

Press Release

27/03/2018

The Association for Language Learning announces the winners of the Teacher of the Year Awards 2018 at Language World

The Association for Language Learning (ALL) is the UK's major subject association for teachers of modern foreign languages, at all levels, and in all sectors. ALL's annual conference, **Language World**, held this year on March 23-24 2018, is the key national event for language teachers, bringing them together to share ideas, offer mutual support and plan for the future of languages education.

Many of us know a 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 has worked to establish the Language Teacher of the Year Awards, as a means of recognising and celebrating such talent. The Awards support and promote language teaching and raise the profile of the profession by recognising exciting, motivating practice amongst language teachers and celebrating imaginative teaching that inspires language learning. We are grateful to receive sponsorship from two of ALL's Corporate Members: - Linguascope - sponsors of the Primary Language Teacher of the Year Award and Halsbury Travel - sponsors of the Promising Newcomer: Secondary Language Teaching 2018.

The presentation of the awards took place at the Language World 2018 Conference, at Jurys Inn, Hinckley Island, Leicestershire on Saturday 24 March 2018.

Primary Language Teacher of the Year is Juliet Lawson, a primary teacher at Bromet Primary School in Watford. Juliet was nominated by Yvonne Kennedy, Specialist Leader in Education for languages. Yvonne said *"Juliet's teaching demonstrates both creativity and linguistic rigour. She manages to create captivating contexts for teaching with high levels of pupil engagement while focusing assiduously on making sure that the language learning objective of the lesson is met. She works closely with colleagues, linking language learning to the wider curriculum and whole-school events."* Juliet has been Lead Teacher of a cross-phase language network for the past two years, organising, preparing and hosting half-termly meetings. In school, she has organised many events including, recently, an all-school 'Around the World' day involving the whole school staff, parents and colleagues from local schools.

Promising Newcomer: Secondary Language Teaching 2018 is Virginia Alfaro, a Spanish teacher at Queen Katherine Academy in Peterborough. Virginia was nominated by Jane Driver, Head of Department who said: *"Virginia is in her 2nd year teaching, working in challenging circumstances. She has risen to every challenge and more, working hard daily with excellent humour to motivate and instil a passion for language learning in every student in the Academy – for which they adore, respect and admire her – a mean feat to achieve."* Virginia has organised and judged in Spelling Bee and Translation Bee events, run Language Leaders, set up a languages YouTube channel for students to make songs and poems in Spanish and she has run exchange activities with Spanish and German partner schools.

The Association for Language Learning would like to congratulate both our winners and thank all of the teachers and judges who took part.

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For further information, please contact:

Helen Senior

Communications & Marketing Manager

Association for Language Learning

Voluntary Action LeicesterShire

9 Newarke Street

LEICESTER LE1 5SN

e: hsenior@all-languages.org.uk w: www.all-languages.org.uk t: 0116 4787200

Notes to Editors:

- 1. Language Teacher of the Year Awards 2018:** pictures of the award winners receiving their 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
- 3. Halsbury Travel:** is a family-run school tour operator that specialises in tailor-made school trips abroad. <https://www.halsbury.com/>
- 4. Linguascope:** is an interactive Language Learning Platform for Schools – Learn French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Welsh, Gaelic, Maori, English. <https://www.linguascope.com/>