

Press Release

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***The Association for Language Learning Language Teacher of Year Awards 2017***

Many of us know a very special language teacher who inspires pupils through superb teaching and supports colleagues by sharing their expertise and ideas. They show initiative, stimulate an interest in languages within the classroom and deliver imaginative lessons. The Association for Language Learning have worked over the last two academic years to establish The Language Teacher Awards, as a mean of recognising and celebrating such talent. This year **Early Start Languages** have sponsored the Primary Language Teacher of the Year Award and **Halsbury Travel** have sponsored the Secondary Award.

The aim of both the Primary and 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 presentation of this year's awards took place at the Language World 2017 Conference, in Nottingham on Saturday 25 March 2017.

**Our Primary Language Teacher of the Year is Noelia Rivas**, a primary teacher at Sudbury Primary School in London. Noelia was nominated by Kamini Mistry, Head Teacher at Sudbury Primary. Kamini said "Noelia organises a French Language and Culture Day every year for KS1 and KS2 pupils... her passion for languages at primary level permeates her practice... the work that students undertake is at a more advanced level than at other primary schools; the Year Six pupils complete the same work as a Year Seven or Eight would... the French curriculum is rich, creative and linked to topics... French lessons are fun, engaging, interesting and meaningful to the pupils." Noelia organises the Brent Primary Hub alongside two other MFL leaders and has also presented at numerous conferences on topics such as The Use of Puppets, and CLIL in Action: Projects and Practical Activities.

**Our Secondary Language Teacher of the Year is Dawn Piper**, a German and French teacher at Littleover Community School in Derby. Dawn was nominated by Gillian Cowie, who said: "Dawn's teaching is a model of good practice. Her

pupils make excellent progress and show a real enthusiasm for languages... she has no trouble getting students to attend Language Club. Her German trips are a model of German efficiency, her excellent rapport with students and enthusiasm for all things German shine through, so everyone enjoys the trips immensely. She is well known to the students and tutors as being truly a legend!" Dawn is an NQT mentor and dedicates one hour a week for an NQT meeting, as well as being Head of German at Littleover and often being mistaken for a German native!

Ian Killbery of Early Start Languages commented "We are delighted to support this award and to join in recognising the pioneering work of language teachers at primary level who, against all the odds, continue to build a good foundation for children's language learning in their younger years."

The Association for Language Learning would like to congratulate both the winners for 2017, and thank all of the teachers and student language ambassadors who took part.

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**For further information, please contact:**

Helen Senior  
Communications & Marketing Manager  
**Association for Language Learning**  
University of Leicester  
LEICESTER LE1 7RH

e: [hsenior@all-languages.org.uk](mailto:hsenior@all-languages.org.uk)  
w: [www.all-languages.org.uk](http://www.all-languages.org.uk)

**Notes to Editors:**

1. **The Association for Language Learning Language Teacher of the Year Awards 2017:** pictures of the award winners receiving their awards: <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/about/awards/teacher-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. **Halsbury Travel:** is a family-run school tour operator specialising in tailor-made school trips abroad. <https://www.halsbury.com/>
4. **Early Start Languages:** helps non-specialists teach foreign languages to young beginners. <http://www.earlystart.co.uk/>