

School Librarian of the Year 2019 Announcement of the Honour List

Giving school library staff the recognition they deserve



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The School Librarian of the Year Award is the School Library Association's prestigious honour to recognize the excellent work that is carried out in school libraries every day and highlight the best practice of those whose work is outstanding. Three exciting and innovative librarians have made it onto the Honour List for the SLA School Librarian of the Year Award 2019.



Head Librarian and Archivist at **The King's School Chester** (www.kingschester.co.uk, an independent selective school for 3-18 year olds), **Ros Harding** contributes in many ways to the life of the school and to the wellbeing of its students and staff. She was described variously as “caring, for people but also for the library itself”, “inspiring curiosity” and a “tour de force”. As well as establishing a School Book Award, Ros is an excellent ambassador of research skills and ensures all aspects of the school to have a place within the library. She empowers pupils and gives outstanding support and pastoral care.

🐦 @kingschester, @KSCLibrarian 📷 @thekingsschoolchester



Learning Resource Centre Manager at **Herne Bay High School**, (www.hernebayhigh.org, an above-average-sized, mixed, non-selective Secondary academy), **Chantal Kelleher**, is dedicated to developing a whole school approach to reading and information literacy, ensuring the LRC is a vibrant and colourful hub at the centre of the school. From filming staff reciting poems to creating book-filled goody bags for transition students, via the LGBT pupil group she supports and her innovative use of the library to support different departments in the school, it is clear that Chantal has great passion for promoting the LRC with creativity and flair.

🐦 @Ravenreaderx



Librarian/Learning Resources Manager at **Kingston Grammar School** (www.kgs.org.uk, an independent, co-educational day school), **Helen Cleaves** has an impact which extends well beyond the library doors. From welcoming new staff with a breakfast croissant and liaising closely with pastoral staff through to promoting academic rigour at Head of Department meetings, Helen is utterly committed to ensuring that the library is welcoming, relevant and purposeful. Innovative reading promotions including establishing the school's first Poet Laureate and regularly producing The Guilty Librarian podcast .

🐦 @KGS_Library 📷 @kgs_libraryuk

These are three exceptional school librarians; each has made a huge difference to the lives of the students and people they work with, igniting a passion for reading, setting students on a learning journey, teaching them essential skills, as well as supporting staff and reaching out to the wider community. Any one of these three would be a worthy winner of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Award. Full profiles will be published during the first half of June 2019 on the SLA website at www.sla.org.uk.

The work of these inspirational librarians will be celebrated at a ceremony on 27 June 2019 at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel, Kensington, London Kensington where 2019 YA Book Prize winner **Sara Barnard** will announce the SLA School Librarian of the Year 2019.

Sue Bastone, Chair of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Selection Committee, said:

“The Honour List this year are a remarkable set of librarians. They have come through from an extremely strong field and the judges have had very difficult decisions at each stage. These school librarians are leaders in the field and exemplars for the profession.”

Notes for editors

The School Library Association is committed to supporting everyone involved with school libraries, promoting high quality reading and learning opportunities for all. For information please visit www.sla.org.uk

The School Library Association created the School Librarian of the Year Award in 2004 in response to the need for recognition of the excellent work that is carried out in school libraries every day, and to highlight best practice through celebrating those whose work is outstanding. Nominees do not need to be members of the SLA, and may be from any phase of education.

The selection process

When the nomination forms reach the SLA office they are opened by the office staff and all trace of identity is removed from the form so that each nomination is anonymous when seen by the SLYA panel at the first selection meeting. At the first selection meeting the forms are discussed and a long list is compiled. Those on the list are asked to provide a range of paperwork to support their nomination. The judging panel looks at the documents and finally selects a long list of between 7 and 10 candidates. These longlisted candidates are sent a detailed questionnaire to complete and asked for further evidence to help the judges select those whom they will visit, normally 4-6 candidates.

Over the next few months at least two panel members visit each school. One member of the panel goes on every visit to provide continuity. After the round of visits, reports are prepared for each nominee and shared with the other members of the panel prior to a final selection meeting where all the candidates are discussed at length and there is an opportunity to add personal comments to the reports. An Honour list of 3 or 4 is selected. For more detailed information see www.sla.org.uk/slya-background.php.

The selection panel, all of whom have donated their time to enable the awarding of the School Librarian of the Year 2019 comprises:

Sue Bastone	SLA Vice-Chair and SLA School Librarian of the Year Award – Honour List (2010)
Stephen King	School Librarian at The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, and SLA Trustee 2018-21
Amy McKay	Librarian at Corby Business Academy, SLA Board Member and past winner of SLA School Librarian of the Year Award (2016)
Margaret Pemberton	SLA Board Member and freelance School Library and Book Consultant

Previous Winners of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Award

2018: **Emma Suffield** – Saint Wilfrid's C of E Academy, Blackburn
2017: **Lucas Maxwell** – Glenthorne High School, London Borough of Sutton
2016: **Amy McKay** – Corby Business Academy
2015: **Annie Brady** – St Paul's CBS Secondary School, Dublin, Republic of Ireland
2014: **Liz Millett** – Weatherfield Academy, Dunstable
2013: **Hilary Cantwell** – St Paul's Community College, Waterford, Republic of Ireland
2013: **John Iona** – Oasis Academy, Enfield, Middlesex
2012: **Adam Lancaster** – Monk's Walk School, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire
2011: **Carol Webb** – Forest Hill School, London
2010: **Duncan Wright** – Stewart's Melville College, Edinburgh
2010: **Kevin Sheehan** – Offerton School, Stockport
2009: **Lucy Bakewell** – Hill West Primary School, Sutton Coldfield
2008: **Nikki Heath** – Werneth School, Stockport
2007: **Ingrid Hopson** – George Abbot School, Guildford
2006: **Anne-Marie Tarter** – Ripon Grammar School, North Yorkshire
2005: **Anne Robinson** – Nicholas Chamberlaine Technology College, Bedworth

Sponsors



The 2019 School Librarian of the Year Award is sponsored by Macmillan Children's Books and by the Foyle Foundation (www.foylefoundation.org.uk), who are providing generous support for the Award through to 2020.



The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant making Trust supporting UK charities which, since its formation in 2001, has become a major funder of the Arts and Learning. The Foundation also operates a community small grants programme and a national school library improvement scheme.

For more information about the SLA School Librarian of the Year please contact:
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