

Heads go to top of class

By Gary Marks

TWO outstanding Midlands teachers scooped prizes in a major national awards competition.

Laura Brodie, headteacher at Allen's Croft Children's Centre, in Birmingham, took the Primary School Headteacher of the Year category.

Melvyn Kershaw, who has just retired from Haybridge High School and Sixth Form College, Hagley, won Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School category in the UK Teaching Awards.

Both were awarded a gold plato – a symbol of excellence in education – in front of a 2,000-strong audience at the London Palladium last night.

They will also enjoy an all-expenses paid weekend for two in London.

When Mr Kershaw took over as head of Haybridge High 20 years ago, he said his vision was that it should be the highest achieving school in Worcestershire.

By the time he retired, 98 per cent of pupils were achieving five more A* to C grades every year and Haybridge was recognised as one of the top five state schools in the country.

Mr Kershaw said he was



■ WINNERS... Laura Brodie with her award and Melvyn Kershaw receives his from Adrian Chiles.

amazed to have been nominated, and added: "It was very much an Oscars situation and I had no idea beforehand whether or not I had won.

"It was a bit embarrassing to be put forward, but I am absolutely delighted with the award."

Mr Kershaw now works as an adviser to the Government on the 14-19 agenda, including the new diplomas.

Mrs Brodie has worked at Allen's Croft Children's Centre for 12 years and has dedicated

the past four to her vision of a £5.2 million facility for young children and families, which opened in April 2008.

From humble beginnings in a small, tatty hut, she has overseen the creation of a multi-agency community hub, providing day-to-day support, education and care for under-fives. The vast majority of her staff are parents and community members she has brought in as volunteers.

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Laura Brodie