engage in their future

2020 National Awards

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Celebrating its tenth year in 2020, the *engage in their future* National Awards is a unique scheme that recognises and celebrates the amazing progress and achievements made by the students from the organisation's national network of member schools.

Staff from *engage in their future* member schools are invited to share examples of the outstanding accomplishments of their students by nominating them for a 2020 National Award.

With nine categories available, the National Awards celebrate so much more than just academic attainment as the scheme provides the opportunity to recognise and applaud achievements of all kinds. So whilst nominations for progress in the classroom are welcomed, the National Awards is also about celebrating personal resilience, cohesive teamwork, innovation and creativity, being a good citizen and contributing to the world around us.

Further information about the categories available and some guidance notes about the nomination process are enclosed in this brochure, but if you have any specific queries about the *engage in their future* 2020 National Awards, please do email us at georgina_engageintheirfuture@aol.co.uk.

Why get involved with the National Awards?

- **It's an excellent opportunity to recognise and celebrate the progress and achievements of your students on a national platform**
- **There are a variety of individual and group categories that reflect a wide range of achievements and contributions**
- **Every nominee is sent a Certificate of Nomination**
- **Short-listed winners are invited, along with family and staff, to receive their certificate and trophy at our National Awards Ceremony**
- **The National Awards Ceremony is a prestigious and inspirational event which offers excellent hospitality**

How do I submit a nomination?

You can either complete the enclosed Nomination Form and send it to us (along with any supporting documents) to: *engage in their future* 2020 National Awards, PO Box 451, Horley, RH6 6AW. Additional copies of the form can be downloaded from our website www.engageintheirfuture.org.

Alternatively, you can go online to https://eitf.wufoo.com/forms/engage-in-their-future-2020-national-awards/ to complete and submit a nomination, including up to five supporting documents.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 17th April 2020.

About the Awards Ceremony

All short-listed students (usually three in each category) will be invited to gather with family, staff and peers to be presented with their certificate and trophy at the National Awards ceremony at the Worsley Park Marriott Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday 1st July.

The National Awards Ceremony is typically quite an emotional two hours as the achievements and progress of the students are celebrated and applauded. A short synopsis of each nomination is read out before the short-listed nominee is invited to the front of the room to collect their certificate and trophy and to have their photo taken - no one leaves empty handed.

What a truly inspirational event – very moving! Thank you for organising this amazing event.

Over the nine years of the National Awards, the ceremony has been held at different locations across the country, and welcomed special guests that reflect the inspirational efforts of the students.

Attendance at the National Awards Ceremony is not obligatory, and we recognise that attending may involve long journeys which can be particularly challenging for the children we work with and those travelling with them.

For those that are unable to make it to the National Awards Ceremony, we will always consider alternative arrangements to remotely present the trophy and certificate during the ceremony. Failing that the trophy and certificate will be sent to your school to present, ensuring that the winner still receives their moment of glory.

Please see our National Awards video at:
engageintheirfuture.org/national-awards-video

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It has been a privilege to be here & listen to those stories. This is our first time but won’t be our last. We are going home with 2 gold awards but more importantly for us a sense of knowing what we do is worthwhile.

A fantastic event – what a lovely validation of all the hard work by the winners and their families, carers, teachers etc. Fantastic hospitality too!

Wonderful afternoon. So many great achievements. So proud of them all.

Very proud to be here with our amazing students!

Previous National Awards attendees

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Categories & Criteria

Outstanding Personal Progress (individual award)

The winner of this category will have demonstrated above all others, genuine and measurable progress in terms of personal development. There will be clear examples provided of the nature and impact of this development upon both the individual and his/her relationships with peers, staff and/or others within the school or local community. There will also be evidence of measurable outcomes and specific reference made to available pre- and post-measures which may further clarify the outstanding nature of the individual's personal progress.

Outstanding Achievement (individual award)

The winner of this category will have demonstrated, above all others, genuine and measurable progress in terms of achievement. There will be clear examples provided of the nature and impact of this achievement upon both the individual and his/her performance in the learning and/or social context. There will also be evidence of measurable outcomes and specific reference made to pre- and post-measures which clarify the outstanding nature of the individual's progress towards, and actual, achievement.

Outstanding Personal Resilience (individual award)

The winner of this category will have demonstrated, above all others, a genuine and undisputable ability to 'bounce back' from an adverse event or series of events, or to have faced an ongoing difficulty with courage and growing confidence. There will be clear examples of how they overcame the difficulties and challenges in order to achieve a positive personal outcome. There will also be evidence of measurable outcomes and specific reference made to the personal and behavioural aspects which demonstrate the outstanding nature of the individual's personal resilience.

Good Citizen Award (individual or team award)

The winner of this category will have consistently demonstrated, above all others, some or all of the behaviours and attitude of a good citizen. This may include: respecting others and their property; being helpful and considerate of others; a willingness to learn and work hard; striving to always be well-mannered and pleasant; and being actively involved in, and contributing to, their community. Clear examples should be provided of these behaviours, as well as evidence of their impact on others.

Innovation and Creativity (individual, team or school award)

The winner of this category will have demonstrated, above all others, genuine and measurable innovation and creativity. This award can be given to an individual, a team or a school. For teams and schools, they may consist of any number of students, have worked together over any period of time, and have been comprised of the same members or its membership may have changed over time. There will be clear examples provided of the nature and impact of this innovation and creativity and evidence will be provided regarding the unique nature of the project or work undertaken.

Team of the Year (team award)

The winning Team of the Year will have demonstrated, above all others, outstanding cohesion and team work to achieve a specific task or in participation of a specific event. There will be clear examples of the team working together to overcome obstacles, meet challenges and achieve goals. The team may consist of any number of students and may consistently have had the same members, or its membership may have changed over time. The team may have worked together for a few days, a term or longer. But the Team of the Year will have worked cohesively, supported each other and demonstrated consistent positive team spirit and unity.

International Award (individual, team or school award)

The winner of this category will have demonstrated, above all others, a genuine and measurable contribution internationally. This award can be given to an individual, a team or a school. For teams and schools, they may consist of any number of students, have worked together over any period of time, though need not have been comprised of the same members for its entirety. There will be clear examples provided of the nature and impact of this contribution and the ways in which the individual/team/school identified, justified and developed their role/s. Evidence will also be provided regarding the unique nature of the project or work undertaken internationally alongside relevant or appropriate feedback from individuals or groups on the receiving end of such a contribution.

Sports Student/s of the Year (individual, team or school award)

The winner of this category will have demonstrated, above all others, exceptional achievement/s or progress in the area of sport. This may be a measurable personal improvement over a period of time, success at a single or series of sporting event/s, or an ongoing commitment to encourage the participation, enjoyment and improvement of others in sport. There will be clear examples provided of how the spirit of sportsmanship, fair play, perseverance, dedication and, if appropriate, team work, were demonstrated. This award can be given to an individual, a team or a school.

Leavers Success Story (individual award)

This award is in recognition of the achievements of students that have left an SEMH school to either transfer to mainstream school, enter a further education setting, or take on full or part-time employment. There will be evidence of the progression of the student during their time at school, and clear examples of their ongoing improvement outside of that environment. The winner of this category will have demonstrated, above all others, measurable personal progress and achievement during their time in education and, if relevant, beyond.

What makes a Good Nomination?

If the progress and achievements of a student are considered worthy enough to be nominated for a National Award, it's only fair that the nomination itself provide a true sense of that achievement and what it took to get there.

Whilst there is no 'good' or 'bad' way of writing a nomination, and the decisions of the Judges are based only on the achievements of the students, the more information that is provided about the background, the journey and the outcome the better.

But time is precious and writing a comprehensive statement may take a while. So to help make things a little easier, we've pulled together a checklist to consider alongside the award category criteria and the Terms and Conditions.

Does the nomination...

☐ **...provide information about the background of the student/s?**

We appreciate that there may be sensitive information that cannot be included but having even just a vague sense of the history can help put the achievements into context.

☐ **...identify the challenges, barriers and differences that were faced?**

What were the challenges that were faced – physical? emotional? social? Sometimes, how obstacles are approached, and how we respond to the consequences, is just as important as whether or not they were overcome.

☐ **...provide examples that illustrate the progress / achievements?**

This could be physical evidence such as samples of work, assessment results, certificates or awards received, letters of thanks or acknowledgement, photographs, and so on. Or it could be examples and descriptions of actions or behaviours that were observed.

☐ **...share the current circumstances?**

Is the journey complete? Are there plans and ambitions in place to continue that journey? Have others been impacted or affected?

Sample Nomination Form

Reason for Nomination:
(Please attach additional sheets if required.)

We would like to nominate this student for the National Awards because of the extraordinary progress he has made and the perseverance and determination he has demonstrated.

This student joined our school about 11 months ago. Having struggled to settle in several mainstream settings, his behaviour had been described as "disruptive" and "challenging". Assessments had indicated that he was several years below age group standards in both maths and reading.

It's useful to have some indication of the history or starting point of a nomination. It doesn't have to be too detailed but an indication of the background helps to understand the wider context.

The first couple of months proved to be tough as he struggled to adapt to the new environment. He made little effort to engage with lessons, was resistant to the attempts of staff to involve him in school community activities and seemed reluctant to make new friends.

What obstacles were faced? Over what period of time? Were there any setbacks?

However, through his own perseverance and determination this young man has made extraordinary progress in all aspects of school life. He has demonstrated courage in trying new challenges and activities where he has shown real aptitude for leadership roles. He continues to work hard on developing his communication skills, empathy for others and sense of self. In class, his hard work is resulting in significant improvements in all subject areas (please see attached testimonials and outcomes).

He has developed a strong network of friends, sets a good example to new and younger students, and has established some strong foundations for himself for the future. He is a pleasure to have in the classroom, an excellent ambassador for the school and a worthy nominee for the National Awards.

The 'how' (how they got to where they are now, how challenges were overcome along the way) is just as important as the outcome.

Even if the journey isn't over yet, the progress so far is worth celebrating.

What might the future hold?

If you still have any queries please feel free to contact us at: georgina_engageintheirfuture@aol.co.uk

Improving life chances for children experiencing Social, Emotional and Mental Health challenges (SEMH).

To find out more please visit

engageintheirfuture.org