

SLA Inspiration Award

NEW SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The **SLA Inspiration Award** has been running since 2014 and we have seen some truly inspiring and exciting school libraries. The past two years have seen twelve schools shortlisted from across the UK (and even one in the Netherlands) with four of those schools hailed as the most inspirational.

The award has been made annually to the school library space that shows inspiration, innovation, creativity and resourcefulness in its library design and in use, either through creative use of specific products or promotions. The Award was created to set future standards for the recognition of excellence in school library design.

At the heart of the Inspiration Award are the schools who take part. Our aim is to make the application and judging process as smooth as possible allowing schools plenty of time to submit entries and for longlisted schools to prepare for judges visits.

Going forward, the Inspiration Award will take place biennially with prizes awarded in both primary and secondary sectors. The entry period has been extended giving schools more time to complete their application. Judges visits to schools that make the longlist will take place from late spring to early in the summer term with the shortlist announced late June/early July.

The award will continue to be sponsored by Gresswell and LFC, part of the Demco Europe family of companies who will be increasing the prize money to £750 for the winners

and £200 for the runners up in each category.

Will Hinks, Managing Director of Demco Europe said 'We are proud to support the Inspiration Award as a way of highlighting the importance of school libraries in both the primary and secondary phase.'

He added 'To see libraries pupils once described as boring and unexciting transformed into spaces they now say are inviting and make them want to read more reinforces how valuable school libraries are, and we are committed to giving school libraries a platform to be celebrated.'

So, does your school library have what it takes to join Oak Tree Primary School, Dixons Allerton Academy, All Saints' Primary School and Valley Park School in the Inspiration Award hall of fame?

The next SLA Inspiration Awards will take place in 2017. Entry will open on Monday **11 April 2016** and close on Friday 10 February 2017.

