



SLA School Librarian of the Year Honour List Announced

The **SLA 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. Their work will be celebrated at a ceremony held on Monday 9 October 2017 at the Hive, Worcester.

Multi-award-winning author and illustrator Chris Riddell, author of the *Goth Girl* series (Macmillan Children's Books) plus many other books, previously Waterstone's Children's Laureate 2015-2017, will announce the **SLA School Librarian of the Year 2017**.

The Honour List for 2017 is:

- Mairead Duggan Mount Carmel Secondary School, Dublin
- Lucas Maxwell Glenthorne High School, London Borough of Sutton
- Sheelagh Toonen Elgin Academy, Moray

To read their full profiles visit the SLA website at www.sla.org.uk.

For more information about the SLA School Librarian of the Year please contact:
Tricia Adams Email: tricia.adams@sla.org.uk or Tel: 07532 231946

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 panel for the School Librarian of the Year 2016 includes three top school librarians. All have donated their time:

- **Carl Cross** was Vice Chair of the SLA and Learning Resources Manager at Heanor Gate Science College, Derbyshire.
- **Lucy Bakewell**, SLA School Librarian of the Year 2009 and a governor of Hill West Primary School, Sutton Coldfield.
- **Alison Tarrant**, School Librarian of the Year Honour List 2016 and Librarian at Cambourne Village College, Cambridgeshire

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 SLA 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 short list of approximately 6 or 7. 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. Usually 6 or 7 nominees are visited and an Honour list of 3 or 4 is selected. For more detailed information see www.sla.org.uk/slya-background

Previous Winners of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Award

2016: **Amy McKay** – Corby Business Academy, Corby, Northamptonshire
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 SLA School Librarian of the Year 2017 is sponsored by **Macmillan Children's Books** an imprint of Pan Macmillan. Pan Macmillan (www.panmacmillan.com) is the UK general book publishing arm of the Macmillan Group, which operates in over 70 countries. Its imprints include Macmillan, Mantle, Pan, Picador, Bluebird, Boxtree, Sidgwick & Jackson, Bello, Tor, Macmillan Children's Books, Campbell Books and Macmillan Digital Audio. **Pan Macmillan was named Publisher of the Year at The Bookseller Industry Awards in both 2015 and 2017.**