

Literacy Improvement Award 2022/3. Third year (of three)

Bryan Marsh 'ring fenced' £2,000 of the £10,000 annual SJF, for Literacy Awards for three years. This year sees the final year of this funding, and these are details.

1.South-East Wales: Shannon Hawkins – Coleg y Cymoedd Recommendation from: Tanya Gordon (Skills for Further Study Coordinator) Coleg Y Cymoedd.

Tanya Gordon recommended Shannon Hawkins who struggled with her literacy skills due to un-diagnosed dyslexia. Since coming to the college, she has worked incredibly hard to improve both her literacy and numeracy skills. In 2022, she achieved the Level 2 Diploma in Skills for Further Study. Shannon has further developed her literacy skills within the Level 3 Skills for Further Study course. Her confidence has grown, and she has made huge strides in her English Language and Communication Skills. She has also worked very hard to improve her research skills, answering questions in class



and presenting information to her peers. As a result of this, her own language skills have improved greatly with the use of electronic reading and writing equipment. Her literacy skills will be further improved with continued support and appropriate learning equipment. Shannon will complete the Access Level 3 diploma in Healthcare to take up her place at university to study Midwifery in September 2023. Shannon really enjoyed her studies and continually motivated others; she is very much a team player. She has many qualities including being a conscientious and hardworking individual with a positive and determined attitude.

Shannon is a hardworking, caring, kind and dedicated student who deserves to be acknowledged for her hard work and commitment to self-improvement. The award will be used to enable Shannon to purchase relevant equipment for her studies, such as a surface pro, that she can use to write on and use the phonic and dictate applications. Shannon is very grateful to have received this award.

Tanya added... I would like to personally thank the WLCow for keeping our learners in mind for this award. It has made a huge difference to our learners and helped them buy much needed resources, which has enabled them to progress further in their learning journey. Just to give you an update on our previous learners who have won this award.

- ***Luke Takacs is now studying History, Politics and International Relations at Holloway, University of London.***
- ***Emma Hughes, went on to win the Access Learner of the Year Award and has also been nominated for the National Keith Fletcher Award. She is now studying Disability Nursing at the University of South Wales.***

Your support has been incredible and has made such a difference to these young people's lives.

2. South-West Wales: Shawna John – Pembroke College

Recommendation from: Lucy Murdoch, Interim Curriculum Area Manager for Skills, Former Section Lead: English Pembrokeshire College.



Shawna joined Pembrokeshire College in 2019 on the Level 2 Health and Social care programme. She was also enrolled on a GCSE English resit programme. Shawna is dyslexic. Despite great effort and determination, Shawna did not achieve her C grade during that academic year. This prevented Shawna from progressing onto Level 3 and although this knocked her confidence it did not deter her from trying and re-engaging with her English studies.

Shawna proceeded to enrol on the Level 2 Skills for Further study programme and again attempted her GCSE English and successfully achieved a C grade. During this year she attended additional English support sessions outside of her timetabled sessions and worked with the Specialist Support Assessor. This resulted in her being awarded a reader pen to assist her in class and during exams. Shawna's English lecturer nominated Shawna for a Pembrokeshire College's Skills' Award where she was recognised for her hard work and commitment to her English studies.

Shawna is now studying Level 3 Health and Social Care and is in the process of securing employment in the NHS as a Health Care worker. The WLCow award is of huge benefit - helping her with her ultimate goal to undertake a nursing degree. She will use the Award for IT resources and books for her level 3 course.

Shawna was presented with her award by the Pembroke College Principal. She wanted me to pass on "Thank for you this award. At the end of the academic year I am looking to gain employment in the NHS and to continue you my studies to further progress. This award will be a huge support in achieving this goal. Thank you"

Lucy added ...Can I also extend a huge thanks for this opportunity. Learners often have to overcome a number of barriers when studying to improve their literacy on a resit programme. Awards like this are few and far between, yet so important when recognising and celebrating the dedication and perseverance many individuals put in to succeed.

3. Mid Wales: Katryna Hitchin – NPTC

Recommendation from: **Martina Syrovatkova Lecturer NPTC Group of Colleges**



I have had the pleasure of witnessing at first hand Katryna's improvement in literacy skills and her dedication to the Foundation Access course. For this reason, I feel that she is a worthy candidate for the Award. Katryna is an adult returning to education and she is currently studying Foundation Access L2, hoping to progress onto an Access to Higher Education L3 next academic year. She is attending my ICT module

covering Word Processing Techniques, Spreadsheet Techniques and Creating Digital Presentations at Level 2.

Katryna is undertaking an Agored Cymru Level 2 Diploma in Skills for Further Study – the focus of the course is to develop Katryna's proficiency in a range of different skills which include writing, research, presentations, ICT, Welsh Culture and Sustainability:

Katryna is expected to complete the Diploma successfully as she is hard working, and she is very enthusiastic about the subject content. She submits assignments within the required time and is thorough in her assignment content. Katryna does a lot of research before she hands in her assignment, and this is evident in the final draft. She is keen to become a nurse we feel that Katryna is more than capable of this. Katryna is a lively student, and she makes appropriate contributions in the class. She understands others' views, responding constructively and appropriately.

She is very organised in her approach to work and prioritises her workload to meet all the requirements placed on her by tutors. Katryna always deals well with sudden changes and has an incredibly positive attitude. I believe Katryna is a good role model as she is always positive, very enthusiastic, yet calm and confident in herself. I have a great confidence in her and what she is going to achieve in the future. Katryna will use the Award to purchase a laptop to help with her next course.

This is what Katryna has written: "I have to say a huge thank you to everyone who believed in me, thinking I am good enough to be nominated for this award. I never would have thought I could have won it! I am so thankful and grateful for all my lecturers; I'm learning more and more every single day and I am developing my proficiency in a variety of different skills such as writing, reading, research and ICT. This award will help me massively I will buy a new laptop, Winning the award has giving me a big boost and a huge smile on my face, once again thank you very much!"

3. North Wales: Rowena Jones – Grwp Llandrillo Menai

Recommendation from: Holly Maxwell Lecturer and leader for A Levels, Access, Business and Education, Grwp Llandrillo Menai, Rhos on Sea campus,

I would very much like to recommend Rowena Jones for this year's Improving Literacy Award. Rowena is one of our Access to HE learners studying on the healthcare pathway. She has made excellent progress on the Level 3 Skills for Further Study course. She hopes to progress onto nursing at degree level.

Rowena's first language is Welsh, but she is choosing to study in English. Rowena has been diagnosed with Dyslexia and ADHD. Thus, she has overcome significant hurdles in to make very good progress.

Rowena is a mature student and has returned to full time education to pursue her dream of a career in nursing.

Rowena always works extremely hard to ensure that she achieves well on the course. As a result, her assignments are to an excellent standard, despite the additional challenges that she faces with her literacy and focus on tasks.

I believe that with this determination she will succeed in her ambitions. I would like to nominate Rowena for this award so that she can purchase some additional software and ICT to support her learning journey.