

Brave Callum;s return to school surprised experts

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Brave Callum's return to school surprised experts

Student told it was 'highly unlikely' he would ever be back in lessons will soon sit his GCSEs

DETERMINATION

WINNER of the Special Educational Needs Award 2016 was Callum Chaplin, who stunned specialists to return to mainstream school after suffering severe brain injuries in a road accident.

Five years later, he is about to sit his GCSEs at Cowley International College.

Presenting Callum with the award, St Helens war veteran Andy Reid, who lost both his legs and an arm after stepping on an explosive device in Afghanistan, said he was pleased to be there.

Andy, who is well known for his positive mindset following his own adversity, said: "Evenings like this give people that put on the back and encourage them to go forward."

"I'm delighted to present this award."

Collecting his award, Callum thanked his primary school Eccleston Mere and Cowley for "letting me finish my education".

In December 2011, Callum was involved in a serious road incident that left him fighting for his life.

The incident resulted in permanent brain injury.

Specialists at Alder Hey Hospital said due to the severity and complexity of the injury, it was "highly unlikely" that Callum would ever return to mainstream school.

Five months after the accident, as a result of his sheer grit and determination – and much to the amazement of everyone who had been involved in his recovery up to that point – he returned to Cowley, initially to spend two hours per day in a dedicated support centre.

A school spokesperson said: "It took a year of intense work, commitment and determination involving medical staff, support workers and teaching staff before he made the extraordinary achievement of returning to the main school site."

Today, the college says it has in its midst "a polite, hard-working young man who has 99 per cent attendance" who is "the epitome of an inspirational Cowleian".



Andy Reid presents the Special Educational Needs Award to Callum Chaplin

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