



Press Release – For Immediate Release

OUTSTANDING LONGMOOR SCHOOL HONOURED AT SHINE A LIGHT AWARDS FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION

Longmoor Community Primary School in Liverpool has been highly commended in the **Primary School of the Year Award** category at an awards ceremony in London for its continued commitment to developing pupils' communication skills. The **2018 Shine a Light Awards**, run by learning company Pearson in partnership with The Communication Trust, took place on 22nd March 2018 and were hosted by stand-up comedian, actor and TV writer, Adam Hess.

The 2018 **Shine a Light Awards** is a national awards scheme that celebrates innovative work and excellent practice in supporting children and young people's communication development. 17 individuals and teams across 10 award categories were recognised, as well as children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Longmoor Community Primary School is home to a dedicated team of teachers as well as a full-time communication support assistant. The school works closely with speech and language therapists, as well as a local speech unit and other outside agencies, to provide their pupils with the best communication support possible.

Longmoor also offers varied activities to promote and encourage speech and language skills. The school regularly invites a local ladies group to talk to its pupils, a practice that enhances children's listening and questioning skills. For similar reasons the school holds a weekly LEGO Club, which is open to all year groups. Children attend this with an adult – an approach that encourages extra parent and carer collaboration.

Heather Gough, SENCO and Sarah Evans, EYFS and Key Stage 1 Lead at Longmoor Community Primary, said: "Communication and language sits at the very heart of everything we do everyday. Our outstanding results reflect this. Children leave our school equipped with excellent oracy skills to move on with confidence to the next stage of their educational journey."

Stand-up comedian and actor, Adam Hess, host of the 2018 Shine a Light Awards, said: "The dedication of Longmoor Community Primary is outstanding. As a child, I struggled greatly with dyslexia and an immense fear of public speaking, if it wasn't for the support I received when I was younger I wouldn't be in the position I am today. It is fantastic to know that other children and young people are being given the support they need to learn, thrive and achieve their goals. Longmoor Community Primary should be very proud of its success."

Sharon Hague, Senior Vice President, Schools, Pearson, said: "Our warmest congratulations to Longmoor Community Primary School. Through our innovative clinical assessments, Pearson is committed to supporting those working to help people overcome challenges in speech and language. For six years we have run these awards as we believe it is so important to recognise and celebrate the incredible, but often unsung, work being done across the country to change the lives of children and young people by helping them to develop their communications skills."

Octavia Holland, Director of The Communication Trust, said: "Congratulations to Longmoor Community Primary School and everyone who triumphed at the 2018 Shine a Light Awards. They have shown what can be achieved when expertise, enthusiasm and dedication is given to children and young people who struggle to communicate. These awards highlight the very best practice that is taking place in settings across the country."

The **Shine a Light Awards** have grown in popularity since their launch during the National Year of Communication in 2011 (known as the *Hello* campaign). To date, the awards have celebrated the work of over 140 teams and a wide range of individuals, including young people with severe and complex speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

For further information about the Shine a Light winners and highly-commended finalists, visit www.shinealightawards.co.uk and follow us on Twitter #awards_SAL.

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For further Information

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact Lisa Church and Laura Smith at Consilium Communications by contacting lchurch@consiliumcommunications.co.uk / 07467 945661 or lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk / 07467 945848.

Notes to editors

The full list of winners and highly commended finalists is as follows:

| Award | Winner | Highly Commended | Commended |
|--|---|--|---|
| The Katie Rough Memorial Award | Libby Hill, Utttoxeter | Rachel Peck, Cambridgeshire | |
| Child/Young Person of the Year Award | Jonathan Bryan, Wiltshire | Siena Castellon, London | |
| Communication Champion of the Year Award | Pip St John, Lancashire | | |
| Youth Justice of the Year Award | Manchester Youth Justice, Manchester | | |
| Early Years Setting of the Year Award | Children's House Nursery School, London | Juice Nursery Ltd, Altrincham | |
| Primary School of the Year Award | Pendle Primary Academy, Lancashire | Longmoor Community Primary, Merseyside | Bridgewater Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne |
| Secondary School/College of the Year Award | Isaac Newton Academy, London | London South East Colleges, London | |
| SEN School/Group of the Year Award | Pontville School, Lancashire | The William Henry Smith School, West Yorkshire | |

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| SLCN Innovation of the Year Award | Stoke Speaks Out | | |
| Pearson Outstanding Achievement Award | Stoke Speaks Out | | |

About the Shine a Light Awards

- The Shine a Light Awards are sponsored and organised by Pearson in partnership with The Communication Trust, a coalition of over 50 organisations dedicated to supporting children and young people's speech, language and communication.
- The Awards are designed to promote and celebrate good practice in speech, language and communication for individuals, groups and settings that 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 and healthcare calendar.
- The judges involved in the 2018 Shine a Light Awards were:
 - Bob Reitemeier, CEO of I CAN
 - Diz Minnitt, Speech and Language Lead, Association of YOT Managers (AYM)
 - Hilary Berry, Chair of Cheshire West and Chester Primary Heads' Association
 - Janet Cooper, Early Language and Communication Strategy Lead at Stoke-on-Trent City Council and past Shine a Light Award winner
 - John Parrott, Chair of Communication Consortium at NAPLIC
 - Jonathan Douglas, Director of National Literacy Trust
 - Julie Steele, Speech and Language HLTA and Local Champion
 - Jonathan Middleditch, Young Person of the Year 2015
 - Kamina Gadhok, MBE, CEO of Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)
 - Lesley Munroe, Education & Speech and Language Therapy Manager at Pearson
 - Liz Tyler, Director of Learning Services, UK Schools at Pearson
 - Malcolm Reeve, Managing Director of Firmament Education Ltd
 - Octavia Holland, Director at The Communication Trust
 - Peter Sutcliffe, Editor of SEN Magazine
 - Shane Dangar, Communication Champion 2013/14
 - Theresa Redmond, Lead Professional Advisor, The Communication Trust
 - Vicky Roe, Deputy Chair of SMIRA
 - Wendy Lee, Director of Lingo Speech and Language Therapy and Consultancy
 - Zoe Peden, Co-founder of Insane Logic

About Pearson

- Pearson is the world's learning company, with expertise in educational courseware and assessment, and a range of teaching and learning services powered by technology.
- Our mission is to help people make progress through access to better learning. We believe that learning opens up opportunities, creating fulfilling careers and better lives.
- Pearson 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 #awards_SAL

About The Communication Trust

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of over 50 leading voluntary sector organisations, which raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- The Trust's mission is to ensure that every child and young person is supported to communicate to the very best of their ability.
- The Trust works towards its mission by working in partnership to build skills, knowledge and confidence in the children's workforce, based on a foundation of good practice, robust evidence and effective policy and legislation.
- For more information about the Trust visit www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk or follow @Comm_nTrust