



Star shot:  
Kayley Allen  
with host  
Amanda  
Byram

# On course for a Wipeout?

by JEFF KUNTZ

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She is flipping amazing and this weekend all of Sutton can see why.

Kayley Allen, a 20-year-old Sutton gymnast, will test her mettle on BBC1's obstacle challenge programme Total Wipeout this Saturday.

Before filming in October, Kayley passed through two rounds of competition, beating tens of thousands of competitors all vying for the show's £10,000 grand prize.

Hosted by Top Gear's Richard Hammond and Amanda Byram, Total Wipeout challenges contestants to run across spinning platforms, walk tightropes, bounce on giant inflatable balls and avoid "wiping out" into pools of water below.

But Kayley, despite training three times a week at Croydon Girls' Gymnastics Club, had a phobia that stopped her from sending her first application to the show in 2008.

She said: "I remembered I was scared of water, so I ended up not sending it. Then about nine months later I watched the show again and decided I wanted to get over my fear and go for it. To my surprise I was offered an audition."

Next, Kayley literally tumbled her way on to the show.



Gauntlet: Kayley at Total Wipeout in Argentina and, inset, host Richard Hammond

She said: "I sailed through the audition doing backflips and walking on my hands, while most other competitors didn't have these kinds of skills, so I must have stood out. A few days later I got a call from the production team telling me I had been shortlisted."

Total Wipeout decided Kayley, a school gymnastics teacher with her company DK Gymnastics, was fit for the show and sent her to the obstacle course in Argentina for a late October shoot, where

she faced another fear and forged new friendships.

She said: "I'm a real girly-girl, so the mud was horrible."

"At first, the near enough 24-hour journey didn't seem worth it as I was so tired and had wake-up calls at 6am to be on set for 7am."

"But as soon as I met Amanda Byram and saw the course I knew I had made the right decision by sending off my application."

"We spent a few days filming and the people I met were absolute stars."

"Everyone was so sad to leave each other. We had only known everyone for six days and we all felt like a family."

"It was an unforgettable journey and one I will cherish for the rest of my life."

Watch how she did in Total Wipeout on Saturday, BBC1 at 7pm.

Have you been on Total Wipeout? Comment on this story at [suttonguardian.co.uk](http://suttonguardian.co.uk)

## Swimming badge of honour

An eight-year-old with cerebral palsy has achieved his 600m swimming badge, writes Hayley Moorey.

James Feltham, who is unable to walk without a frame, swam 18 lengths at the Westcroft leisure centre pool in one hour and 25 minutes this week.

James, from Carshalton Beeches, has been swimming since he was six months old.

His father Jamie Feltham, 41, said: "I do not know where he gets the strength from. When he is in the water he barely uses his legs and mostly uses his arms. I think it's just

his strong determination to swim to the best of his ability.

"It was amazing to see him achieve this, especially because he has never been able to walk without the frame. We are very proud parents."

His swimming teacher of four years, Pat Hewitt, from Hackbridge, said: "James has just been getting stronger and stronger and is now a completely different person in the water."

"I teach other children the same age as James with different disabilities and none of them can swim like him. I am very proud of him, he is a lovely boy."

James is now training for his 800m badge.



Champ: James

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