



ACT 20th Anniversary Celebration & Teaching Awards 2022

teachingcitizenship.org.uk





“We have used our 20th anniversary year to shine a spotlight on the importance of Citizenship and democracy education and are excited to celebrate the best practice from our national network of committed and talented teachers. We are grateful to our members, supporters and funders who support us in securing a better Citizenship education for all.”

Liz Moorse, ACT Chief Executive



The ACT Teaching Awards

Over the past twenty years a thriving community of teachers and other organisations has developed, who champion high quality Citizenship teaching. The Association for Citizenship Teaching (ACT) has played a critical role in this, providing essential support to schools and teachers across the UK and advocating for greater recognition of the subject in national education policy.

Today we launch the ACT Teaching Awards to recognise schools, teachers and organisations who have shown commitment to Citizenship education and its aims. The Awards celebrate the expertise, innovation and skills within the community of teachers and educators. Whether those who excel in active Citizenship in schools, or those with specialist, expert subject knowledge, all are united in sharing their expertise with the wider

teaching profession so that more young people benefit from the best Citizenship education.

The success of Citizenship relies on the commitment of school leaders and excellent subject teachers who inject their passion and enthusiasm into the curriculum and who work tirelessly to support colleagues who may lack specialist subject knowledge. Today, we recognise all of those who were nominated and commended by our panel of judges and the many who are not with us but are working hard to promote Citizenship in schools across the country.

We will continue together, to develop Citizenship education and look forward to another twenty years of excellent teaching and support from ACT.

*– The Rt Hon. the Lord Blunkett,
Honorary President, ACT*

Agenda for the evening

6.45pm Meet and greet – welcome drinks and canapes

7.15pm Welcome and ACT's 20th Anniversary Celebration

With the Rt Hon. the Lord Blunkett, Honorary President, Association for Citizenship Teaching and Liz Moore, Chief Executive, Association for Citizenship Teaching

7.30pm Awards and special commendations:

- Lord Blunkett Outstanding Contribution to Citizenship
- Organisation of the year
- Trainee teacher of the year
- GCSE teacher of the year
- Special contributions to Citizenship education
- School active Citizenship award
- Primary school of the year
- Secondary teacher of the year
- Student choice
- School of the year

8.00pm Closing remarks

*With Scott Harrison,
Chair of ACT trustees*

8.15pm Drinks reception

9.00pm Close



Celebrating 20 years

Citizenship education transforms the lives of children and young people. The subject is essential in helping to prepare young people for life in the real world, developing substantive knowledge alongside practical democratic skills.

Citizenship education engages with the big issues and dilemmas of the day. There are ongoing concerns about inequality, racism and discrimination, the proliferation of misinformation and conspiracy theories, to eco-anxiety and the challenges of climate change especially for young people and the most disadvantaged. This is where active Citizenship is crucial for nurturing hope, building resilience and enhancing our collective sense of democratic well-being through agency and power, to address the complex issues we are facing.

Our vision is for all young people to be active, informed citizens, equipped through effective Citizenship Education with the political knowledge, skills and experience to participate in and shape a strong and vibrant democracy based on equality, fairness and justice.

To achieve our vision we need to embed Citizenship in the curriculum, the culture and the community of schools. We know that good teaching by teachers who are confident in their subject knowledge helps students understand the value of what they are learning and apply this in their daily lives and decisions. This is where ACT's work continues, together with your support. Our new curriculum models, programme of training and CPD, new website and research will help us improve our support and build our community.

As we reach the end of a year of marking the 20th Anniversary of ACT, we start a new chapter looking forward to the next 20 years of Citizenship education. There is a lot to celebrate and a lot more to do as together we develop a movement of committed Citizenship educators who agree that democracy starts in schools.

