

Amy's fast-tracked as a future Olympian

EAST Preston cycling starlet Amy Jacobs has been fast-tracked as a future British Olympian after being handpicked to join the Lloyds TSB Local Heroes initiative.

The 15-year-old Angmering School pupil will receive a cash injection of £1,000 to help with the cost of training and competing after being selected as one of only 270 youngsters from across the UK.

Jacobs attended the London launch of the initiative at the Brit Oval recently, where she received masterclasses with former British Olympians Jonathan Edwards, Leon Taylor and double Paralympic champion Ellie Simmonds on sports psychology and media training.

And after spending 2009 as part of the GB Talent Team, Jacobs – who competes for VC Jubilee – has set her sights on returning to the GB fold in the months ahead.

She said: "I'd really like to try and get back into the GB team and to do that I have to train really hard and, hopefully, do well at the nationals and they will ask me back.

"My dream is still to compete at the Olympic Games and, hopefully, I will be able to go in 2016. I think 2012 is going to come too early for me.

"This year, I've got the track



AMY JACOBS

nationals and the road nationals to come, so it is an exciting year ahead."

Now in its third year, the Lloyds TSB Local Heroes initiative, which is run in partnership with SportsAid and has now supported 589 young British Olympic and Paralympic prospects, is designed to ensure more talent reaches the top and to ease the financial burden on parents.

Lloyds TSB Local Heroes is an initiative in partnership with SportsAid providing support and funding to more than 270 of Britain's most talented developing athletes on their journey to London 2012 and beyond. To find out more about Lloyds TSB Local Heroes, visit www.lloydstsb.com/localheroes