



## World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM)

### - Press Release

### 25 UK Schools Get Through to the Final Stage

On 1st November 2018, Riverbank Academy, an outstanding special secondary school in Coventry, and part of the Sidney Stringer Multi Academy Trust, hosted the 2018 WCSQM Assessment Centre. It was the final assessment stage for the 2018 cohort of schools applying to achieve World Class Schools Quality Mark accreditation.

The award's uniqueness lies in the fact that the students are assessed with regard to whether *they* are World Class or not, rather than the school itself. The premise is, that if the school is truly World Class, then its students should be able to demonstrate this in whatever context they find themselves.

WCSQM has been accrediting OFSTED outstanding secondary schools in the UK since 2014 using a framework of skills and competencies young people need, to flourish in an emerging global economy. This year, for the first time accreditation was opened up to primary and special schools. Sixteen secondaries, 7 primaries and 2 special schools made it through to the assessment centre stage. Here, three students from each school worked in small teams, as part of a larger team of 72, to complete the assessment projects.

This year the students were given the challenge of working together to develop the Riverbank Academy school grounds to promote accessibility, independence and a love of learning for their students through the redesign and renovation of the 16+Hub area, sensory garden and main reception entrance. Students were required to carry out pre-event planning, research, design work and practical work on the day to complete their challenge, creating display boards, furniture, decoration and learning and relaxation spaces for students, taking into account practical, environmental and learning considerations. Riverbank Academy staff and Alex Green, energy efficiency consultant from LESS CO2 were on hand to provide support throughout the day. A panel of experts, including Wendy Tomes, CEO of the Sidney Stringer Multi Academy Trust, and the head boy and head girl of Riverbank Academy arrived in the afternoon for a presentation of the projects at the end of the day.

The Assessment Centre is the fourth stage of the rigorous application process schools follow in order to gain the coveted title of World Class. Initially, the school is recommended by another World Class school or leading educational organisation, and, in the case of secondary

schools, the school's Key Stage 4 data is assessed to test that students at the school make World Class progress. At the third stage the World Class students carry out an audit to identify what it is about their school that has made them World Class. The audit involves the creation of a video, 'A week in the life of xxx School' demonstrating how the school is World Class on a day to day basis.

2018 is the fifth year of World Class Schools accreditation, and the biggest cohort of schools to apply to date. Of the 31 schools nominated for World Class accreditation this year, only 25 made it to this final stage, and now wait to hear whether their students' hard work has paid off. The host school, Riverbank Academy, is one of the applicant schools, and their students had the added bonus of knowing they would be directly benefiting from the work they were helping to carry out. A team of assessors, students and staff drawn from schools who are already World Class, shadowed each applicant student during the process, and will be assessing students' performance, teamwork and materials produced against the WCSQM framework.

*"These are absolutely exceptional students. I was incredibly impressed by how well they worked together as a team, and the insightful questions they asked,"* Alex Green Schools Programme Manager at Ashden LESS CO2

*"It was tremendous to see how positively students from Year 6 right through to Year 13 worked together to achieve their goal. We were incredibly impressed with the high standard of work produced by the students on the day - you can absolutely see why they were nominated by their school as being World Class ."* Miranda Perry, Director of WCSQM.

Successful schools will be announced and celebrated at the WCSQM Awards Ceremony, hosted by St Thomas' Hospital in Governor's Hall on 6th December 2018, with Professor Chris Bonnell, Professor of Public Health Sociology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, officiating.

## Notes

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World Class Schools Quality Mark is a UK charity that awards a quality mark to non-selective state schools that offer the best education to young people in the UK. Unlike other national assessment bodies, we assess the student and not the school, against a framework of skills and competencies young people need to flourish in an emerging global economy. Through unique real-life work experiences, access to a lifelong peer support network and cultural opportunities that take them beyond their local community, we give world class students the confidence to overcome socio-economic barriers to recognise and achieve their potential.

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**Alex Green** is the Schools Programme Manager at Ashden, delivering the LESS CO2 programme to schools across the UK, with the aim of helping them reduce their energy use and move towards a more sustainable future. [www.ashden.org](http://www.ashden.org)

**The 25 schools applying for accreditation in 2018 are:**

Balcarras School  
Berkeley Academy  
Bosworth Academy  
Cardinal Hume Catholic School  
Carlton Bolling College  
Carmel College  
Dixons Kings Academy  
Fulbridge Academy  
Harris Academy Battersea  
Harris City Academy Crystal Palace  
Hungerhill School  
Langley Park School for Boys  
Piper Hill High School  
Riverbank Academy  
Seven Kings School  
Sir Christopher Hatton Academy  
Sneinton C of E Primary  
Southam College  
St Stephen's Catholic Primary School  
The Ruth Gorse Academy  
Thomas Jones School  
Tolworth Girls' School  
Weatherhead High School  
West Thornton Academy  
Wyndham Academy

***World Class Ambassadors 2018:***