– Liz Moore, ACT Chief Executive

**Shortlisted nominations for the
ACT Teaching Awards 2022**
Lord Blunkett Outstanding
Contribution to Citizenship Education



David Kerr

David Kerr has a long history of involvement in the development of Citizenship. In 1998 as Professional Officer to the Crick Group and then as an adviser to the DfE, QCA and the Council of Europe. For 10 years he led ground-breaking Citizenship research at national and international levels, including the Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study (CELS) and CIVED and ICCS10 studies.

David goes above and beyond to keep Citizenship education on the agenda, working in a voluntary capacity with so many organisations, he does so in a very humble and approachable way... He is someone that influenced my thinking around Citizenship education whilst training... Many students have learned from his no-nonsense style which is informative but yet also challenges thinking around deep conceptual ideas found within our subject.

Helen Blachford

Helen trained in business education but has been teaching Citizenship for over 20 years. She is a committed member of ACT Council and has helped to plan national conferences, written articles for the journal, and worked on curriculum briefings, lessons and resources to support other teachers with the National Curriculum. Helen became Chair of ACT Council in 2015 and joined the ACT Board of Trustees in June 2020. As an ACT Teaching Ambassador, Helen shares her expertise with the Citizenship community through delivering training, meetings and advice. She is one of the leading experts in Media Literacy for Citizenship and co-developed an innovative CPD course for other teachers.



Helen has worked tirelessly to promote and move citizenship education forward. She is also an outstanding practitioner, and is driven by her passion to improve the lives of young people. She is committed to informing, educating and inspiring future game changers in education. Her wisdom and her continued commitment outside the classroom, is transported to the classroom to enlighten pupils' knowledge and expertise in the subject.

Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2022 Organisation of the Year



The Politics Project

The Politics Project has supported powerful conversations about political issues using technology since 2015. This year they worked with over 200 teachers and 2500 students, through the Digital Surgeries programme to connect young people and politicians in England and Wales. They provide resources to support teaching about the democratic system in the UK and coordinate 'Democracy Classroom', a partnership of over 45 non-partisan organisations to support pupils' engagement in elections.

The Politics Project has been such an amazing tool in connecting my pupils to elected leaders around the country...I always enjoy our sessions, particularly when my pupils ask questions which are more insightful and hard-hitting than journalists!

THE  POLITICS
PROJECT

The UK Education and Engagement Team

The UK Education and Engagement Team works to educate young people about Citizenship, government and politics. The team enables students to access politics in the UK in innovative ways and provides outstanding opportunities for teacher development through the prestigious Summer Institute, the Teachers Network and teaching awards programme. Throughout the pandemic, they were quick to provide alternative provision for teachers and students when face-to-face was not an option. The historic halls of parliament became a place of excitement and inspiration for students on tour, both in-person and virtually.

Having visited parliament and met MPs and Lords, many of my graduated students are now taking politics and law at university. It is incredible organisations like the Parliament Education Centre that have brought politics to life for students. The whole team deserves recognition for the work they do.

 UK
Parliament

Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2022 Trainee Teacher of the Year



Ellen Hall

Ellen has taught Politics, History, Citizenship and P.E. during her PGCE year and enjoyed leading and coaching different extracurricular activities, such as hockey, netball, debating, podcasting and a girl's football club. Ellen has described her experience as a trainee teacher as intense at times, but overwhelmingly rewarding.

As a trainee teacher it can be challenging to feel you have made an impact during your limited time in a placement school but it is clear to see that through an innovative pedagogical approach, Ellen has done just this. She has used podcasts to engage young people on a variety of topical issues...These podcasts have then been shared across schools in Northern Ireland allowing others to learn from Ellen's work and hear the views of her pupils.



Ella Rattan

Ella graduated from the University of Manchester in Politics, Philosophy and Economics and decided to follow a family tradition in teaching and education. She completed her PGCE in Citizenship at the IOE in the summer of 2022 and recently joined the ACT Council as the Early Career representative.

Ella [is] always thinking about how to make Citizenship learning engaging for young people...and was keen to get more involved in ACT. She put herself forward for the council position and has subsequently written a piece with her fellow ACT student rep for the next edition of Teaching Citizenship.



Fiona Shelton

Fiona was born and raised in Sheffield but spent 20 years living in London and the South East. Mum of three, Fiona's return home to the Derbyshire's High Peak, started a chain of events which led to her to train as a Citizenship teacher. In her spare time Fiona enjoys musical theatre, working with stained glass and following Sheffield Wednesday Football Club.

Elected as ACT PGCE Student Rep for this year, she offers all PGCE Citizenship students strong and effective representation...Her collaboration and negotiation skills mean that getting PGCE Student voice heard is not a problem for her.

Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2022

GCSE Teacher of the Year

Bryden Joy

For 14 years Bryden has inspired pupils with his innovative teaching approaches. Since 2017 he has taught GCSE Citizenship Studies to pupils at Perrins School, where he ensures they have the knowledge and skills they need to become informed and active citizens and see the value of Citizenship in their daily lives and decisions. In 2019, he used his enthusiasm and subject expertise in media literacy to co-develop a ground-breaking CPD course and regularly shares his expertise and GCSE classroom practice with others as an ACT Ambassador Teacher.

Mr Joy is a diligent, inspiring and committed teacher, who goes out of his way to support his students, not only in helping them in exam technique and marking practise questions, but also in a pastoral manner, as he supports students to get involved and engaged, bringing a genuine positivity to the classroom.

- Student, Perrins School



Jane Haynes

Jane inspires everyone she teaches through her lessons or the weekly debating club. She brings learning to life and helps students connect with the real world through GCSE Active Citizenship Investigations, school visits such as to Parliament, and the school and local youth councils. Jane regularly shares her expertise in GCSE Citizenship Studies with other colleagues through her role as an ACT Ambassador Teacher.

On top of her teaching, Mrs Haynes has pushed us to put ourselves forward for many opportunities in Citizenship including the local youth council, the British Youth Parliament and opportunities to speak to the Schools Minister about the importance of Citizenship in our curriculum. Mrs Haynes is dedicated to her work and her students.

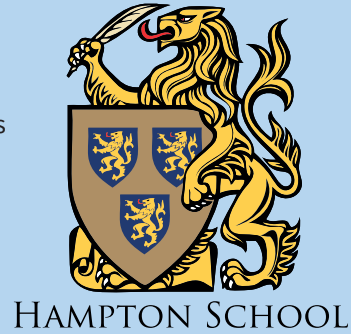
- Student, Thomas Keble School

Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2022

Active Citizenship School of the Year

The Hampton School

The @genocide8020 student group led by Andy Lawrence at Hampton School uses the principles of Active Citizenship. When training teachers and student teachers about Active Citizenship, emphasis is given to the importance of the role of students themselves in leading the actions being planned and the role of the teacher working in partnership with them to facilitate the pupils' ideas. The work and the ethos of Hampton School has allowed this to develop and the excellent work of the @genocide8020 project is testament to this.



Leeds City Academy

Aspire Together - Achieve Together

Leeds City Academy

Active Citizenship is at the core of Leeds City Academy. From the Principal actively engaging with students and listening to their ideas for improving the academy, to the entitlement for all students to participate in Citizenship lessons, the concept of Active Citizenship is in the curriculum and the ethos of the school. The newly reorganised school parliament allows students to work within different departments to create

real change, from democratically chosen charities to the environment group work on school policies. Students as Community Impact Leaders work with local decision makers and neighbourhood groups on tree planting, graffiti cleaning and creating an eco-garden. Students engage with a vast range of opportunities and become empowered to create meaningful change in a way that is important to them.



Royal Wootton Bassett Academy

Royal Wootton Bassett students and staff exemplify the principles of Active Citizenship. Staff support, inform and empower students through work on Holocaust, genocide and human rights, as volunteers during lockdowns helping their neighbours, welcoming refugees into the school or numerous opportunities for student leadership. The school is celebrated for work around the Holocaust led by Nic Wetherall and her team and 'The Holocaust, Their Family, Me and



ROYAL
**WOOTTON
BASSETT
ACADEMY**

A global school in a local community

Us' project. The annual 'Empowering Young People To Change The World Conference' enables teachers across the country to engage with powerful guest speakers and facilitate the development of empowered young leaders in their own schools.

**Shortlisted nominations for the
ACT Teaching Awards 2022**
Secondary School Teacher of the Year



John McCloskey

John is Head of Integrated and Religious Studies and Learning for Life and Work Coordinator at Shimna Integrated College in County Down. His work focuses on teaching Citizenship in post-conflict Northern Ireland in a school which deliberately coeducates across traditional religious and political divides. Outside of the curriculum, John coordinates projects where students create and distribute documentary teaching resources giving voice to minority groups in Northern Ireland such as refugees and religious minorities. John is currently advising a Stormont panel on best practice in SRE and is co-lead of Shimna's Amnesty International Group, the largest youth rights advocacy group in Northern Ireland.

Samantha Hunt

Sam is an experienced deputy headteacher with a passion for the principles of Citizenship Education. As an RE teacher she became expert in Holocaust studies and human rights, and is dedicated to teaching students about the dangers of intolerance. Sam's commitment goes beyond the classroom as she organises volunteering opportunities for students with the local homeless and refugees in Calais. Sam's aim is to inspire students to "be the change" something she lives up to herself. She has recently opened a school in Rwanda to provide free education to homeless orphans, is an academic advisor to the charity Remembering Srebrenica, a volunteer for the Holocaust Educational Trust and Chair of Survivors Fund, a charity which works to rebuild the lives of survivors of the genocide against the



Tutsi in Rwanda. In her own time she trains other teachers and believes that providing students with active Citizenship goes hand in hand with learning about Citizenship.

Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2022

Secondary School Teacher of the Year

Sera Shortland

Sera is Head of Citizenship at New College Leicester, runs a Leicester 'political speaking' competition and is passionate about social justice issues. Sera enjoys teaching GCSE Citizenship Studies, especially the law. In 2018 Sera became a member of ACT Council and an ACT Teaching Ambassador supporting teachers locally and nationally with GCSE Citizenship Studies and teaching Citizenship. Sera's passion is to encourage student voice and many of her students have been elected to the local youth council and she recently established a successful student parliament to lead improvements and decision making in her school.



Zoe Fox

Zoe is subject leader of Citizenship at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College in Skelmersdale, Lancashire where she qualified as an RE teacher. At Our Lady's, Zoe has nurtured her passion for Citizenship and developed the Citizenship GCSE offer and the Curriculum for Life school-wide programme.



“Zoe inspires students to take their role as global and UK citizens seriously and to take an active part in positive change. She has ensured the whole school sees the value, and is experiencing, good Citizenship teaching through her resources, subject knowledge and enthusiasm. Zoe has fully reformed the school's approach to Citizenship through 'Curriculum for Life'...She has a key role in developing every student in the school as she puts together Citizenship resources that build student knowledge throughout their time at secondary school.”

Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2022

School of the Year

Addey and Stanhope

Jan Shaprio, Headteacher, and the team at Addey and Stanhope demonstrate the principles of Citizenship at every level of school life. Citizenship is high profile and deeply embedded with a rigorous, well planned curriculum which is taught with enthusiasm at key stage 3 and 4. Ryan Mason has led Citizenship in the school for over 10 years and consistently motivates pupils to continue to study the subject to GCSE where the subject is regularly oversubscribed. Ryan designs opportunities for students to organise conferences, engage with local politicians and join active Citizenship projects. Both Jan and Ryan speak passionately about the importance of the subject to their students and the communities they serve. Visitors to the school, be they Ofsted inspectors, international visitors or the local MP see the impact of the subject and the value students place on it. The Addey and Stanhope approach to Citizenship is visionary and exemplifies what is possible in the curriculum and the ethos of every school for every pupil across the country.



Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2022

Primary School of the Year

Barrowford Primary School

Barrowford Primary School is a highly inclusive community, which works to empower pupils by providing a rich curriculum and memorable learning experiences. Many of the children join the school with a range of needs. However, all pupils make good progress because of the inclusive curriculum and the dedication of staff. The inspirational headteacher, Rachel Tomlinson, has led staff through difficult times to become a highly improved school which now excels. Staff have carefully crafted a broad, knowledge-rich curriculum to meet the diverse needs of pupils and develop their cultural capital. The pupils develop very special personal

characteristics, as a result of its broad curriculum which addresses the development of the whole child and gives them a sound moral base. This allows pupils to go on to their secondary schools as confident young people.



Brockhill Performing Arts College

Brockhill Park Performing Arts College in the rural and coastal part of Kent has had an ethos grounded in the principles of Citizenship since 2000, when two teachers began training for the then new subject. Commitment to the subject has continued ever since, with all students benefiting from a planned curriculum of Citizenship lessons at key stage 3 and 4 and studying for GCSE Citizenship Studies. In addition, pupils can choose from a rich offer to get involved in Citizenship

actively either as elected members of school council or during school-wide elections and hustings events. The school is committed to teacher training and works with a local provider and has offered placements to over 100 trainee Citizenship teachers over the past twenty years.





Commendations – Special Contribution to Citizenship Education

We acknowledge a number of colleagues who have made special and highly significant contributions to Citizenship education over many years in relation to research, leading the subject in schools, for advocacy and influence and for services to ACT.

Special Thanks

ACT Teacher Ambassadors

Pauline Amechi, Scott Amott, Terri Barry, Helen Blachford, David Elliott, Jane Haynes, Daryl Henson, Steven Humphrys, Bryden Joy, Ayla Malik, Ryan Mason, Ben Miskell, Emily Owen, Sera Shortland

ACT Council

Pauline Amechi, Scott Amott, Carrie Baker, Terri Barry, Helen Blachford (Chair) Lorellie Canning, Verity Currie, David Elliott, Hayle Davies, Steven Humphrys, Lee Jerome, Bryden Joy, David Kerr, Anna Liddle, Ben Miskell, Emily Owen, Amit Puni, Sera Shortland, Maddie Spink, Hans Svennevig (vice Chair), Karl Sweeney, Ella Rattan, Balbir Sohal, Fiona Shelton, James Wright

ACT Trustees

Helen Blachford, Marcus Bhargava, Richard Glover, Scott Harrison (Chair), Sarah Maclean, Asjad Mir, Rob Pope (vice Chair), Hans Svennevig




Exciting things coming from ACT in 2022

After more than a decade, we are delighted to launch our new website to serve our members with greater efficiency and ease; and our new model Citizenship curriculum with schemes of work, lesson plans and resources being released to ACT organisational members from September. You will also see some changes to our brand identity. We are grateful to The Type Consultancy who provided pro bono brand consultancy and worked with our key stakeholders throughout the process. Although our logo and web presence is changing our mission remains the same. We want to ensure quality Citizenship education exists as an entitlement for every young person in school, and the teaching community feels empowered and confident to teach the Citizenship subject's unique knowledge, concepts and skills.

Leading innovative Citizenship research

In September 2022, we begin work on a unique research project which aims to assess the quality and impact of Citizenship, active Citizenship and democratic education across the country. Schools will be invited to complete a self-assessment survey which will allow us to benchmark information which we will then share and use to prioritise development plans to improve support. Selected research schools will also be able to access a student voice report which will enable your school to see how students compare to the national picture, giving an insight into the impact of your Citizenship provision and advice on how to incorporate this in future planning. We are delighted to work in collaboration with Middlesex University on this innovative new research.





**Our vision is for all
young people to be
active, informed citizens,
equipped through
effective Citizenship
Education.**



ACT ASSOCIATION FOR
CITIZENSHIP
TEACHING

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