



Scottish Book Trust announces new Bookbug Hero Award Learning Professional Award also seeks stars of education

Scottish Book Trust, the national charity transforming lives through reading and writing, has announced today (Wednesday 14 August) that the Bookbug Hero Award and the Learning Professional Award 2020 are open for applications.

Brand new this year, the Bookbug Hero Award has been created by Scottish Book Trust and will be run in association with Walker Books. The award will honour someone working with Bookbug who has used the Programme to make a real difference to the lives of the young children, families and communities they work with.

Scottish Book Trust is asking people across the country to nominate a librarian, early years worker, volunteer, health visitor, or anyone who uses Bookbug in their work for the inaugural Bookbug Hero Award. The winner will receive a bundle of picture books worth £500 from Walker Books.

Nominations are also open for the Learning Professional Award, now in its fourth year, which recognises a teacher or librarian who has had a powerful impact on the reading culture of young people and adults in their community.

School teachers and librarians across Scotland are urged to nominate inspiring colleagues who are passionate advocates of reading and writing in their place of work, for the award which will be presented at an event in April 2020. In partnership with Browns Books for Students, the winner will receive £500 worth of books for their school or library to help them continue their outstanding work.

Deena Wren, last year's Learning Professional Award winner, said:

"I was extremely surprised and very honoured to receive the Learning Professional Award. It has been a huge opportunity to promote the work of school librarians more widely. Ultimately though, the fact that the nomination had initially come from my colleagues and pupils continues to mean the most to me. I would genuinely encourage anyone who wishes to highlight the work of their talented co-worker not to hesitate to put in their nomination!"

Marc Lambert, CEO at Scottish Book Trust, said:

"At Scottish Book Trust, we work with so many passionate partners, and these awards allow us to celebrate their hard work. Every year, we uncover so many inspiring stories, and we encourage those who know a book-loving champion to highlight their great work. We are particularly excited to introduce a new award celebrating those who work so tirelessly with our Bookbug Programme across the country. Many thanks to Walker Books and Browns Books for Students for making these awards possible."

Karen Lotz, Group Managing Director at Walker Books, said:

"At Walker we appreciate the influence extraordinary individuals can have in supporting communities to grow their reading culture, and as such we're delighted to get behind any initiative that celebrates and applauds these individuals. Scottish Book Trust's programmes have a huge impact on families and young people, and the vast array of practitioners who help implement them do stellar work, so we are thrilled to support the Bookbug Hero Award."



Browns Books for Students also support the Outstanding Achievement Award. Last year's winner was writer and illustrator Theresa Breslin, recognising her thirty year long career as an advocate for children's literacy and libraries.

Claire Smith, Sales Manager for Browns Books for Students, said:

"Browns Books for Students is proud to be able to support Scottish Book Trust's Learning Professional Award for the fourth year. As a specialist educational supplier we love hearing about the impact of successful reading projects, and this award represents a rare opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding and inspirational work undertaken by Scottish teachers and librarians each and every day."

Nominations for both awards close on 15 November, and can be made online at www.scottishbooktrust.com/sbta

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Notes to Editors

For more information or interview requests, please contact Keara Donnachie on keara.donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com or 0131 524 0184 / 07956 773 749.

Scottish Book Trust

Scottish Book Trust is a national charity changing lives through reading and writing. We inspire and support the people of Scotland to read and write for pleasure through programmes and outreach work that include:

- Gifting books to every child in Scotland to ensure families of all backgrounds can share the joy of books at home.
- Working with teachers to inspire children to develop a love of reading, creating innovative classroom activities, book awards and author events.
- Supporting Scotland's diverse writing community with our training, awards and writing opportunities.
- Funding a range of author events for the public to enjoy and promoting Scottish writing to people worldwide.

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Browns Books For Students

Browns Books for Students, sponsor of the Bookbug Picture Book Prize and the Scottish Book Trust Learning Professional Award, supplies books, eBooks and DVDs for schools, colleges and businesses. More information on Browns Books for Students, is available at www.brownsbfs.co.uk

Walker Books

Home to books for all ages, Walker Books publishes many award-winning authors, illustrators, and literary franchises including Anthony Horowitz, Cassandra Clare, Lucy Cousins, *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram, Anthony Browne, Patrick Ness, and *Where's Wally?* by Martin Handford. Walker Books is part of the vibrant international Walker Books Group that includes Walker Books Australia; Candlewick Press in America and its new division, Walker Books US; and Walker Productions. The Walker Books Group enjoys a unique ownership structure which includes employees from around the world and more than 150 long-term authors and illustrators. Walker is the world's leading wholly independent publisher of English-language children's books.

Creative Scotland

Scottish Book Trust is supported by Creative Scotland through Regular Funding. Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. It enables people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. It distributes funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com, and follow @creativescots www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland