



Election and Awards Event 29 March 2019



The Trust Chairman, Dr Jennie Somerville, introduced the award winners

Another great celebration of our annual awards to outstanding and inspirational educators! But it nearly didn't happen. As many of you know, our Clerk, Christian Jensen became seriously unwell only 14 days before the event. While he, the Chairman of the Trust, Dr Jennifer Somerville, and the Master, Dr Lis Goodwin had much prepared, his unfortunate absence left a large last-minute hole. To add to the crisis, one of Christian's stalwart volunteer assistants stepping up to the task, broke her arm! 'Should we cancel and refund people's money?' mused the Master. But no, the Educators are made of sterner and more resourceful stuff. The guests were alerted—in a Pour Memoire—to potential hitches, but on 29 March the Annual Awards Dinner went very smoothly, and was a most successful occasion, witnessed by 124 diners.

Among the award winners were **Dr Oliver Gray** for the Master's prize in mathematics and **Dr Jonathan Allsop** for the RAF Number 22 (Training) Group for innovative technologies in flying training. The Geoffrey Bond bursary was won by drawing expert, **Jack Southern** of the City & Guilds London School for Art; the Mary Lou Carrington award for a business woman with a significant contribution to education was won by **Anne Richards**, CEO of Fidelity International; and **Sarah Goodall**, specialist in community theatre at the BRIT School of Performing Arts and Technology, received the Keith Hutton legacy bursary in this field.

A brand-new award, Prison Educator of the Year was the product of the blossoming partnership between the Trust and the national charity, the Prisoners' Education Trust—following its collaboration in the 2018 *Inspirational Educator Awards*, the theme of which was prison education. The new award was won by **Stephen Rogers** from HMP Whitemoor, nominated particularly for his work with the *Fathers Inside* programme—an intensive group-work course using drama, fiction and games as well as written work to educate prisoners about children's development, well-being and education.

The theme chosen by the Trustees for the 2019 *Inspirational Educator Awards* was the education of children with medical needs. The Head Teachers of 19 Hospital Schools across the country submitted nominations for the eight prizes. The citations read by the Trust Chairman were impressive. Great Ormond Street, London, had two award winners: the Head Teacher, **Jayne Franklin**, nominated for her leadership contribution to the whole hospital education sector, including initiating the recently formed National Association of Hospital Education; and Assistant Head, **Bianca Costa** for her pioneering work in promoting innovative technology across the whole curriculum. Two other London Hospital Schools received awards: the Royal Free for Deputy Head Teacher **Steve Green's** ground-breaking pedagogic research leading to educational models which have transformed the approaches of health professionals and enlightened patients' schools and families; and the Bethlem & Maudsley for **Sam Kenny's** innovative and highly personalised programme in science for children with acute psychiatric needs.

Awards also were won by hospital schools in the regions. In Leicester, **Charlotte Goode**, an exceptional teaching assistant, used sport, healthy living and environmental issues to stimulate and engage children with severe mental health problems, resulting in several local and national environmental awards. In Bury, Manchester, **Laura Green**, another teaching assistant, used art and food technology and the involvement of local businesses to achieve remarkable BTEC results with boys detained under the Mental Health Act who had very little previous formal schooling. Yet another teaching assistant, **Sarah McCormack**, won the award for James Brindley Hospital School, Birmingham, specialising in support for children with chronic renal failure and ensuring that they can continue their education and sit their GCSEs and A levels in hospital. One of the most poignant stories of the evening was that of **Jackie Smith**, from New Cross Hospital School, Wolverhampton, teaching under a table,



Dr Oliver Gray



Dr Jonathan Allsop



Jack Southern



Sarah Goodall



Bianca Costa



Jayne Franklin



Charlotte Goode



Laura Greene



Steve Green



Sam Kenny



Sarah McCormack



Jacqui Smith



Professor Dame Celia Hoyles

the only place where a severely anxious and challenging child felt safe, as an illustration of her devotion to making educational activities central to the therapeutic regimes of the hospital.

The award winners declared themselves honoured to have won the Educators' awards and thrilled with the glamour of being presented with them in a Livery Hall in the City of London. The guests seemed similarly delighted with the evening, as expressed by their alertness and the fullness of their applause. Among the distinguished guests were the Masters of the Fishmongers, Spectacle-Makers and Merchant Taylor Companies; Prof. Dame Alison Peacock, CEO of the Chartered College of Teachers; Lady Tessa Brewer, Chairman, Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund; His Honour John Samuel QC, Lincoln's Inn; Prof. Lou Stein, Artistic Director of Chickenshed Theatre; Alexandra Marks, Immediate Past Chairman of the Prisoners' Education Trust.

The evening concluded with an engaging and often amusing after-dinner speech—on overcoming mathematics' bad press by Professor Dame Celia Hoyles—and was much enjoyed by all.

Dr Jennifer Somerville, Chairman of Trustees