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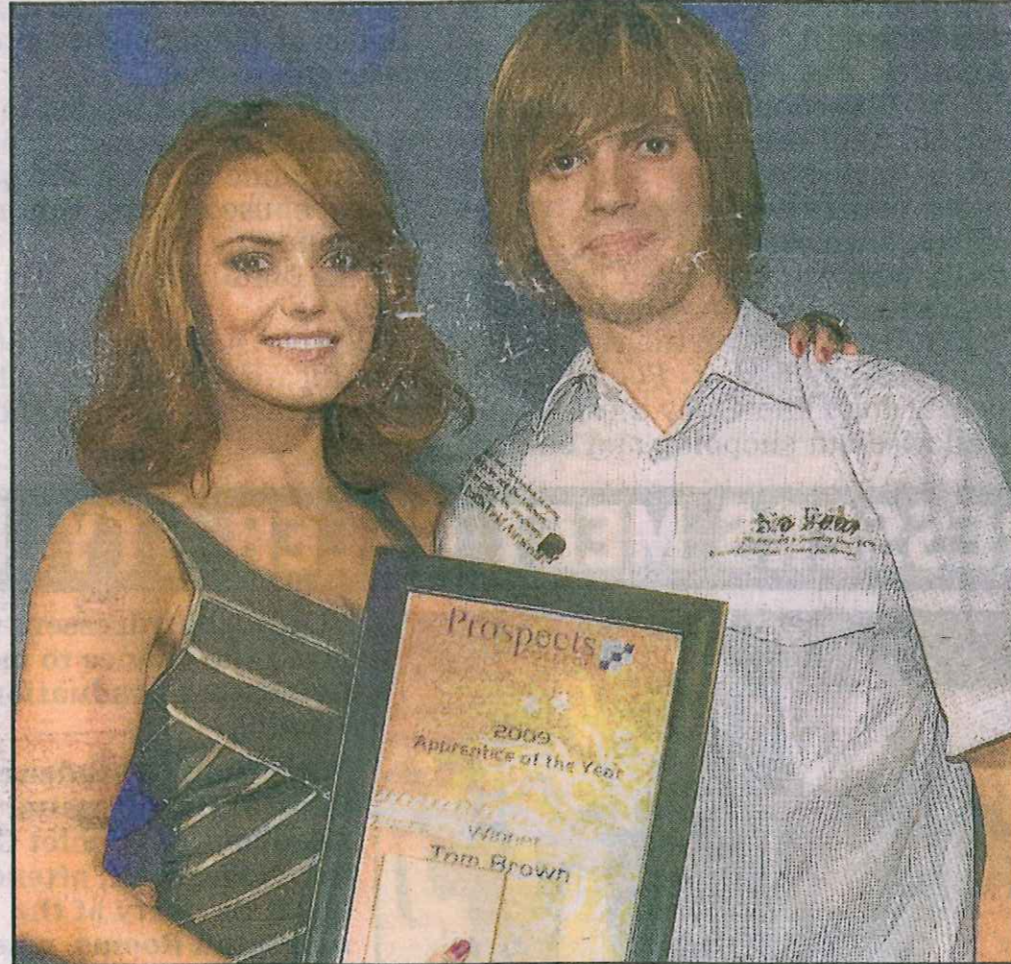
SOAP STAR HANDS TOM TOP AWARD

EX-EASTENDERS star Kara Tointon added a splash of glamour to a college's awards ceremony.

The actress helped celebrate the success of Prospect College students, staff and teachers at the red carpet bash at the Liquid & Envy nightclub at Basildon's Festival Park. The evening saw 40 awards dished out by Kara, who grew up in Bowers Gifford and went to St Hilda's School in Westcliff.

One of the most high profile awards, for Apprentice of the Year, went to bench joinery and construction student Tom Brown, 18.

Neil Bates, chief executive of the college, in Crompton Close, Basildon, said of Tom: "It is refreshing to make this award to an individual who could have made any number of academic educational choices, but chose the apprenticeship route."



■ Top man – Tom Brown with Kara Tointon