



Teaching Citizenship Awards 2023



teachingcitizenship.org.uk

#ACTAWARDS23

GCSE Citizenship Studies School of the Year Award sponsored by OCR and AQA



We are delighted to welcome you to our 2023 Teaching Awards celebration. We know Citizenship teachers across the country work so hard to establish and develop the subject they care about in their schools and settings. Your commitment, innovation and enthusiasm inspires children and young people every day – we cannot thank you enough for what you do.

**-Liz Moore,
Chief Executive, ACT**

The ACT Teaching Awards

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

Today we 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. We congratulate 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.

- The Rt Hon. the Lord Blunkett,



Agenda for the evening

5:30pm Meet and greet – welcome drinks

6:00pm Welcome

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

6:15pm Awards and special commendations:

- Climate Empowerment and Sustainable Leadership Award
- GCSE Citizenship Studies School of the Year (AQA)
- GCSE Citizenship Studies School of the Year (OCR)
- GCSE Citizenship Studies School of the Year (Pearson Edexcel)
- Lord Blunkett Award for Outstanding Contribution to Citizenship Education
- Organisation of the Year
- School Active Citizenship Award
- Trainee Teacher of the Year
- Citizenship Mentor of the Year
- Primary Teacher of the Year
- Secondary Teacher of the Year
- Student Choice Award
- Citizenship School of the Year

7.00pm Closing remarks

*With Marcus Bhargava,
Chair of ACT trustees*

7.30pm Close



“ The best part of getting out of bed early and coming to school is my citizenship lessons ”

- Citizenship Student who nominated their teacher for the Student Choice Award

Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2023

Climate Empowerment and Sustainable Leadership Award

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School Whitby, Cheshire



ELLESMERE PORT
Catholic High School

Ellesmere Port Catholic High (EPCHS) has recently been awarded the Green Flag from Eco-Schools. Their work includes developing bug hotels and areas of protection to help support bees and bugs within the school grounds, planting trees to help combat the effects of climate change and providing every student with a reusable plastic bottle to reduce plastic pollution.

The Personal Development team at EPCHS has been instrumental in ensuring the Citizenship curriculum is delivered by specialist teachers, providing students with a greater understanding of the world around them and how they can make a positive contribution to society and the communities they live in.

AQA GCSE Citizenship Studies School of the Year

Davison Church of England High School for Girls



DAVISON

Worthing, West Sussex

“Mrs Lewis makes lessons a joy and I always count down the days until my next citizenship lesson because of her”

- Elsie, Student

Eden Girls' School Slough, Berkshire



Eden Girls

“Lisa Kiely has a great skill in making the subject accessible and loved by pupils from deprived backgrounds who start with little to know knowledge and understanding.”

- Raman Sandhu, Eden Girls' School

Noadswood School Southampton, Hampshire



Noadswood

“Claire Blowers has developed and led this new subject at our school freely and brilliantly, driven by passionate belief in it and commitment to its ideals and potential.”

- Nicky Sullivan, Lead Citizenship Teacher,
Noadswood School

OCR GCSE Citizenship Studies School of the Year

**Brookfield
Community School**
Southampton, Hampshire



“The Citizenship department’s ethos is to be subject that any and all students value, enjoy and feel able to succeed at. In turn, to be a subject where all students feel valued, regardless of their attainment elsewhere”

- Sean Browne, Brookfield Community School

Thomas Keble School
Stroud, Gloucestershire



“Mrs Haynes has taught my GCSE citizenship class for the last two years and there hasn’t been a single lesson I haven’t looked forward to”

- Alyssa, Student

Pearson | Edexcel GCSE Citizenship Studies School of the Year

**Ladybridge High
School**
Bolton, Greater Manchester



“The Citizenship department engages learners and equips them with the necessary skills to be an active citizen, supports them with a deep understanding of their rights and responsibilities, and ensures they are ready for their life beyond secondary school.”

- Joy Helliwell, Ladybridge High School

Highlands School
Enfield, London



“The passion of the subject leader, Mr Islam, is mirrored across the school, and this has fostered a culture of enthusiasm and active participation.”

