

Widnes schoolgirl wins life-changing scholarship



Ormiston Chadwick Academy pupil Samantha Horan

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Super student's 'life-changing' scholarship win

Future is bright for gifted pupil after she secures spot at leading sixth form

By **Barbara Jordan**
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A TEENAGE schoolgirl is celebrating after being awarded a life-changing opportunity.

Samantha Horan, from Widnes, is the first pupil to win a new scholarship to study at Gresham's in Norfolk, one of the country's leading private boarding schools.

The 16-year-old will have all her sixth form studies, accommodation and expenses paid as part of the national award worth around £65,000, funded by Ormiston Trust and Gresham's.

Samantha said: "I'm delighted to be awarded the scholarship.

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I will fully embrace.

"I have learned so much at Ormiston Chadwick and it is



Ormiston Chadwick Academy pupil Samantha Horan

thanks to the academy that I have been given such a great foundation."

Samantha hopes to study four A-levels - in maths, further maths, physics and chemistry - and then win a place at a Russell Group university or the California Institute of Technology before going on to do a master's degree.

The judges selected the dedicated student because of her independence, resilience,

positive attitude and incredible ambition.

She has a burning desire to teach maths and physics in areas of social disadvantage 'to make the biggest difference' to the lives of young people.

Tuesday Humby, principal of Ormiston Chadwick Academy, said: "This is a life-changer.

"The opportunities Samantha is going to get will be incredible.

"There is such a mix of cultures. She will be learning much more than just A-levels.

"She is incredibly competitive and works her socks off. We are so proud of her."

Nothing phases Samantha, she said, as she exudes confidence and determination.

"She will hold her own," added Mrs Humby.

"Even though this is totally out of her comfort zone, living in a boarding school, we are not worried about her at all.

"She is academically gifted and has an inner grit to succeed."

Samantha starts in September and will return to Widnes to share her stories with pupils.