

Pianists hit the right note



KEYS TO SUCCESS: Kent Music Festival pianists of the year, Freya Rhodes, 11, and Alexander Chadwick, 16, with their piano tutor, Jocelyn Emptage

TWO Thanet music maestros have scooped the county's top piano award at the Kent Music Festival.

The young pianists Freya Rhodes, 11, and Alexander Chadwick, 16, are both pupils of the same Westbrook tutor.

On Saturday, November 14, Freya, from Kingsgate, became the festival's junior pianist of the year while Alexander, from Ramsgate, became senior

pianist of the year.

Their awards were presented by festival adjudicator William Fong, from the Royal Academy of Music, who is also head of keyboard at England's oldest school of music, the Purcell School in Hertfordshire.

Clarendon House pupil Freya won five awards, including best playing of pieces composed before 1900, after 1900, Bach and one of her own choice.

She was also presented with a Canterbury Arts Council bursary of £75 from the Sheriff of Canterbury, Gabrielle Davis.

Tutor Jocelyn Emptage, who teaches both prize-winning pianists, said: "I am thrilled that two of my pupils were judged best in the festival in their age categories. These are very prestigious awards. Freya and Alexander were competing against at least 70 of the best students in the county."