- Muna Sheikh, Highlands School



Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2023

Lord Blunkett Award for Outstanding Contribution to Citizenship Education

Nicola Wetherall **Royal Wootton Bassett Academy** **Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire**

Dr Nicola Wetherall is a key member of the Centre for Holocaust Education (CHE) and also works part-time at the Royal Wootton Bassett Academy (RWBA) in Wiltshire. In 2017, she was awarded an MBE in recognition of her services to Holocaust Education, Genocide Prevention and Human Rights Education. Dr Wetherall established a unique whole-school, holistic programme of Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education (HGP) at the RWBA. The programme combines Dr Wetherall's academic background with classroom practice and has garnered national and international recognition.



Ben Miskell **Bradfield School** **Sheffield, South Yorkshire**

Ben is a specialist Citizenship teacher and teaches 11 to 16 year old pupils as well as A-Level Politics and Law. Ben is passionate about the difference high quality Citizenship education makes and is a real advocate for the subject. He has been an active member of the Association for Citizenship Teaching for a number of years - as a valued member of ACT Council and as an ACT Teaching Ambassador. Ben is not only a Citizenship teacher - he embodies the values of Citizenship in all he does, he lives and breathes Citizenship as an activist and an elected member of his local Council.



Sebastien Chapleau **Citizens UK**

As a dedicated educator and advocate for civic engagement, Sebastien has developed and implemented innovative training programmes for school leaders that have enabled them to empower thousands of young people to play an active role in their communities. His publications have been instrumental in spreading awareness about the importance of active citizenship and providing practical tools and resources for educators to promote civic engagement in their classrooms. Sebastien founded La Fontaine Academy and is the former Executive Head of Geshar School.



Organisation of the Year

Smart School Councils

Smart School Councils is a small charity that works with around 450 schools to raise their students' voices. The programme enables students to discuss issues that are important to them and that affect their school and communities.



School Active Citizenship Award

Endeavour Academy

Peterlee, County Durham



Students at Endeavor Academy carried out extensive research and found there was a dearth of mental health training on trainee teacher courses. Following the action project, the students liaised with Sunderland University about their findings, who pledged to provide more training in this regard. Their hard work has resulted in a training provider adapting their courses as a result, which will safeguard the mental wellbeing of thousands of students in the future.

**Our Lady Queen
of Peace Catholic
Engineering College**
Skelmersdale, Lancashire



Students were adamant that as 2021 the Ofsted report on Child on Child Abuse suggested all schools had an issue, they wanted to be involved in getting to the root of the specific issues in their school and in the strategies of how to tackle it. Students did primary research surveys on all students and staff to gather evidence for the bigger picture and what meaningful area they could lead action on. They led a campaign to raise awareness for change to make their school a safe environment for all. Furthermore they have undertaken action on a national level with students attending local climate change protests to voice opinions on the young.

The Day

THE DAY
Build a better world

The Day is an independent, online, subscription-based news publication for schools which has been supporting teachers to deliver high-interest, accessible lessons rooted in current events for 12 years.

It encourages students to become active citizens who are empowered to make positive changes in their communities.

Harris Academy Sutton

Sutton, London



Active Citizenship has been an essential element of this new school, allowing students to express their passions for change across the school and wider area. Groups completed activities, communications, actions and research on numerous campaigns that resulted in changes in school policies through lobbying of the principal and PTA that will greatly benefit the current and future students. The impact they had will have an impact on all students and the operations of the school for years to come establishing new policies such as for feminine hygiene products, revision book drives, recycling programs and regular registering to vote events.

Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2023

Trainee Teacher of the Year



Alesa Rahman
Bow School, London

“Alesa goes over and above as a matter of course to ensure her classes receive engaging lessons that are relevant to their lives.”

- Robert McGoldrick, Bow School

Avril Agus
Pimlico Academy, London

“Avril has stretched her knowledge by engaging with Parliament and ACT resources and has developed into a real subject expert in Citizenship..”

- Emily Owen, Pimlico Academy



Matthew Conmee
Turner Free School, Folkestone, Kent

“Matt showed a level of interest and enthusiasm for the subject, which was infectious.”

