



School Library Association

Press Release - Embargo 15.30 9th October 2018

## Winner of SLA School Librarian of the Year Award 2016

The SLA School Librarian of the Year Award is the School Library Association's prestigious honour to recognize the excellent work that is carried out in school libraries every day, highlighting the best practice of those whose work is outstanding.

This year **Emma Suffield** at Saint Wilfrid's C of E Academy ([saintwilfrids.co.uk](http://saintwilfrids.co.uk)) has been awarded the honour of the School Librarian of the Year 2018.

Award-winning author Lauren St. John, whose books include *The White Giraffe* and *Dead Man's Cove* (Orion Children's Books) presented her with the award at a special ceremony at The Judge's Court, above Browns in St Martins Lane, London on 9 October.



### Emma Suffield

Although her official title is Learning Resources Centre Manager, Emma Suffield is seen more as a member of the family by many of the 1400 students at Saint Wilfrid's C of E Academy in a diverse area of Blackburn, thanks to her personalised, thoughtful and supportive approach to engaging all readers across the school. Innovative, imaginative practice, frequently going the extra mile, has led to a whopping 450% increase in book borrowing rates since Emma became responsible for the library in 2014.  
[emmasuffield.wordpress.com](http://emmasuffield.wordpress.com)  [@emmasuffield](https://twitter.com/emmasuffield)

To read more about Emma go to: <https://www.sla.org.uk/emma-suffield.php>

Lesley Martin, Chair of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Selection Committee, said:

*"It is exciting for the profession to have someone as forward thinking, creative, passionate and professional about school libraries and no doubt with a great career ahead of her. Emma makes a real difference in her school and her community and her contribution to the wider library profession is already making an impact."*

Noting that the award is a unique and wonderful celebration of the work of school librarians, Alison Tarrant, Chief Executive of the School Library Association, said:

*"The School Librarian of the Year Award is a brilliant opportunity to showcase the impact that school libraries can make, not just on pupils, but on staff and school culture. Our Honour List this year were all strong contenders and demonstrate the nuance needed when talking about school libraries – no two are the same; they are all reflective of the school around them, and it's aims and priorities. Last month the launch of the Great School Libraries campaign – a three year campaign spearheaded by SLA, CILIP SLG and CILIP. The campaign has three aims: to secure school library funding; to produce a national framework for school libraries and recognition of school libraries within the Ofsted framework. Our Honour List support this aim and prove that supported school libraries can make a difference."*

The three other school librarians on the Honour List are:

Nicki Cleveland at Cannon Park Primary School ([www.cannonpark.coventry.sch.uk/](http://www.cannonpark.coventry.sch.uk/)), Dr. Chhavi Jain at Manav Rachna International School, Gurugram ([mris.edu.in/gurugram-sector-46/](http://mris.edu.in/gurugram-sector-46/)), and Alison Kennedy at St George's Ascot ([www.stgeorges-ascot.org.uk/](http://www.stgeorges-ascot.org.uk/)).

From bringing books to life in highly imaginative and engaging ways, to generous and bold outreach work with their respective communities, via substantial and meaningful support for staff as well as pupils, Emma Suffield and each librarian on the Honour list have made a huge difference to the lives of all they work with, igniting a passion for reading.

To read the profiles of all the librarians on the Honour List visit the SLA website at: [www.sla.org.uk](http://www.sla.org.uk).

The work of all the librarians on the Honour List, including the overall winner of School Librarian of the Year 2018, was celebrated at a ceremony held on Tuesday 9th October 2018, at The Judge's Court, above Browns in St Martins Lane, London.

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**For more information about the SLA School Librarian of the Year please contact:  
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## SLA School Librarian of the Year Award 2018

### *School Library Association*

#### 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 please visit [www.sla.org.uk](http://www.sla.org.uk)

The School Library Association created the **School Librarian of the Year Award** in 2004 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. Nominees do not need to be members of the SLA, and may be from any phase of education.

#### The selection process

When the nomination forms reach the SLA office they are opened by the office staff and all trace of identity is removed from the form so that each nomination is anonymous when seen by the SLYA panel at the first selection meeting. At the first selection meeting the forms are discussed and a long list is compiled. Those on the list are asked to provide a range of paperwork to support their nomination. The judging panel looks at the documents and finally selects a short list of approximately 6 or 7. Over the next few months at least two panel members visit each school where possible (international schools are visited over Skype). One member of the panel goes on every visit to provide continuity. After the round of visits, reports are prepared for each nominee and shared with the other members of the panel prior to a final selection meeting where all the candidates are discussed at length and there is an opportunity to add personal comments to the reports. Usually 6 or 7 nominees are visited and an Honour list of 3 or 4 is selected. For more detailed information see [www.sla.org.uk/slya-background.php](http://www.sla.org.uk/slya-background.php).

The selection panel, all of whom have donated their time to enable the awarding of the School Librarian of the Year 2018 comprises:

#### **Lesley Martin**

Chair of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Selection Committee, and Chair of SLA (School Library Association)

#### **Sue Bastone**

SLA Vice-Chair and SLA School Librarian of the Year Award – Honour List (2010)

#### **Amy Mackay**

Librarian at Corby Business Academy, SLA Board Member and past winner of SLA School Librarian of the Year Award (2016)

#### **Margaret Pemberton**

SLA Board Member and freelance School Library and Book Consultant

#### Previous Winners of the SLA School Librarian of the Year Award

- 2017: **Lucas Maxwell** – Glenthorne High School, London Borough of Sutton
- 2016: **Amy McKay** – Corby Business Academy
- 2015: **Annie Brady** – St Paul's CBS Secondary School, Dublin, Republic of Ireland
- 2014: **Liz Millett** – Weatherfield Academy, Dunstable
- 2013: **Hilary Cantwell** – St Paul's Community College, Waterford, Republic of Ireland
- 2013: **John Iona** – Oasis Academy, Enfield, Middlesex
- 2012: **Adam Lancaster** – Monk's Walk School, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire
- 2011: **Carol Webb** – Forest Hill School, London
- 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

Due to a change in timings for next year the nominations for the SLYA 2019 are open now, and will close 31st October 2019.

Nomination forms are available from the SLA website:  
[www.sla.org.uk/nominations.php](http://www.sla.org.uk/nominations.php)