

Press Release

31/03/2016

***The Language Teacher of the Year Award 2016 and the Student Language Ambassador of the Year Award 2016***

Many of us know a very special language teacher who inspires pupils through superb teaching and supports colleagues by sharing their expertise and ideas. Or we know a student language ambassador who motivates young learners, showing them that learning languages is exciting, cool and contributes to their future success. The Association for Language Learning and Routes into Languages have worked together over the last two academic years to establish the Language Teacher and Language Ambassador of the Year Awards to recognise and celebrate this talent. The Awards have been generously supported to date by funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The aim of both the Primary & Secondary Language Teacher Awards is to support and promote language teaching and to raise the profile of language teaching as a career, recognising exciting, motivating practice among language teachers, celebrating imaginative teaching which inspires language learning in pupils. The aim of the Student Language Ambassador of the Year Award is to recognise the creativity, commitment and initiative of student language ambassadors who have encouraged, enthused and inspired language learners, as part of a Routes into Languages Programme. The presentation of this year's awards took place at Language World 2016, at Dunchurch Park in Rugby on Saturday 12 March 2016.

**Our Student Language Ambassador of the Year is Stephen Way**, a languages undergraduate student at Leeds Beckett University. Stephen was nominated by Kathy Murdie, who said: "Stephen volunteers for all kinds of opportunities: from promotional work, to visiting schools, to delivering workshops or helping out at languages events... Stephen has devised presentations to pupils to promote the benefits of languages and encourage continued language learning (and) was linked with a class whilst abroad as part of our Adopt-a-class programme and liaised with the teacher to ensure meaningful communication with the class." Stephen has now decided to train to become a language teacher once he graduates.

**Our Primary Language Teacher of the Year is Sara Montero Vazquez**, a primary teacher at Miles Coverdale Primary School in London. Sara was nominated by Taranum Baig, who said "Sara researches and implements new and different approaches to teaching Spanish... Pupils show sustained progress throughout KS2 and have a positive

attitude towards the subject: in yearly pupils surveys Spanish was one of their favourite subjects... Sara has organised and supervised clubs for Spanish; an Annual International Feast; a Spanish day, including whole school assembly in which each class sing a different Spanish song; flamenco workshops and Spanish story telling". Sara also receives a prize of £200 worth of Spanish teaching resources from La Jolie Ronde.

**Our Secondary Language Teacher of the Year is Natalie Campbell**, a Spanish & French teacher at The Trinity Catholic School in Nottingham. Natalie was nominated by Alison Rogers, who said: "Natalie has transformed teaching and learning not only within the MFL department, but also within the school where she is known as 'Mrs iPad". She understands that technology speaks to students in a language they understand, and she builds her teaching, learning and assessment around technology... The focus on technology in Natalie's lessons means that most youngsters are already on board as the lessons are seen as fun! The enjoyment and engagement shown by the pupils translate into a high take-up for GCSE and post-16."

The Association for Language Learning and Routes into Languages would like to congratulate all of the winners for 2016, and thank all of the teachers and student language ambassadors who took part.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors:**

- 1. Language Teacher of the Year Awards 2016:** further information about our winners and pictures of them receiving their awards: [www.all-languages.org.uk/awards/2016\\_awards](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/awards/2016_awards).
- 2. The Association for Language Learning (ALL):** is the UK's major professional association for teachers of foreign languages, with around 4,500 members in all educational sectors. [www.all-languages.org.uk](http://www.all-languages.org.uk)
- 3. Routes into Languages:** is a consortium of universities working together with schools and colleges, to enthuse and encourage people to study languages. [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk)