



EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES
**SUFFOLK
EDUCATION
AWARDS 2023**



SPONSORED BY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



University
of Suffolk



LOCALiQ
PART OF NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP

MEET THE WINNERS

www.suffolkeuawards.co.uk #suffolkeeducationawards

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

**SUFFOLK
EDUCATION
AWARDS 2023**


PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE SUFFOLK EDUCATORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Liz Nice, editor of the East Anglian Daily Times and Ipswich Star, congratulates the winners of this year's Suffolk Education Awards and thanks them for the dedication they have shown towards Suffolk's young people.

The winners of the very first Suffolk Education Awards have been announced. I'd like to congratulate everyone that was shortlisted and of course the winners for their incredible work.

Before returning to work for the East Anglian Daily Times in 2014, I had worked as a lecturer at Suffolk New College and a university lecturer in Sheffield for seven years before that, so I can appreciate how hard our fantastic schools, colleges and the university here work.

I am extremely supportive of our education community and feel we really punch above our weight.

I remember one headteacher ringing me up very worried about his Ofsted report and how we were going to cover it – I think he was a bit surprised when I helped him to present things as they really were, rather than going for the jugular as perhaps other editors might.

I do my best to support all of the education providers in this county because I've been there. I know what it's like. And at the EADT and Ipswich Star, we want to tell the whole story and shout about the successes within the sector.

The awards ceremony at Venue 16 gave everyone a



The winners of the Suffolk Education Awards 2023 at the awards evening. Below, Liz Nice welcomed all attendees to the event

Images: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

chance to celebrate the education sector and its success stories – and it deserves to be recognised.

There are so many good people working in education, providing support and guidance that sometimes can make all the difference to a young person's path.

In all my time as a teacher and lecturer, I never met a single person who didn't really care about their students, despite often never getting to see the outcome of their efforts after students have left school.

I'd like to say well done and thank you on behalf of all those students. Especially now when

teachers are facing a number of challenges and the year's end approaches.

Thank you to our headline sponsor, the University of Suffolk, and to all category sponsors and the drinks reception sponsor – these awards couldn't happen without their support.

Thank you again to our winners and finalists for all they do for the young people of Suffolk and their families. We are lucky to have you!

■ For more information and updates on the Suffolk Education Awards 2024, please keep an eye on the website at suffolkeuawards.co.uk

MEET THE WINNERS

OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND THE WELLBEING AWARD (SPONSORED BY ACTIVE SUFFOLK)

Page 3

EARLY YEARS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR (SPONSORED BY SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL) AND PRIMARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Page 4

SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AND FURTHER OR HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Page 5

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR (SPONSORED BY APPRENTICESHIPS SUFFOLK) AND TEACHING ASSISTANT OR SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Page 6

TEACHER OF THE YEAR (SPONSORED BY TEACH.AC) AND OVERALL EDUCATION HERO OF THE YEAR (SPONSORED BY UNIVERSITY OF SUFFOLK)

Page 7



**University
of Suffolk**

uos.ac.uk

WORKING WITH YOUR UNIVERSITY

Contact engage@uos.ac.uk to find out more about the latest facilities and equipment available for your specialist projects.





OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

AND THE WINNER IS...
INSPIRE
Inspire is a youth charity in Ipswich that takes young people outside of the classroom to help them build the skills they need to become well-rounded adults. Inspire's programmes focus on education, experiential learning and personal development. It provides students with opportunities to get involved in their local communities, work together and uncover their strengths beyond the academic. The charity is also proud of its commitment to inclusivity and the support it provides for students with learning difficulties or disabilities, with 33% of participants disclosing that they face these challenges. The support that Inspire offers can help to change lives, tackling a range of issues that

young people face. In the past 12 months, the charity has helped nearly 1,500 young people to improve their confidence, build new skills, learn to handle adversity and find their path in life. After receiving the award, Neil Fox, quality and improvement manager at Inspire, said: "it feels great to be representing all of my colleagues and the work that everybody does across the ages and across the region supporting young people." Project co-ordinator Jay Wallace-Langan added: "There are obviously a lot of other really good people nominated. But for us to be recognised for what we do, it feels amazing." Congratulations to the finalists: Castle Hill Infant and Junior Schools, Eastern Education Group and Suffolk New College.



