



Press Release – For Immediate Release (08.04.14)

EAST SUSSEX SCHOOL WINS COMMUNICATION AWARD FOR SECOND YEAR RUNNING

Peacehaven Community School in East Sussex are celebrating after being named **Secondary School of the Year** at the **2013/2014 Shine a Light Awards** for the substantial support that is offered to help students develop their communication skills, particularly for those with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

The Awards, held in London on Thursday 3rd April and hosted by Broadcaster and Health Campaigner, Anne Diamond, are run by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust to honour individuals, teams, campaigns, communication friendly settings and communities that have excelled in their support of children and young people's communication.

The school, which has recently become a Co-operative Trust school, was unveiled the winner of the *Secondary School of the Year* for its commitment to prioritising communication and supporting students with SLCN in its specialist facility and across the wider school.

Judges praised the way that communication is prioritised annually in their development plan and how learning assistants and teachers have accessed training in this area.

Peacehaven provide support to students coming from primary school with identified SLCN by offering them taster lessons across the curriculum, and a Year 10 'buddy'. The school works closely with parents of students, giving training sessions to help support language use at home and at school.

Technology and new innovations are used to support students including using IPADs in social communication lessons to film and play back interactions between students. These activities help students to become more self-aware and mindful of their communication skills such as the use of eye contact and speech production.

Last year, Ofsted judged that Peacehaven's SLCN facility supports students to achieve well and that students with SEN statements, including SLCN, make better progress than other students'. Peacehaven School have used I CAN's *Secondary Talk* programme for three years now and are accredited to Specialist level, to support young people with complex communication difficulties.

The school have worked tirelessly to embed language and communication across subjects and teachers and they have collected strong evidence to showcase the impact of their work.

Mandy Lewis, Assistant Head at Peacehaven, and Clare O'Rourke, Specialist Speech, Language and Communication Teacher said: "We are absolutely delighted to have our practice recognised through the Shine a Light Awards for the second year running. It will motivate us to continue to develop our practice and support young people with SLCN, as it did last year. Schools don't often get recognition so it's lovely that there's a network that we're a part of and we have the opportunity to share our practice with others."

Hilary Berry, Headteacher at Over Hall Community School and Shine a Light Award Judge, says: "Success certainly comes to those that deserve it. I was struck by the range and extent of Peacehaven's high quality strategies and activities that support young people. I sensed a real commitment and an unrelenting pursuit of excellence."

"It's such a huge privilege and a true pleasure to be part of the team of judges for the Shine a Light Awards. It has been an opportunity to learn from, to acknowledge and to celebrate the work of outstanding professionals."

Chris Hall, Managing Director of Pearson Assessment and Shine a Light Award Judge, says: "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Peacehaven Community School for their well deserved win for the second year running. The way they have embedded support for SLCN in all of their work is an exemplar example for others to learn from."

"We have been blown away by this year's nominations and seen some truly inspiring examples of work being carried out to support children and young people with SLCN. With the awards now in their third year, we are excited to have helped over 90 teams shout about their work and go on to inspire others."

For the full list of Shine a Light winners and highly commended finalists, visit www.shinealightawards.co.uk

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For Further Information

For more information, or to arrange an interview with representatives from Peacehaven Community School, please contact Laura Smith or Charlotte Hussey at Consilium Communications by emailing lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk / chussey@consiliumcommunications.co.uk or call 07766651366.

Notes to editors

About the Shine a Light Awards

- The Shine a Light Awards are sponsored and organised by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust.
- The Awards are designed to promote and celebrate good practice in speech, language and communication for individuals, groups and settings which work with children and young people, particularly those with SLCN.
- The awards form part of the legacy of the National Year of Communication (*Hello* campaign) and have become a key event in the speech, language and communication community's calendar.
- Nearly 80 applications were received with 16 winners and 13 highly commended finalists picking up coveted awards at a glittering ceremony hosted by Anne Diamond.
- 17 judges were involved in the Shine a Light Awards including Janet Cooper, Founder of Stoke Speaks Out, Peter Sutcliffe, Editor of SEN Magazine, Virginia Beardshaw, Chief Executive of I CAN, Sean Stockdale, Editor of Special Magazine, Kamini Gadhok, Chief Executive of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), Diz Minnitt, Milton Keynes Youth Offending Team and Hilary Berry, Headteacher at Over Hall Community School.
- For further information and to view the film of the ceremony and the full list of judges, visit

www.shinealightawards.co.uk

About Pearson Assessment

- Pearson Assessment is the world's largest commercial developer and distributor of educational assessments and psychological testing materials with over 90 years history of commitment to researching and developing products to a reliable high standard.
- Pearson Assessment is dedicated to the pursuit of professional excellence, leadership, and growth through acquisition, development, publication, and the maintenance of quality assessment tools in order to anticipate and meet the needs of its customers.
- Pearson Assessment have sponsored the Shine a Light Awards since their launch in 2011, as part of the *Hello* campaign (National Year of Communication).
- For more information, visit www.pearsonclinical.co.uk or follow @PsychCorpUK #SAL2014

About The Communication Trust

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of nearly 50 leading voluntary sector organisations, which raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- It has an extensive advisory group, which includes the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, Association of Educational Psychologists and the General Teaching Council.
- For more information about the Trust visit www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk or follow @Comm_nTrust #SAL2014