

JUST rewards ... Lauren  
Jackson. OB34RD0505



# Class act Lauren beats the odds

A SERIOUS health condition that forced her to miss a lot of schooling has failed to hold back Lauren Jackson in her GCSEs.

Lauren, of Longacres Drive, Whitworth, gained two A\*, two A and six B grades.

The 16-year-old's health problems began in 2001 when it was discovered that she had a rare blood condition, which increases the number of red blood cells.

Although her condition is now under control, she spent several periods in hospital, some for weeks at a time. The removal of her appendix last year, an operation complicated by her blood condi-

tion, meant she was off school for two months.

Determined to work hard and do well in her exams, with the intention of becoming a paramedic, Lauren has achieved more than expected by gaining A\* grades in geography and PE and As in food technology and maths, plus a string of B grades.

She said: "I worked hard to make up for the time I missed."

The Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School pupil is also pleased about another result. She has just qualified as a lifeguard at Whitworth Baths, where she hopes to get a part-time job while studying for her A levels.