



BESA Awards 2023



We are honoured to commemorate the monumental milestone of BESA's 90th year by unveiling a momentous occasion: the inaugural BESA Awards. This distinguished event will serve as a grand celebration, showcasing the unrivalled excellence exhibited by BESA members. It will be an extraordinary platform where the finest achievements within our industry are heralded, illuminating the path for us all to derive inspiration and invaluable lessons from our esteemed colleagues. Furthermore, the BESA Awards will serve as a testament to the profound positive influence BESA members exert in enhancing the educational outcomes of children across the globe.

Caroline Wright,
Director General, BESA

“ We introduced these awards as part of our 90th year celebrations, to recognise the achievements of our members. I always knew that our members are fantastic but the entries we have received have shown just how brilliant they truly are. ”

Julia Garvey
Deputy Director
General, BESA

“ Remarkable people and their investors make amazing things happen in our education system. We are delighted to support an event that not only celebrates their achievements but also showcases all that is great in UK education resources through the BESA awards! ”

Frank Suttie
Director, Freeths

Thanks to our judges



Aditya Gupta

CEO of India Didactics Association

Aditya Gupta is the CEO of India Didactics Association, a pan-India association dedicated to education and skills. With 16 years of experience in the education domain, he single-handedly established the association, representing India globally. Aditya also founded 'Didac India,' the largest educational and skills resource event in South Asia, gathering educators and industry partners. He serves on advisory panels of international associations and actively collaborates with countries like USA, UK, Switzerland, Germany, and Australia. Aditya is the founding partner of the Asian Summit on Education & Skills (ASES), the Indian chapter of the prestigious Education World Forum (EWF) in London. He works closely with the Ministry of Education in India at both central and state levels, forming alliances and partnerships with industry partners.



Lesley Davies

National Leader of Governance, Department for Education

Lesley has worked in the education and training sector for the majority of her career. She is Executive Director for the Chartered Institution for Further Education (CIFE) and Honorary Vice President of the Council of British International Schools. In September 2022, she became the Chair of the British Council's Education Advisory Board. Lesley is also a Non-Executive Director for Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust and is Chair Designate of Cheshire College South & West.

In 2015, Lesley was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to education and in 2022 she was awarded Commander of the British Empire. She is also a fellow of the Chartered Institute for Further Education.



Geoff Gladding

Former Head of the Department for International Trade's International Education Team

Geoff Gladding led on the creation and delivery of the Government's International Education Strategy, in which Education Technology and supplies play a strong part. Geoff is now retired from his public service role but continues to retain an active interest in the international success of the UK education sector.



Professor Rose Luckin

Professor at UCL and Founder/CEO of EVR Ltd

Rosemary (Rose) Luckin is a UCL Professor, Founder of EVR Ltd and host of the EdTech podcast. She is renowned for her research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and education. She was named one of the 20 most influential people in education in the Seldon List 2017 and was winner of the ISTE Impact Award 2023.

Rose is frequently asked to provide expert evidence to policy makers, in both Houses of the UK Parliament, the European Commission and further afield. Rose has published prolifically in peer-reviewed academic journals, books and conferences, and her most recent book, 'AI for Schoolteachers' is an essential and accessible guide to AI for anyone involved in education.



Ann Mroz

Former Editor of TES (Times Educational Supplement) and Times Higher Education

Ann Mroz is the former editor of TES (Times Educational Supplement) and Times Higher Education. She is a trustee of the charities Shine, the Institute for Research in Schools, the Academies Enterprise Trust and the Reach Foundation. She is on the education advisory group of the Sutton Trust, the advisory board of the Children's Commissioner and the advisory board of the Education Policy Institute. She is also a member of the Princeton University Press European advisory board. She was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 2021 for services to education.



Fiona McLean

Education Consultant

Fiona has worked in education marketing for 30 years, primarily in the EdTech sector, but also in publishing and higher education. She has worked for some of the largest brands in the industry including RM, Promethean, Discovery Education and Oracle.

In 2012, Fiona set up Watergaw, a small consultancy offering PR, comms, brand and marketing consultancy to the education sector and beyond. Through Watergaw she worked with schools, MATs, international education publishers, start-ups and long-established EdTechs helping them meet their business objectives through targeted marketing and branding programmes. She is also a non-parent advisor to an international school and Chair of Trustees of a day centre in Windsor.

Team of the Year

The Winner
Arbor Education
Operation Big Wave

Sponsored by



This award celebrates teams of all sizes, be it a department, project team, or even an informal group within their organisation, who have displayed remarkable teamwork and collaboration. We are seeking teams that surpass individual contributions, those who have seamlessly worked together to provide tangible value or service to the business.

Team of the Year shortlist



Arbor Education
Operation Big Wave



Bazaar Group
European Expansion Project Team



Havering Education Services
MIS Support Team



Oriel Square
Project Leadership Team



Reading Solutions
Operations Team

What the judges thought

A quickly pulled together team to seize the short term opportunity to offer a brave and imaginative solution addressing a real pain point for schools in MIS provision.

