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

| Improving communication skills for all pupils. |

2. Award category or categories you are entering

| 4. Motivation, creativity and love of reading and writing |

3. Describe your project in one sentence

| Working to raise whole school awareness of all literacy skills so students are: able to access the world effectively; teachers are able to support pupils effectively and pupils are motivated to communicate effectively in a range of ways. |

4. Tell us about your school community

| Whalley Range is a single sex school for girls, it is larger than the average-sized secondary school with a sixth form. The proportion of students known to be eligible for the pupil premium is almost three times the national average. The proportion of students from minority ethnic groups is much greater than the national average, as is the proportion of students who speak English as an additional language. The proportion of students supported at school action, school action plus or |
with a statement of special educational needs is lower than that found nationally. A greater than average proportion of students join the school other than at the start of Year 7 and leave the school other than at the end of Year 11.

5. What are the project’s objectives?

- To ensure all students with a reading age of below 8 years are supported through phonics teaching.
- To ensure students with a reading age of above 8 years but below 9.5 years are supported through intervention.
- To ensure all teachers in every lesson are aware of students’ literacy levels and consider them within their teaching.
- To ensure staff are supported to be able to deliver the teaching of literacy in an effective way.
- To ensure all students are encouraged to read and that inspirational and motivating reading material is available to them.
- To build links within the local educational community to create a love of literacy across schools.
- To create leadership opportunities across the school for students’ to promote and support the importance of literacy for all.

6. What are the project’s activities?

- Phonics teaching integrated into English lessons (4 times a week) and reading skills incorporated into History and Geography lessons for key classes across KS3. All pupils with a reading age of below 8 years are set into these classes.

- Establishing the use of ‘Literacy Catch Up’ intervention during form time for students with a reading age of between 8 years and 9.5 years. Students from the phonics class can move up into this intervention category.

- Weekly ‘Accelerated Reader’ classes for students across KS3 who have a reading age of above 9.5 years. This independent reading programme dis not effective for students with a reading age of below 9.5 years.

- Twice weekly reading times in form periods. All books that students can select from the library are categorised so that they can only choose reading material that is a suitable reading age for their ability. At KS4 books are carefully selected to cover a wide range of cultural, moral and social issues to engage students.

- Inter school literacy league established by Whalley Range with 9 other local schools. It is a
year 7 league with 3 categories: Spelling Bee; Creative Writing Competition and Dragon’s Den (speaking and listening). The judging is done between the schools with event winners and overall league winners.

- Word of the Week – weekly competition between forms to see who can make the best sentence using a ‘word of the week’. Certificates weekly for the best forms.

- Literacy targets on every mark sheet in the school so all teachers can see the expectation of the literacy skills of that students. These targets are on the front of all the students’ exercise books. The school VLE has literacy pages to support staff giving them examples of what writing and speaking should like at the different levels/grades through written examples and short videos. The writing VLE page can also be accessed by students and it has the school writing policy on it: Pupils at Whalley Range School are Positive and Successful. This stands for: paragraphs, word choices, spelling, punctuation and sentence structures. The school marking policy for literacy is also in the pupil planners and the staff handbook. There are also a range of materials there to support staff in reading, writing and speaking and listening. There is an area on the staff shared drive with a range of resources that teachers can use too.

- Pupil leaders across KS3,4 and 5 to run initiatives (competitions), take part in activities (DebateMate, BBC News Report, competitions through MMU etc) and also to support and deliver intervention to other students in the school who have weaker literacy skills than themselves. This can be through guided reading during form time, helping with their writing skills at lunchtime or coaching them to improve their speaking skills during a break time. This can sometime be done with students who speak the same home language but one student’s English is more advanced than the others.

- Author visits, trips to the theatre and taking part in events through Manchester Metropolitan University e.g. The Manchester Literature Festival.

7. What has been the impact / achievement of the project?

Exam results across the curriculum have risen – Whalley Range qualified for an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award by being in the top 20% of schools nationally for progress made by pupils between their Key Stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results at age 16. Whalley Range was also officially in the Top 100 schools in England for sustained improvement for 2011-2013.

We have drastically improved the amount of readers across KS3 with a reading age of below 8 years:

Year 7:
From 9% (23 students) to 4% (12/269)
Year 8:
From 6% (17 students) to 1% (3/265)

Year 9:
From 6% (14 students) to 2% (4/243)

KS3:
From 7% (54 students) to 2% (19/777)

Large numbers of students in leadership roles and entering competitions, attending clubs and taking part in activities related to literacy across the school. Students winning competitions for writing through Manchester Metropolitan University.

8. How is your project evaluated?

Half termly report on reading ages, interventions and Accelerated Reader. Discussed with literacy coordinator, SENCO, Head of English and Senior leader line manager.

Performance Management target for Senior Leader and Head of Faculty – evaluated throughout the year and then yearly.

Data and evidence from learning walks, student voice and student participation.

9. How would you spend the prize money to develop the project?

Develop the intervention further for reading ages of 8 years and 9.5 years and more stock of books in the library for this level.

Develop the inter school literacy league. Maybe more schools or better prizes.

Develop more opportunities for the literacy leaders – opportunities out of school to develop literacy skills in the outside world.
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.