

Abbie takes to television to thank epilepsy nurse



Abbie Walker has paid tribute on television to the nurse who has helped her with her ongoing battle with epilepsy.

The brave youngster appeared on the Granada Tonight news programme on Wednesday last week to thank Anne Sweeney for helping her battle with the illness.

Abbie's praise came after Anne, who was appointed Alder Hey's first ever Roald Dahl Specialist Nurse 23 years ago, announced she would be retiring.

The Year 11 student, who this year helped Alder Hey make an animation documentary about the treatment available to youngsters with epilepsy, thanked Anne for helping her come to terms with epilepsy.

Speaking on Granada Tonight, Abbie said: "Anne has been like a second mum to me. She has been with me all my life and I don't know how me or my parents would have coped without her."

Speaking about her role at Alder Hey, Anne said: "I have nursed for 46 years and, for 23 of them, have had the privilege of being a Roald Dahl Children's epilepsy nurse at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

"Mine was the first children's epilepsy specialist nurse post in the UK, it would not have been possible without the support of the Roald Dahl Foundation.

"Children and their families who receive a diagnosis of epilepsy now have contact with a specialist nurse. They are provided

with information, advice, contact when needed, also epilepsy training on recognition and management of seizures for all those involved with the child, this gives the family more confidence to allow the child to live as normal a life as possible." Granada Tonight presenter, Andy Bonner, together with his cameraman, arrived at the College at 9am and, following a brief tour, began filming interior and exterior shots of the College.

Abbie (11C) was joined by some of her friends as they were filmed walking through the school, whilst the Sixth Form Centre was used for the main interviews. Filming took around two hours for the five minute segment that was shown on the programme that aired at 6pm.

Achievements celebrated at Presentation Evening



Honoured guests, governors and parents joined staff and students last week for the College's annual presentation of prizes and certificates for performance at GCSE. The evening started with addresses from Louise Fraser, on behalf of the governors, Mr Walker and Head Boy and Girl, Ben Long and Kate Temple.

The audience, which included Mayor of Sefton, Iain Brodie-Brown, who was on hand to present certificates and prizes, were treated to two musical interludes from the College choir and string ensemble. Cllr Brodie-Brown also gave an entertaining final address, where he spoke of his many links with teaching and involvement in various mental health charities.

He is the founder and CEO of Imagine Independence, a mental health charity based in Liverpool which now provides services in Merseyside, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and four London Boroughs. He is also a Trustee of the Mental Health Providers Forum, a group of the leading mental health charities in England and Wales. Cllr Brodie-Brown has also previously worked for MIND and Age Concern.

But the night was all about our students

and the fantastic achievements everyone had attended to celebrate.

Awards were given for GCSE results as well as personal achievements, with special mention to Daniel Slater and Hannah Withey, who both gained an outstanding 10 high passes at A*.

In addition, prizes were given for individual subject nominations, attendance and punctuality.

Other main prizewinners included Callum Moss, who received the Kathryn O'Hare Memorial Shield for 'outstanding service to the school and wider community'.

Lydia Kelly and Elliot Knifton received the PTA Award, given to Y11 students who have 'consistently worked hard and so contributed to the school community, by quietly showing themselves to be mature, helpful and a pleasure to teach'.

Meanwhile, Tom Baines and Olivia Hoban received the Philip Scott Trophy for being the best two performing athletes at the end of Year 10.

Head of Year 11, Miss Clarke, said: "The night gave so many reasons to be thankful for all the hard work of all the College staff and students. Massive congratulations to all the Class of 2016 – we are all very proud of your accomplishments."



News in brief

There are English trial examinations taking place this morning.

There is a meeting at 6pm tonight in the Drama Studio for the parents of those students going on the Paris trip. MacMillan Coffee Morning events will take place at 10.40am on Thursday in the 6th Form Centre (Upper) and the Lower Site Hall (LSH).

Also on Thursday, Year 11 GCSE Catering Examinations begin and the Lower School Christmas Disco starts at 7pm in the LSH.