School Library Association

SLA School Librarian of the Year Award 2011

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SLA School Librarian of the Year 2011 – Announcement of the Winner

The School Librarian of the Year Award was created in 2004 by the School Library Association in response to the need for recognition of the excellent work that is carried out in school libraries every day, and to highlight best practice through celebrating those whose work is outstanding.

> *"With public libraries under pressure, school libraries are particularly important at the moment. They may be the only place that students can go for help with projects, homework and allow free access to the internet for research, job and work experience hunting."*
>
> — Nikki Heath, School Librarian of the Year 2008

> *"The importance of reading for pleasure should not be forgotten either. Librarians are experts in the world of young adult literature and therefore are able to stock their libraries appropriately for their students. The importance of libraries and librarians should never be underestimated. You can tell a lot about a school by how much they value their library and librarian."*
>
> *— Duncan Wright, School Librarian of the Year 2010*

At a celebration at the Mermaid Conference Centre in London on 3rd October 2011, Philip Reeve, author of many award-winning children's books including the 2007 Carnegie Medal winner *Here Lies Arthur*, presented the honour of **School Librarian of the Year 2011** to **Carol Webb, Librarian at Forest Hill School, London**.

School Library Association Unit 2 Lotmead Business Village
Wanborough Swindon Wiltshire SN4 0UY

Tel: 01793 791787 Fax: 01793 791786 Email: info@sla.org.uk Web: www.sla.org.uk

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Dawn Woods, Chair of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Selection Committee said:

> *"Carol was the first school librarian we visited on our quest this year and she certainly raised the bar at Olympic standard heights. The library is immediately visible from outside the school and beckons to all who pass. Within the school it is a bright focal point. Carol's information literacy approach would put some Higher Education establishments to shame. Then to top it all, we were very impressed with Carol's links to publishers. Admittedly the school has an advantage being so close to London publishing offices, but so are another few hundred schools. Carol saw the opportunities and seized them and this has resulted in an all boys' school of avid readers defying all stereotypes."*

The work of the exceptional school librarians on the SLA School Librarian of the Year Honour List 2011 was also celebrated at the ceremony:

- **Helen Emery, LRC Manager, King Edward VI School, Lichfield, Staffs**
- **Wendy Roberts, Senior School Librarian, Ardingly College, West Sussex**

Visit the SLA website – www.sla.org.uk – to read their profiles.

The SLA also asked previous winners of the Award what the award has meant for them, their schools and the profession and what gift they would like to give the new School Librarian of the Year – as you would expect from such a talented bunch of people there are some interesting, inspirational and surprising answers…
See: www.sla.org.uk/q-and-a-with-slya-winners

On the afternoon of 3rd October, award-winning author Kevin Crossley-Holland announced the winner of the inaugural School Library Association Library Design Award.

For more information about the SLA School Librarian of the Year contact: Nicky Potter 0208 889 9735 or email nicpot@dircon.co.uk

For more details about the SLA Library Design Award contact:
Jane Grimwood 01525 852003 or email jane@grimwoodassociates.co.uk

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Notes for editors

The School Library Association is committed to supporting everyone involved with school libraries, promoting high quality reading and learning opportunities for all.
For information log on to: www.sla.org.uk

Previous Winners of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Award

2010: Duncan Wright - Stewart's Melville College, Edinburgh

2010: Kevin Sheehan - Offerton School, Stockport

2009: Lucy Bakewell - Hill West Primary School, Sutton Coldfield

2008: Nikki Heath - Werneth School, Stockport

2007: Ingrid Hopson - George Abbot School, Guildford

2006: Anne-Marie Tarter - Ripon Grammar School, North Yorkshire

2005: Anne Robinson - Nicholas Chamberlaine Technology College, Bedworth

Nominations for School Librarian of the Year 2012 opened in early September and will close on 13 January 2012.

Nomination forms are included in the Autumn 2011 issue of *The School Librarian* and will be available to download in PDF format from the SLA website:
www.sla.org.uk/slya-2012

Sponsor
The SLA is very grateful to **Scholastic** (www.scholastic.co.uk) for sponsoring the SLA School Librarian of the Year Award.