution to the Citizenship course has been outstanding. "He works incredibly hard and is very disciplined. The fact that he is never afraid to ask for help has made him an asset in lessons, both for other students and myself. His achievements are well deserved."

His English tutor Deborah Auton adds: "Lance has been an excellent student all year despite his ADHD and deserves recognition for his efforts."

Lance, 17, says: "I'm itching to do really well. I don't want to be a failure so I try really hard to get what I want. I've found that if you don't try, you don't get what you want."

He has found support from the Care Team very helpful and finds the College a very friendly place to study.

He said: "Everyone is so friendly and people don't treat me differently here. It's a really nice environment, an attractive place to be. I have had a history of mickey-taking because of my problems with ADHD, but there is none of that here. I don't have any problems with anybody."

Lance says his ADHD was diagnosed at an early age as his mum knew something was wrong when he was younger. He took medication for some years, but now manages to control the condition himself.

Although he is achieving beyond expectations, he says he still finds academic work, and particularly revising, hard and has to really concentrate when he is studying. For relaxation he watches TV, goes out with friends, and enjoys visiting museums to look at all the different exhibits, especially the Natural History Museum.

He has big ambitions for his future. He says: "When I finish College I would like to work as a geologist or an archaeologist – something to do with museums and history as I find that very interesting."