Left to right: Jay Wallace-Langan, Neil Fox and Rebekah Rodwell from LOCALiQ, who presented the award
Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY



THE WELLBEING AWARD



Sarah Orves and James Payne (sponsor - Active Suffolk)
Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

AND THE WINNER IS...
ILKETSHALL ST LAWRENCE SCHOOL
Ilketshall St Lawrence School in Beccles, near the Norfolk/Suffolk border, is part of the multi-academy trust ASSET Education. The school follows a 'Complete Human Strategy' approach to wellbeing based on six pillars for excellent physical and mental health: positivity, time well spent, relationships and communication, expertise, structure and stability, and place. Each year, the school writes a comprehensive strategy for wellbeing based on these pillars and works on embedding them within the school while supporting other schools to do the same. Ilketshall St Lawrence has a number of initiatives in place to support pupils' wellbeing, including the implementation of a wellbeing garden, which the children helped to design; monitoring pupil wellbeing and agency termly through a



Sponsored by
Active Suffolk
company called ImpactEd; and carrying out parent engagement surveys to ensure that families are happy with the school's communication. When asked how it felt to win the award, headteacher Sarah Orves said: "I'm overwhelmed to be honest because I did not expect to win it, but I am thrilled that we have won it because I know that all the wellbeing work we do across our trust really has taken off. It has overwhelmed all of us with the impact that it has had." Congratulations to the finalists: Fairstead House School, Lisa Davies - Meadowbrook Playcare and Suffolk New College.



Visit our website to find out more!

We are the Active Partnership for Suffolk, one of 43 Active Partnerships across England.

Our aim is to develop the provision of sport and physical activity in Suffolk by working in conjunction with a wide range of partners, including local authorities, national governing bodies (NGB's), the education sector, the health sector, charitable/voluntary organisations and third sector organisations



EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

**SUFFOLK
EDUCATION
AWARDS 2023**


PRIMARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR



Left to right: Zoe Clancey, Paul Parslow-Williams, Emily Rowe, Carol Peters and Miles Cole from University of Suffolk, who presented the award
Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

AND THE WINNER IS...

OCCOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Occold Primary School is a village school on the outskirts of Eye. It has close links to the community, and the staff all know the children and their families very well.

This year it became the only school in Suffolk to receive a national Reading for Pleasure Award, recognising its promotion of reading for pleasure in and out of the classroom.

Also in 2023, Occold created a sensory room and separate sensory garden for pupils with autism and sensory processing issues, demonstrating its commitment to pupils' emotional, physical and social development.

It also provides a range of extracurricular activities and trips, has run a successful careers fair and holds regular in-school events such as first aid training for Key Stage 2 and a Book Festival Week – creating an

offering which could be considered way beyond a small Suffolk primary school.

When asked what winning this award means for Occold, executive headteacher Paul Parslow-Williams said: "We are really proud of the whole team. It's a whole community effort and we're really pleased [the Suffolk Education Awards] has recognised the importance of broadening the curriculum and making schools an inclusive place for all children."

Head of school Emily Rowe added that the school's goal moving forward is "spreading the word to other schools that school is for all children no matter what their needs are, and that all children can be catered for no matter the size of the school".

Congratulations to the finalists: Rushmere Hall Primary School, St Gregory CEVC Primary School and St Helen's Primary School.

EARLY YEARS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

AND THE WINNER IS... CYGNETS CHILDCARE

Cygnets Childcare is a registered charity based in Great Whelnetham, near Bury St Edmunds. It offers early years education and care for children aged from two years and nine months to five years and wraparound care for children up to age 11.

Operated by a team of volunteers and a small but dedicated staff team, Cygnets has a strong ethos of providing a secure environment for children to thrive – using a wide selection of activities and resources to support this.

Cygnets is also involved in the local community, collaborating with different groups including the Phoenix over-60s club, the local primary school, businesses and the village community centre.

In response to the ongoing impact of the pandemic, Cygnets has provided individualised support to families including

Sponsored by



through the provision of food parcels, transport, flexible services, signposting and social events.

At the awards evening, Cygnets manager Carolyn Stokes said: "We are absolutely thrilled. Absolutely over the moon. We did not expect this. We are a small setting in a small rural village but I think the thing about Cygnets is it's got a big heart. We are all one big happy family and we are here to do what we can for the children and their families."

Congratulations to the finalists: Castle Fields Pre-school, Happy Tots Pre-school and Woodpeckers Private Nursery.



Left to right: Annie Wozzley, Carolyn Stokes, Mandy Anderson, Christina Lewis (sponsor – Suffolk County Council)
Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Does your child turn 2 or 3 years old before 31 December 2023?

You may be eligible for up to 15 - 30 hours funding in the Spring term, starting 1 January 2024

Visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/childcare-funding

Or contact us for more information

Email: childcare.planning@suffolk.gov.uk

Tel: 0345 6080 033





SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

AND THE WINNER IS...
WOODBIDGE SCHOOL
Woodbridge School is a co-educational independent day and boarding school for students aged four to 18. It has been rated 'Excellent' in all areas by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) 2023.

The school was established in 1587 and the original mission was to provide an education for the young who would then give back to their community – this is embedded and continues in all that the school does today.

