




SOUTH WALES
Argus
SCHOOLS & EDUCATION
— **AWARDS 2018** —

In Association With

University of South Wales
Prifysgol De Cymru

THIS YEAR'S FINALISTS INSIDE

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THIS YEAR'S FINALISTS

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Message from the editor



WELCOME: Argus editor
Nicole Garnon

IN just over a week's time we will be hosting an awards evening to celebrate and highlight the fantastic work which goes on in the field of education in Gwent.

And today we want to give just a hint of the sort of work we will be showcasing at that event.

For we are featuring the finalists in all 15 categories in this year's South Wales Argus Schools and Education Awards.

To get to this point has not been easy. We were inundated with nominations from parents, pupils, schools, teachers and others putting forward names of the people they think go the extra mile to provide great education in this corner of Wales.

And their were many who are great supporters and champions of nurseries, primary and secondary schools.

This is a real celebration of all the work that goes on in education day in and day out in Gwent.

And while the panel of judges had the difficult task of picking a winner for each category today is a chance to celebrate all the deserving finalists who made it to the final cut.

Congratulations all!

Judges' praise for outstanding work



JUDGES: Karen Welch, Western Power Distribution; Nicole Garnon, South Wales Argus editor; Catherine Parsons, South Wales Argus head of events; Laura Lloyd-Lewis, from Coleg Gwent; Jamie James, from the University of South Wales; Argus reporter Angharad Williams, and Hussain Bayoomi, managing director of Newsquest Wales and Somerset
Picture: christinsleyphotography.co.uk

THE finalists have been chosen in the South Wales Argus Schools and Education Awards.

Held in partnership with the University of South Wales, the awards recognise the extraordinary commitment and dedication that school staff bring every day whether they are teachers, further education lecturers, head teachers, teaching assistants or administrative staff.

The South Wales Argus wants to reward the innovation and creativity that takes place in schools and colleges every day and

By Angharad Williams

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also recognise the value of schools and educators from across Gwent.

There was a broad range of nominees, from teachers and teaching assistants to governors and office staff.

Nominations were sent in by schools, parents, pupils and local education authorities for staff who do outstanding work to inspire and engage pupils and students.

The judging panel for the

awards consisted of Jamie James, Head of School, school of education, early years and social work at the University of South Wales, Karen Welch from Western Power Distribution, Catherine Parsons, head of events at the South Wales Argus, Laura Lloyd-Lewis from Coleg Gwent, Angharad Williams, South Wales Argus Newsquest MD Hussain Bayoomi and South Wales Argus editor Nicole Garnon.

At a judging day held at the Argus offices in Newport, nominations were considered by the judges.

Anyone with prior knowl-

edge or a connection to any of the nominees was excluded from voting in that category.

Finalists were chosen in each of the 14 categories, with a further award given to the School of the Year which will be chosen from the Primary and Secondary School of the Year winners.

We are featuring the awards finalists in the next few pages. Winners will be announced at a presentation evening on March 8 at Chepstow Racecourse which will be hosted by Roy Noble, one of Wales' most popular broadcasters.

A pleasure to host awards



DELIGHT: Managing
director Newsquest Wales
and Somerset Hussain
Bayoomi

WE are absolutely delighted to be celebrating the second Gwent School and Education Awards.

Last year's inaugural event was a great success and we have no doubt that this year's awards will be just as good.

It is our pleasure to host these awards.

Teaching is arguably one of the most important professions there is. It affects every single one of us.

This year we have seen some great nominations that showcase individuals and teams, those who consistently walk the extra mile for their pupils and students.

These individuals dedicate their lives to their profession. More often than not they do not get the recognition they deserve.

And that is why we launched these annual awards.

I want to thank our key sponsor, the University of South Wales, for their support. Without their help and the backing of all our other sponsors these awards would not be possible.

I looking forward to celebrating with you all at Chepstow Racecourse on March 8.



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THIS YEAR'S
FINALISTS



Awards recognise the best
– right across our schools



HEAD: Kerry Waters, head of Pontnewydd Primary



DRIVE: Ceri Parry, from Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd (Newport)



PRAISE: Suzanne Hamer, from Archbishop Rowan Williams VA School, Portskeewett



ASSISTANT: Karen Rogers, from St David's RC Primary School, Cwmbran



TIRELESS: Teaching assistant Tania Webb, from Cwmffrwdroer Primary School, Pontnewynydd

BEING head teacher at a school is a challenging but rewarding role.

Our finalists reflect the very best.

Sponsored by George Street Furnishers, the Head Teacher of the Year Award is given to a head who provides outstanding leadership and inspires the school to achieve success.

Suzanne Hamer, of Archbishop Rowan Williams VA School, Portskeewett, was nominated for the pride she takes in the school.

She enables her staff to bring out the best in her pupils. Parents praise her for the respect she shows pupils and say this is reflected in each and every child.

The second finalist is Ceri Parry, from Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd. The head of the Welsh-language primary school is described as driv-

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ing a culture of learning at the school and leads a school of well-behaved children who love going to school.

The third finalist is Kerry Waters, from Pontnewydd Primary School.

He has been working at the school for 10 years and shows leadership and dedication.

He has built a rapport with pupils, parents, staff and governors which contributes to the school's success.

George Street Furnishers is also sponsoring the Teaching Assistant of the Year Award.

Finalist Lisa Hillman, from Deighton Primary School, Tredegar has been working in education for 10 years.

Nominated because of her enthusiasm, care and love for the children she works with, she has taken on the role of maths subject leader at the school.

Another finalist is Karen Rogers, from St David's RC Primary School, Cwmbran, who is described as kind, caring, understanding and sympathetic.

She supports autistic children on a one-to-one basis and does and does anything to support pupils and encourage them in school life.

Finalist Tania Webb, of Cwmffrwdroer Primary School, Pontnewynydd, works tirelessly to make the learning environment stimulating.

Described as inspiring, parents say she makes pupils feel individually special and helps them work to the best of their ability.



CARE: Teaching assistant Lisa Hillman, from Deighton Primary School, Tredegar.
Picture: christinsleyphotography.co.uk



Working together to be the Best.

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THIS YEAR'S FINALISTS

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A lifetime of achievement and lecturers all recognised



LECTURERS: Peter Britton, Cerys Rees and Gareth Pugh, of Coleg Gwent, all shortlisted in the Further Education Lecturer of the Year award

FURTHER education is also being recognised by the South Wales Argus Schools and Education Awards.

There are three lecturers from Coleg Gwent in the running for the Further Education Lecturer of the Year award which is sponsored by Western Power Distribution.

Peter Britton from the Crosskeys campus is described as someone who lives and breathes his subject. He works with students of all levels and backgrounds and explore every avenue to get them to succeed.

Cerys Rees from the Usk campus is a sports lecturer who always ensures the learner experience is paramount. She has the passion for the learners to succeed and will provide them with invaluable opportunities.

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Gareth Pugh also from the Crosskeys campus has a real passion for his subject and is able to share this with his students.

The interactive media lecturer and course leader works hard to make the industry relevant for his learners and consistently thinking of new ways to do things.

There are people who have dedicated their lives to education, from school staff to governors and fundraising parents.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, which is sponsored by Western Power Distribution, finalists are Christine Arnold

from St Julian's Primary School and Peter Friswell from Coed Eva and Blenheim Schools.

Ms Arnold started working in the school as a mid-day supervisor in the 1980s and now aged 70 and still working at the school. She is described as someone who is always cheerful and always willing to help everyone and is seen as a pillar of the community.

Mr Friswell is the chairman of governors for Coed Eva and Blenheim primary schools and is committed to the community. He is not afraid to challenge decisions but is also supportive of teachers and school staff.

He is highly respected and attends school trips as a volunteer, he reads to pupils, attends school fundraising activities and takes part in assemblies.




ACHIEVERS: Christine Arnold and Peter Friswell are the two finalists in the Lifetime Achievement Award

Western Power Distribution is the electricity distribution business for South Wales, the Midlands and the South West of England, and is responsible for keeping the lights on in over one million homes and businesses in Wales. We are pleased to sponsor the **Lifetime Achievement** category in the **South Wales Argus Schools and Education Awards**.

Good luck to all the finalists.



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THIS YEAR'S
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Inspirational primary teachers in awards final



NOMINATED: Billy Peebles a teacher at Caerleon Lodge Hill School. Picture: christinsleyphotography.co.uk



JOY: Charlotte Kembrey teaches at Griffithstown Primary School Picture: christinsleyphotography.co.uk



POPULAR: Sarah Jarman, from Cwmffrwdocer Primary School

TEACHERS who educate our youngest learners are being recognised by an award.