Rising Star Award

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LendED
 Your EdTech lending platform

The Winner
Dylan McCrimmon
 Joskos Solutions

Which team member has made a significant impact on their organisation this year? This award focuses on outstanding talent, individuals who are either early in their careers or new to the industry. BESA values not just high achievers, but those who embody the qualities that make them indispensable team members. We believe these individuals have a bright future ahead and aim to utilise this award to acknowledge their potential.

Rising Star Award shortlist



Andrew Ridgway
 Everybody Counts



Chris Bradshaw
 thisislanguage.com



Dylan McCrimmon
 Joskos Solutions



Robbie Bowed
 Reading Solutions UK



Sarah Hales
 Havering Education Services

What the judges thought
 The judges were blown away by Dylan's extraordinary story. His determination, resilience and achievements are extremely impressive, especially in one so young. He is a wonderful role model.

Inspirational Leader

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The Winner
Al Kingsley
 NetSupport

Exceptional leaders are revered for their ability to inspire, earn respect, lead through example, and achieve remarkable outcomes. This award recognises CEOs, managers, and industry leaders who bring out the utmost potential in their teams, offering invaluable insights, providing clear guidance, and pioneering industry advancements.

Inspirational Leader Award shortlist



Al Kingsley
 NetSupport



Andy Wilson
 Kent County Supplies



Lynne Taylor
 GDPR in Schools



Michael McGarvey
 The Key Support



Priya Lakhani
 Century Tech

What the judges thought
 Al's commitment to the education sector shines in through everything he does, from his personal leadership style to being an ambassador for the industry as a whole. In a strong field, he proves himself a giant in the industry!

Make the Change Award

The Winner
Cambridge
University
Press &
Assessment

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This award focuses on initiatives that are creating a meaningful impact within their organisation. The implementation of enhancements to your diversity and inclusion policies and work practices. Actively striving to reduce your carbon footprint. Taking fundraising efforts to new heights. Or maybe launching an entirely new corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. Whatever the change you are making, we aim to celebrate and acknowledge initiatives worth highlighting, enabling others to gain insights from your accomplishments.

Make the Change Award shortlist



What the judges thought

Cambridge University Press & Assessment created an inspirational, ambitious and impactful project to support the education of hugely disadvantaged communities of Rohingya refugees learners in Bangladesh.

Evidence & Impact Award

The Winner
OxEd and
Assessment

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The BESA logo is a seal of approval and a kitemark of quality. Each one of our members is striving to support teachers and deliver improved outcomes for pupils. The ability to evidence the ways in which they are doing this is essential. This award recognises those organisations who can demonstrate the impact that their products and services are making on teachers and learners in the UK and overseas.

Evidence and Impact Award shortlist



What the judges thought

OxEd & Assessment demonstrates an outstanding example of a well-designed, comprehensive, independently conducted, and rigorous evaluation.

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An iconic classic now even more ecofriendly

Our Upcycled Wood pencils are even more sustainable and durable thanks to using saved wood chips in the manufacturing process. This saves trees and gives wood leftovers an upgraded life as high-quality STAEDTLER pencils.

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The EDUCATE Evidence and Impact Program

The EDUCATE Evidence and Impact programme has been designed to enable companies to better evidence the impact of their products and services on the education sector and to successfully communicate this evidence to their customers.

The importance of evidencing of impact

In order to succeed, businesses in our sector must now be very clear as to the positive impact their product or service will bring about. Increasingly decision makers are asking how a product or service will harness or change learner or teacher behaviour to optimise outcomes. Educational and training leaders are demanding that companies back up their promises with reliable evidence.

BESA and Educate Ventures Research are working together to offer this new programme, exclusively for BESA members, that will help any company, no matter their size, to effectively evidence their impact for customers, regulators and themselves. The programme comprises three separate offerings - select the level of support that is right for you.

Evidence and Impact Audit Service

This service is suitable for any company and will provide you with a baseline audit assessment and clear guidance about how best your company can improve your evidence and impact profile. The evidence and audit service will enable your business to clearly understand your strengths and weaknesses along with the next steps for each market and how you can quickly collect the data necessary to drive improvement.

Company Improvement Plan Service

This service is suitable for any company that has completed the evidence and audit service or already has a clear data, evidence, and impact plan in place. The benefit you receive from this service is a costed set of services in line with your company's budget to ensure swift, effective, and economical progress with your impact journey.

Annual Review with next-steps recommendations

This service is suitable for any company that has completed the Company Improvement Plan service and will ensure that your company's impact plans are always as up to date, well-structured and cost effective as possible.

For more details on the above services [click here](#).

Thank You

BESA extends its gratitude to every individual who dedicated their valuable time to submit nominations this year. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we appreciate your support.

A huge congratulations to all the winners of the BESA Awards 2023

The BESA Awards took place with the support of these fantastic sponsors

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EDUCATE
VENTURES RESEARCH

See you at the
**BESA
Awards
2024**

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