Combining the best of tradition and innovation, Woodbridge School offers an education that shapes itself around each student, ensuring they become everything they are meant to be.

The senior school offers a balance of creative challenges and academic excellence, as well as interpersonal and social skills, for life throughout school and beyond.

Offering a clear vision and values, the school guides

dynamic, respectful, high-achieving students to not only find their path but to fulfil their potential.

Woodbridge School's headteacher Shona Norman said: "This means the absolute world to the whole of the school, and when I talk about the whole of the school I mean from the pupils through to the maintenance team, the catering team, through to our educators."

"I am so proud of everybody and the part that they've played. This is a phenomenal achievement for us and I am absolutely delighted."

When asked about plans for the future, she said: "As with any school your most precious assets beside your pupils are your teachers, so making sure they are our absolute priority – that's what we are all about going forward."

Congratulations to the finalists: Framlingham College, Hartismere High School and St Benedict's Catholic School.



Left, Adrianna Haynes from LOCALiQ, who presented the award. Right, Shona Norman from Woodbridge School
Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

FURTHER OR HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDER OF THE YEAR



Left to right: Tamara McKenzie from LOCALiQ, who presented the award, Mary Gleave, Marriane Flack and Alan Pease
Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

AND THE WINNER IS...
SUFFOLK NEW COLLEGE
Providing the broadest range of subjects in the county, Suffolk New College cares about its learners, giving them all the skills they need to succeed in whatever steps they take next.

The college has four campuses in Ipswich, Otley (Suffolk Rural) and Leiston and Halesworth (On The Coast).

Students have access to the latest facilities and technologies, industry-focused instruction from experienced lecturers, and personalised attention to ensure that they get the most out of their time at the college.

The college provides a range of support services, including academic advising, tutoring and career guidance, to ensure that students have the resources they need.

All facets of learning are covered, including wellbeing, personal development, activities, society clubs and more.

Suffolk New College has a welcoming and supportive community that is dedicated to helping students achieve their goals.

Alan Pease, principal of Suffolk New College, said he is "enormously proud" to win this award.

"We've been on an enormous journey since probably 2019, and it just goes to show that if you create a culture that puts the learner at the heart of everything you do and you have great colleagues, you can achieve great things."

Congratulations to the finalists: Abbeygate Sixth Form College, One Sixth Form College and West Suffolk College.



SUFFOLK magazine
FOOD & DRINK
AWARDS 2024

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
EAST ANGLIAN
DAILY TIMES

HEADLINE SPONSOR
Thomas
Kiddley
FOODSERVICE

www.suffolkfada.co.uk

OPEN FOR
ENTRIES



IT'S BACK!

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

**SUFFOLK
EDUCATION
AWARDS 2023**


TEACHING ASSISTANT OR SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR



Left to right: Jacqueline Bircham, Charlotte Richardson and Liz Nice from the EADT and Ipswich Star
Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

AND THE WINNER IS...

CHARLOTTE RICHARDSON
Charlotte has a dual role at The Beeches Community Primary School in Ipswich. She supports speech and language development in early years classes and is also the family and communities lead.

As speech and language lead, Charlotte uses a wide range of evidence-based approaches to quickly assess and address their developmental needs, helping those with early language delays to catch up with their peers.

Charlotte has also been there to help families navigate discreetly through a range of challenges. She has created a project supporting families to extend the range of meals they are comfortable cooking and a five-week drop-in workshop where parents and carers can gain confidence in

reading to their children. She also runs holiday clubs and is a constant source of new ideas and projects.

Charlotte said that being named Teaching Assistant or Support Staff of the Year is "huge actually, because we all do so much in school and I think sometimes you get really dragged down with all the rubbish, but it's things like this that make you think 'oh, it is worth it' and it's great."

She added: "We are in a very deprived area and want to turn it on its head, so that the children aspire to be better and do more. It can be different; it doesn't have to be how it's always been."

Congratulations to the finalists: Gaynor Marsh – One Sixth Form and College, Lis Sherriff – Thorndon Primary School, and Bebe Rolfe, Stowupland High School.

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

AND THE WINNER IS...

NILA ESTELLER
Nila is a business support apprentice in Suffolk County Council's Apprenticeships Suffolk team. When applying for the role, she knew she had a number of challenges to face including working in an office environment, something unfamiliar to her, and studying maths to achieve a Level 2 qualification, something which had evaded her in the past.

Although initially shy in her role, Nila has demonstrated courage and resilience and has worked to become an integral member of the team. Her biggest achievement to date is taking a lead role in planning the Apprenticeships Suffolk event held at Trinity Park this year, and in March 2023 she achieved her Level 2 Functional Skills qualification in Maths – a

Sponsored by



testament to her growth and hard work.

"It feels really good to be acknowledged," commented Nila backstage at the awards evening, "and to be able to share that it's possible to overcome barriers that you might not ever have thought you would have been able to."

She added that she is focused on her current role for now but is remaining open-minded about her future after her apprenticeship.

Congratulations to the finalists: Adam Wilson – apprentice greenkeeper, Jane Thorp – apprentice electrician, and Rhys Mower – engineering apprentice.



Left, Nila Esteller. Right, Sharon Adam (sponsor - Apprenticeships Suffolk)

Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY



01473 263555
apprenticeships@suffolk.gov.uk
www.apprenticeshipssuffolk.org

Proud to Sponsor the
Apprentice of the Year
2023





OVERALL EDUCATION HERO OF THE YEAR



Left to right: Paul Parslow-Williams, Zoe Clancey, Carol Peters, Emily Rowe and Dr Ellen Buck (sponsor - University of Suffolk)
Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

AND THE WINNER IS...
OCCOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Based on the outskirts of Eye, Occold Primary School is a village school with a close relationship with the community and aspirations to expand pupils' horizons far beyond the limits of the national curriculum and the small school's rural location. This year, it became the only school in Suffolk to receive a national Reading for Pleasure Award, recognising its promotion of reading for pleasure in and out of the classroom. It also provides a wide variety of extracurricular activities and trips, has run a successful careers fair and holds regular in-school events such as trips to London, sporting events, regular reading cafés, school shows and training courses. Occold has also developed its offering to support pupils'

Sponsored by
University of Suffolk
emotional, physical and social development this year by creating a sensory room and separate sensory garden for pupils with autism and sensory processing issues. Commenting on winning the school's second award of the evening and the top accolade, Occold executive headteacher Paul Parslow-Williams said: "It's very humbling to be amongst such inspirational award winners for all the different categories today, and to be compared to them is a real privilege really because we have had some really moving tributes this evening."

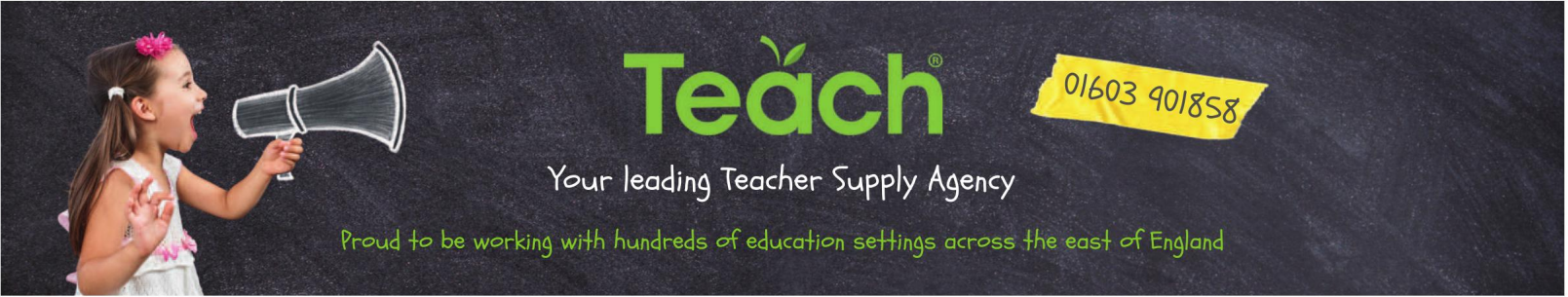
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

AND THE WINNER IS...
KATHARINE MINNS – ALL SAINTS COFE SCHOOL
Katharine Minns is head of School and class teacher at All Saints CofE School in Laxfield, near Woodbridge. As a Specialist Leader of Education, she has mentored many students and teachers who have gone on to become senior leaders. Katharine goes beyond the extra mile for families and pupils. During lockdown, she organised food parcels, support with heating and educational resources for families across a wide region, coordinating support from many different churches. She also created a 'call and collect' library, where parents could pick up new reading books for their children outside the school and return books to then be quarantined. Katharine strives to create unique opportunities for the

Sponsored by
Teach
All Saints pupils and her work on the school choir was recognised this year when the Laxfield Choir was asked to be part of the Children's National Choir for Children In Need. When asked how it felt to be 2023's Teacher of the Year, Katharine said: "I'm stunned, it's wonderful. It's amazing to be able to represent my school and my trust which I am very proud to be part of. I am also very thankful for the children." Congratulations to the finalists: Charli Bignell – Suffolk New College and Julie Frost-Read – West Suffolk College.



Katherine Minns and Phil King (sponsor - Teach.ac)
Image: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY





OH WHAT A NIGHT!

The finalists gathered at Venue 16, Ipswich on Thursday, November 9 for a night of celebrations for our outstanding education sector.



Images: MATT POTTER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