Primary Teacher of the Year sponsored by Coleg Gwent.

Sarah Jarman from

Cwmffrwdocer Primary School in Pontnewynydd is a popular reception teacher.

The finalist is described by parents as someone who displays her love of teaching through her work.

Another finalist, Charlotte Kembrey from Griffithstown Primary School, was nominated for her work at a local hospital.

She promoted ward visits by pupils to elderly

patients. These visits have made a huge impact and the people at the hospital now look forward to the weekly visits by the children.

Billy Peebles, from Caerleon Lodge Hill

Primary School, is a finalist for the award and motivates his class with new ideas and fresh new ways of teaching.

He can relate to each child in his class and bring out their strengths.

Digital school award

THE use of digital technology in education is being recognised by the Digital Innovation Award.

Sponsored by Coleg Gwent, the first finalist is Luke Mansfield from St Julian's Primary School in Newport.

He is described as someone who is always thinking of new and innovative ways to teach children, giving them technology skills they need for the future.

Marcus Price-Stephens from Mount Pleasant Primary School has put time and effort into raising digital competency at the school.

Technology is being used throughout the school and he has achieved a high level of digital confidence among staff and pupils.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg in Blaina is nominated for the online educational software "Giglets", an online reading resource accessed by pupils inside and outside of the school.

This not only improved the standard of reading at the school, but also increased pupils enjoyment of reading too.

Innovation is also celebrated by the New Teacher of the Year Award, which is sponsored by Audi Cardiff Part of Mon Motors Group.

Samantha Arnold from Chepstow School is a finalist for the new ways she teaches and her positive influence on her pupils.

Georgina Powell from Milton Primary School is also a finalist for creating activities for pupils and including things that she knows the children like.

She is described as a credit to her school.

Shining a light on the best of local schools

THE Primary School of the Year Award is sponsored by Audi Cardiff, part of Mon Motors Group.

The three schools in the running for this award are Crindau Primary School, in Newport, Griffithstown Primary School, Torfaen and Willowtown Community Primary School in Ebbw Vale.

The award recognises a school which has had an outstanding academic year.

The Secondary School of the Year Award, which is sponsored by Ev-Entz, also recognises schools which have had a positive year.

The finalists are Caerleon Comprehensive School, Brynmawr Foundation School and St Joseph's RC High School in Newport.

The winner of the Primary and Secondary School of the Year Awards will be in the running for the overall title of School of the Year, which will be announced at the award ceremony.

Another award that recognises the work of those educating the youngest pupils is the Early Years Education Award, which is sponsored by St John's College, Cardiff.

Bellevue Children's Nursery in Cwmbran is a finalist that does outstanding work in their community.

They nursery is described as warm and welcoming and staff work together to create a strong team that supports each other and the pupils.

The communication class at Kimberley Nursery School in Newport, is a class for children with social and communicational difficulties.

The vast majority have a diagnosis of autism and the teachers support pupils and they clearly love their work.

T class helps children who have no communication skills to gain confidence to express themselves.

Puddle Ducks South East Wales is another finalist.

They offer baby and pre-school swimming lessons, open to all children.

Children are taught vital personal survival skills and water confidence, and classes also act as a bonding experience for parents and children in a supportive setting.



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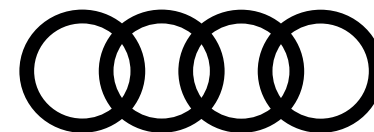
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Rewarding excellence in teaching of Welsh

New teachers in final



NEWPORT: Georgina Powell of Milton Primary School.

Picture: christinsleyphotography.co.uk

THE New Teacher of the Year Award, which is sponsored by Audi Cardiff Part of Mon Motors Group, has two finalists.

Samantha Arnold from Chepstow School was nominated for the way she finds interesting new ways to teach.

The pride she has in her class is clear for all to see. Described as a positive influence on her pupils her character shines through.

Georgina Powell from Milton Primary School in Newport creates activities for pupils that include things that she knows the children like.

She incorporates their hobbies in to their work, making it fun for everyone. She lives, breathes and sleeps teaching and is described as a credit to her school.



CHEPSTOW: Samantha Arnold



WELSH: Gareth Watkins, of Ysgol Bryn Onnen, Lisa Williams, of Croesyceiliog School and Ceri Parry, from Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd

THERE are also awards for those working through the medium of Welsh.

The Welsh Teacher of the Year Award is sponsored by the Monmouthshire Building Society.

The award celebrates a teacher that inspires and engages pupils to learn the Welsh language.

The finalists include Gareth Watkins from Ysgol Bryn Onnen, Pontypool.

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He is described as a teacher whose passion for the Welsh language is infectious and his pupils love learning and are inspired by his lessons.

Ceri Parry from Ysgol

Gymraeg Casnewydd is also a finalist in this category.

Parents say she inspires the culture of the school and inspires pupils to use the Welsh language in the school and in daily life.

The third finalist is Lisa Williams from Croesyceiliog School.

She is described as 'Inspirational' and her passion for the language inspires those around her and pupils now

want to learn the language.

The Best Welsh Language Initiative Awards, sponsored by St John's College, Cardiff.

The finalists are Pwyllgor Ardal y Fenni a'r Cylch for their work organising events to promote the Welsh language to Abergavenny for school children and the people of Abergavenny.

Dr Andy Summors from

Nevill Hall Hospital who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to learning Welsh and now speaks it fluently.

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni are the third finalists for their work with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board's Welsh Language Unit, where they worked together on the Planting the Seed partnership.

Welsh Independent Secondary School of the Year 2017

The Sunday Times -

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Going above and beyond for children in our high schools



FINALIST: Rachel Rudge,
from High Cross Primary
School

TEACHERS don't always get the recognition they deserve for doing a role which is often challenging but ultimately rewarding.

Secondary Teacher of the Year, sponsored by the South Wales Argus, recognises those teachers who work in our secondary schools.

Owain James from St Joseph's RC High School in Newport is described as a teacher who makes lessons fun. Pupils say he is always willing to give up his lunch time or break to talk to them or parents.

The second finalist is Matthew Hunt from King Henry VIII School in Abergavenny. He is described as a special



TEAM: The ASD Base Staff at Cwmbran High School

teacher that always has a smile on his face at school. Teaching is his life, his love and his passion and he holds a belief that every child can succeed. Described as going the extra mile he makes a difference to the education of pupils.

Ion Thomas from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw in Pontypool goes above and beyond when it comes to his pupils. They say that whatever the subject they are struggling with, if he can offer any help he always will. He is passionate about what he

teaches and he inspires his pupils of all abilities to succeed.

The Above and Beyond Award, which is sponsored by the Monmouthshire Building Society, reflects the amazing work done across the education sector.

Finalist Catherine Jones is the owner of the Owl and the Pussycat Nursery in Caerleon.

She was by a parent for the way the nursery caters for her daughter.

She ensures that children's needs are met on a daily ba-

sis. One parent said they have gone above and beyond to care for her child who has extremely difficult needs.

Rachel Rudge from High Cross Primary School is described by parents as "the perfect primary teacher".

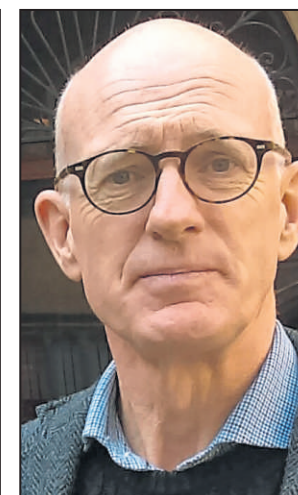
She has been a teacher for more than 10 years and does everything to make sure her children enjoy learning. She adapts to every child's needs and has even fundraised for supplies with the pupils by doing a sponsored skipathon.

The ASD Base Staff at



FUN: Owain James,
of St Joseph's RC
School Newport.

Picture: christinsleyphotography.co.uk



PASSIONATE: Ion Thomas,
from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw



MUSIC: King Henry VIII's Matthew Hunt has been nominated for Secondary School Teacher of the Year

Cwmbran High School are also finalists for the challenging work they do.

The staff support the needs of each and every student giving them the opportunity to access a main-

stream school.

They work tirelessly to deal with sometimes very challenging situations but always strive to ensure the student has the support they need.

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