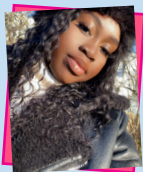
- Adam Walton, Dover Grammar School for Girls



Kimberely Adu-Gyamfi
Kingston University, London

“Throughout her time as a student teacher, Kimberley consistently showed a high level of commitment to her students’ academic and personal growth.”

- Amit Puni, Kingston University



Citizenship Mentor of the Year

Zoe Fox
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College, Skelmersdale, Lancashire

“Our citizenship teacher is one of a kind, she strives of (SIC) politics and the educating the young. Further more Zoe has already one the number one citizenship teacher in England and had been rewarded with a visit to Parliament and the Commons. She is an outstanding teacher and deserves the recognition I hope to give her.”

- William Baldwin, OLQP



Yomi Adebisi
Harris Girls’ Academy East Dulwich, London

“Yomi’s mentoring approach is exceptional as he has consistently challenged, supported, and guided a range of PGCE students from both Kingston University and Harris ITE. Yomi’s dedication to his role as a mentor is admirable, and he deserves to be recognized for his outstanding contributions. I wholeheartedly endorse his nomination for this award.”

- Amit Puni, Kingston University



Primary Teacher of the Year

Michael Brothwood

Djanogly Sherwood Academy, Nottingham

“Michael is a brilliant educator, passionate about citizenship education and teaching children about the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Michael and colleagues at Djanogly Sherwood and Djanogly Learning Trust have built an amazing school community with students well engaged in citizenship education and appreciating and understanding their connection with others, in their local communities as well as nationally and internationally.”

- Penny Othen, Lyfta



Secondary Teacher of the Year

Nicola Knowles

**Loreto High School,
Chorlton, Manchester**

“Nicola Knowles, Head of Personal Development, leads on an outstanding citizenship education programme for all students at Loreto High School Chorlton. From Year 7 to 11, students are encouraged to take ownership of their own role as citizens and provided with opportunities to support causes important to them. There is an emphasis on giving students a voice and enabling them to make an impact on their local community. The sheer number and variety of activities is truly impressive..”

- Ian Pope, The Politics Project



Michael Serridge

**Harrow Way
Community School,
Andover, Hampshire**

“Mike is an exemplary Head Teacher. Sadly he is retiring this year after many years of service to this school. He has created a family atmosphere where we are constantly reminded as staff that we not only want to get the best exam results for our students, but we also want them to leave with the skills they will need to work in the jobs of the future, and to be well rounded citizens who contribute to their community and society in general. Last Year Harrow Way’s Ofsted report singled out Personal Development as an outstanding feature at Harrow Way and this is largely down to Mike’s leadership..”

- Tori Blair, Harrow Way Community School



Shereen Al-Barzangi

Burlington House School, Fulham


“Shereen’s contributions have been vital to enhancing the provision of Citizenship within our school. Her commitment and hard work have played a crucial role in bringing about positive changes in this area. Under her leadership, the Citizenship curriculum has become more engaging and relevant to students’ lives, empowering them to become active and responsible members of their community.”

- Maria Jose Blasco Garcia, Burlington House School



Shortlisted nominations for the ACT Teaching Awards 2023

Student Choice Award




Alisha Hadfield
Great Academy Ashton,
Ashton-under-Lyne,
Greater Manchester

“Miss Hadfield has helped me greatly with my Citizenship course. She uses her own time to

ensure we get the grades we deserve by putting on extra revision lessons and she has helped me reach a grade 8. She is a fantastic teacher and I feel like I can talk to her about anything, She has a good bond with students and everyone really likes her. She is hardworking, kind, funny and she has a great way of getting the information we need through to us. She really deserves this award.”

- *Olivia, Student*




Peter Heaton
Brockhill Park Performing
Arts College, Hythe, Kent

“Mr Heaton has made me enjoy my Citizenship lessons much more than any teacher in the past. Not only does he teach the

specification but he ensures that we have an understanding of why it is important to have this knowledge and skills for the future. I feel that not only are Citizenship lessons crucial for exam results but they are life lessons that will make us better people. Mr Heaton has made me feel comfortable in my knowledge of things such as the rights im entitled to and how the British values are important.”

- *Kaitlin, Student*



Kelly Allchin
Leeds City Academy,
Leeds, West Yorkshire

“Miss Allchin has always gone out of her way to support her students in every way possible. I have always found politics and laws boring but as soon as I was taught by my teacher I found it so interesting just by the way she teaches the subject. The way she teaches Citizenship by far creates more interest and passion for a subject than any other. Her classrooms have always felt like a comfortable, safe environment for me. I fully believe I would not be so focused on citizenship as a GCSE subject without Miss Allchin. She will always be a teacher in Leeds City Academy I will never forget and will always appreciate after I leave school and I know other students feel the exact same.”

- *Amelie, Student*



Samed Karadal
The Bridge Academy
Hackney, London

“I would like to nominate my teacher for an award due to his exceptional dedication and impact on our education. He went above and beyond to engage us in an active Citizenship campaign aimed at addressing the criminal justice system. With his guidance, we wrote a compelling letter to our local MP, who not only acknowledged our concerns but also responded with genuine interest. Moreover, our teacher’s personality is truly commendable. He is incredibly cool and down to earth, making him approachable and relatable to all of us. He creates a positive learning environment where students feel comfortable expressing their opinions and engaging in meaningful discussions.”

- *Charlie, Student*

Citizenship School of the Year

Ladybridge High School

Bolton, Greater Manchester 

“Active Citizenship is a huge part of life at Ladybridge. Learners are supported and encouraged to undertake citizenship action projects across the key stages, not just as part of the GCSE course. Opportunities for learning outside the classroom are organised to provide learners with unforgettable experiences.”

- Caitlin Donaldson Ladybridge High School

Robert Napier School

Gillingham, Kent 

“At The Robert Napier School our ethos and values are directly derived from the values found within the Citizenship curriculum such as respect and fairness. We believe that character education is fundamental to our young people succeeding in society and this is why we ensure that Citizenship education extends beyond the classroom and students are given the chance to engage in events that help raise their cultural capital and understanding of the world around them.”

- Luke Geary Robert Napier School

Priory School

Portsmouth, Hampshire 

“Priory School has had a long history of promoting Citizenship, which is at the heart of the school’s ethos: ‘enjoy respect achieve’. Headteacher, Stewart Vaughan is a keen advocate for a high quality Citizenship curriculum for all students - it is seen as essential in ensuring that values and ethos moved from being implicit across the School to being clear and explicit, underpinned by rigorous and deliberately planned teaching to establish a solid foundation for understanding what it means to be a ‘game-changer’.

- Helen Blachford, Priory School

Leeds City Academy

Leeds, West Yorkshire 

“Leeds City Academy is a very diverse school serving students from all over the world... They all follow a citizenship curriculum planned by subject specialists – a strategic decision by the principal to ensure they are taught this vital subject.

Our politics and democracy schemes of work are pedagogically sound and... we were chosen to host the 2022 UK Parliament Week launch video. Our Student Leadership streams mimic government being organised as departments working with SLT and...consult the study body regularly. Our community impact leaders work involves local groups, the local council, conservation and community cohesion... providing a range of ways that students can work with local groups on matters of interest..”

- Kelly Allchin, Leeds City Academy

The Well Project Alternative Provision

Guildford, Surrey 

“TWP is a community. That is the students, staff, everyone that visits TWP who become part of it. This year we made an effort to embed Citizenship into the heart of what we do. We are a small centre with 13 students and 3 staff members per day. Students come to us in Year 10 and stay until the end of Year 11. They come from 6 different schools and have a variety of needs that mean they are struggling in mainstream. Students know they are accepted, everyone belongs and everyone has a place in their own right at TWP. From this the culture became embedded and our ethos is students know they can express themselves, they know they have a voice.”

OCR IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE GCSE CITIZENSHIP STUDIES SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD



FIND OUT MORE:
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OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

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

ACT ASSOCIATION FOR
CITIZENSHIP
TEACHING

www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk