

Modelling contract for Extra-special Laura, 18

FREE PRESS Face of 1999 winner, Laura Hollins has been awarded a contract with a top London modelling agency.

The 18-year-old landed the life-changing experience at a modelling competition organised by chewing gum giant Wrigley's Extra and Close modelling agency.

Laura, of Sunnyside Close, Rawtenstall, was chosen from hundreds of faces by a modelling scout as she walked through Manchester's streets.

Talent and personality were just as important as looks in the competition in London, and bubbly Laura won the judges over with a rendition of Dido's 'Thank You' and answers to tricky questions.

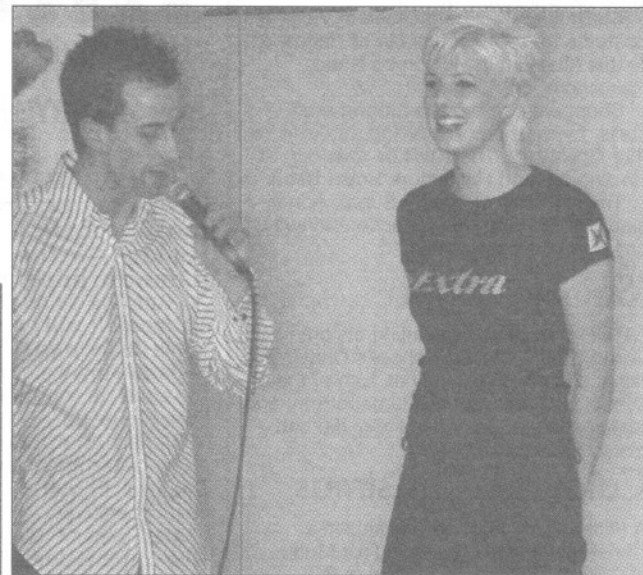
Just one vote separated her from winning the final, but modelling agency Close was so impressed, she was offered a contract.

Laura said: 'I can't believe it, I never expected to get this far because there was some tough competition.'

The price of fame may mean Laura moving to London.

Her face could be on covers of top magazines and she might even strut her stuff down catwalks in London, Paris, Milan and New York.

She added: 'Everything is happening so fast, but I am looking forward to the challenge. I don't know what the future holds.'



MODEL behaviour ... Laura answers some tough questions from compere James Marlin.