LiteracyActionNet Awards 2014 for innovation by schools

The LiteracyActionNet Awards celebrate excellence and innovation by schools. A total of £2,000 prize money is being offered to the winning projects and initiatives. Entries are invited from all schools in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Entries should demonstrate successful approaches in any one of or combination of the following categories:

1. Supporting children with dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties
2. Working with parents and families
3. Supporting children and young people through school transitions
4. Motivation, creativity and love of reading and writing
5. Teacher development and training to enhance literacy outcomes.

Entries will be judged based on criteria including:

1. *Originality* – the distinctiveness and memorability of the project idea
2. *Replicability* – how others could be inspired by and run similar projects themselves
3. *Reach* - the number of pupils involved in the project
4. *Diversity* - of pupils engaged, particularly those who have challenging needs
5. *Impact* – of the project (demonstrated qualitatively or quantitatively)

**Timetable**
- Deadline for entries – **Friday, 1st August 2014**
- Shortlist announced – **Friday, 12th September 2014**
- Winners announced – **October 2014**.

**Rules and procedures**
1. Entries must be completed using the LiteracyActionNet entry form and sent electronically via the ‘Submit entry form’ link on the [Awards page](#).
2. Receipt of all entries submitted online will be automatically acknowledged.
3. Entrants may be asked to provide further information.
4. The judges’ decision is final. Awards will be made at the judges’ discretion and no correspondence will be entered into concerning any decision. Not all the awards advertised may
be awarded if the judges consider the criteria have not been met. Additional commendations may be made at the judges’ discretion.

5. The content of any entry may be used for informing other practitioners and also for publicity purposes unless the entrant withholds their consent to this in writing.

6. Entrants are deemed to have accepted these rules and procedures and to have agreed to be bound by them when entering this competition.

Your Entry

Please do not exceed 1500 words in total.

1. Name of the project you are entering for LiteracyActionNet Awards 2014 for innovation by schools

Family literacy evenings

2. Award category or categories you are entering

Number 2: Working with parents and families

3. Describe your project in one sentence

Working alongside the Amersham Adult Learning Centre to equip vulnerable parents with the necessary skills and desire to help their children with literacy at home.

4. Tell us about your school community

It’s a multi-cultural, ethnically diverse school situated in a socially deprived area in the South East of England, with a high level of SEN and EAL needs. Just over 40% of students in the school are Pupil Premium.

5. What are the project’s objectives?
My aim is to help vulnerable parents and their children to build an environment at home where literacy becomes more central to their daily lives. I strive to build parents’ confidence in literacy, so that they feel able to support their child in aspects of reading and writing at home. Ultimately, this leads to greater achievement at school.

6. What are the project’s activities?

The series of evenings (5.30 to 7pm in the school’s library) follow a similar format but each session focuses on a different aspect of literacy each week. The general format is as follows:

15 minutes: Refreshments: a chance for parents to share their successes and struggles with literacy.

15 minutes: English teacher models a literacy lesson while the parents observe; parents have a different focus to look for each week (they are given a small task to complete as they observe).

15 minutes: Students split from their parents: the parents work with the Amersham Adult Learning Centre on the week’s literacy focus; the students work with the English teacher.

15 minutes: Parents and their children then work together in pairs and complete a task applying the strategies they have seen and learned throughout the evening.

15 minutes: Feedback. ‘Rewards’ given for attendance and completion of any independent learning done at home.

10 What has been the impact / achievement of the project?

Many of the students, after attending the sessions have moved up a Level in assessments completed in English lessons.

Students have also been given ‘Reward cards’ which get signed after completing additional literacy
work at home with their parents.

11 How is your project evaluated?
Parents and students anonymously complete evaluation forms, reviewing the effectiveness of the series of sessions.

The whole-school literacy co-ordinator is tracking the students’ progress across all subjects, in particular English.

12 How would you spend the prize money to develop the project?

Possible ways to spend the money would be on rewards for students and parents attending the weekly sessions and for working together at home. For example, I would love to take the students to the theatre with their parents or buy them books to read at home.

Instructions for entry submission
1. Save the entry form to a location of your choice.
2. Once you have completed the form, click on the 'Submit entry form' link at the top of the Awards page. You will then be taken to the 'How to Return your entry form' page. You will be asked to provide the name of your school and a one sentence summary of your project. To upload your entry form, press the 'Choose file' link in the third field.
3. After the three fields have been filled out, click ‘Submit this entry now’. You will then receive an email confirming that we have received your entry.
4. You can send over any supporting materials separately. Please email them to: awards@lemosandcrane.co.uk. Please put the name of your school in the email subject line.
5. Please submit your entry no later than Friday, 1st August 2014.
6. If you have problems uploading your entry or would like to add documents, photos, videos or other media that are relevant to your entry, please email them to awards@lemosandcrane.co.uk quoting ‘LiteracyActionNet Awards’ and your school name in the subject heading.