

# School is among the best Hollins on list of high performers

*By Deborah Lewis*

AN ACCRINGTON school has been named as one of the best performing in the country.

The Hollins Technology College has been listed in a list of 2008 high performing specialist schools (HPSS) thanks to its GCSE results last year, which massively exceeded targets and expectations.

The Hollins Lane school was predicted to achieve 32 per cent of students getting five or more A\* to C grades including maths and English for the 2007 GCSEs, but actually chalked up 52%. The national average is 44 per cent.

The achievement has placed them in joint 29th in the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust's list of the top 56 schools nationally which exceeded predictions based on the pupil intake at age 11, and was the only Lancashire school included.

It is the latest in a series of accolades for The Hollins, which was named as one of the UK's most improved schools in 2006, and earlier this year came in at 74th in the Government's list for top 100 schools for contextual value added (CVA) at Key Stage Three, measuring the progress made a child from Key Stage Two to Key Stage Three.

The string of successes means the school has met the Department for Children, Schools and Families criteria for a HPSS, and can therefore apply for a second specialism.

Headteacher Mark Jackson said: "It's been an amazing year.

"The staff and students at The Hollins are fantastic, and we knew we had done well but it's great to get official confirmation.

"Whilst I always urge parents to view any league table information with caution, it is nice to see recognition of our students' exceptional attainments and confirm that all the hard work, day in, day out, does pay off.

"I'm particularly pleased because this list, unlike some others, is clear cut about what has been achieved."

He added that the school, which achieved technology status in 2000, will be thinking carefully about what area to choose as a possible second specialism.