**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

The Happy Project

2. Award category or categories you are entering

Supporting children and young people through school transitions

3. Describe your project in one sentence

Ensuring ALL students especially SEND students have a happy, successful and stress free transition to Secondary school.

4. Tell us about your school community

OFSTED says:
St Anne’s Academy is smaller than the average-sized secondary school. It became an academy in September 2007.
The proportion of students known to be eligible for the pupil premium is well above the national average.
The proportion of disabled students and those who have special educational needs supported
The proportion of these supported through school action plus or with a statement of special educational needs is well above average. This is a very inclusive academy. Every student is equally valued and well cared for through the academy’s outstanding pastoral care systems.

We say:

We are a friendly caring community based in North Manchester. Our Academy serves a large disparate community many of whom are economically disadvantaged. We strive to provide the best environment for every student: we are a dyslexia, ASD and Communication friendly school. We know that we need to work effectively with families and the wider community to ensure that every student has the best chance of success.

We recognise that Primary schools have a wealth of knowledge about students and their families and seek to work in partnership with them to ensure the best outcomes for all.

5. **What are the project’s objectives?**

To effectively share high quality information about students, particularly the “soft” data about families and relationships.

To start the transition to secondary school process in Year 5.

To ensure that every student has an opportunity to ask questions about secondary school before they start.

To ensure that every student is excited NOT CONCERNED about the transition.

To ensure that Primary Schools have a dedicated contact that they can share concerns with.

To ensure that student with identified behaviour needs have been visited by a key worker from the behaviour team.

To ensure that every SEND student has an extended plan of visits to secondary school in the Summer term and every statemented/EHC student has a member of Academy staff at their review.

6. **What are the project’s activities?**

Year 5 students take part in a variety of taster days involving visits to the Academy and visits to their school. This means that they recognise staff and the Academy’s layout.

In September of Year 6 a member of staff visits all students prior to open evening. In the Spring term a senior member of the pastoral team visits every student. At this time the student gets the opportunity to ask questions and staff meet to exchange information.

SEND and any vulnerable students are identified and a personalised plan is put in place for them.
This will include: key staff visiting them and observing lessons, scheduled visits to the Academy, attendance at meetings such as CAF/Annual Review.

Induction day is focussed on fun. Students are split into form groups and spend the day getting to know each other. In the afternoon we have a celebration, this year it was based around the song “Happy”! Students commented on how happy they are that they have chosen the Academy.

Every student is invited to a week of Summer School. This has a focus on literacy and making friends. After a week of fun activities students, parents and carers go to Blackpool Zoo.

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

The information that we gather ensures that we can put a high level of support in for students quickly. This reduces issue and ensures that student have a worry free transition to Secondary.

Student who need referrals to external agencies are identified and referred. This means their waiting time is considerably shorter.

Paula Noone at Hollin Primary commented that she was extremely concerned about some of the Year 6 students and how they would cope in Year 7. She said that she wasn’t worried about the students coming to us as she knew that we had taken the time to get to know the students and that we had acted on information we have gathered.

Using the information gathered form groups have reflected concerns from Primary schools. This has allowed us to avoid conflict from students.

8. How is your project evaluated?

All primary schools are contacted to see if they have any comments about the process.

Parents are also asked about transition process during induction evening.

The year director and pastoral team have also noted how much easier it is to manage students, behaviour, SEND and attendance as we know a lot about the student before they start.

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

We would use it to fund extended personalised visits for SEND/behaviour/CLA students and families/carers during the Autumn and Spring term to ensure that the Academy is a familiar
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.