

PRESS RELEASE

Ken Livingston presents Schools Radio award to Stars of tomorrow who were recognised at Arqiva Commercial Radio Awards

Chepping View Primary School's outstanding work gained them first place in an initiative pioneered by Vision Charity - SchoolsRadio.com. This annual award, sponsored by Arqiva, is to recognise the most outstanding schools radio station of the year and was presented by Ken Livingstone at the prestigious Arqiva Commercial Radio Awards. The representatives of the finalist were also delighted to meet Blue Peter's Joel Defries and enjoy a fantastic performance by A Ha.

Chepping View Primary School (High Wycombe, Bucks) the Winner of the 2009 award, – in the opinion of the judges – “produced first class audio material that was directly relevant to the target audience. It was well written and presented and the jokes were funny.” A team of 16 pupils produce podcasts twice a term which are distributed via the school web site. The school have received support from Mix 107. The entry comprised a series of interviews, news items, book reviews and jokes all centred on the life of the school. They were written, produced and recorded by the students. Their Staff representative: Caroline Twigge

The other short-listed finalists were:-

HCR 1386AM, Halesowen College, West Midlands - Staff Representative: Jan Brennan

HCR operates a streamed online service supported by an AM service on Saturdays and Sundays and is operated by a core team of twelve pupils. HCR has co-operated with WCR 101.8 fm and The Bridge in Stourbridge. HCR is primarily an urban music station serving the population of Halesowen beyond the confines of the school itself.

ElectroFusion, King Ethelbert School, Birchington, Kent - Staff representative: Lauren Pasola

ElectroFusion operates a podcasting service seeking to “bring the pupils, parents, staff and wider community of our school together”. The team comprises pupils from years seven and nine with Corin Benge (pupil) as producer and Amy Burrige (pupil) as resident dj. Electro Fusion produce three shows: Echo, KES Kidz, KES Kidz Sport. They have co-operated with KMFM locally.

President of Vision Charity, Peter Thompson, said “We are astonished by the standard of the submissions which we received from all over the country. We are very proud to be able to provide this forum to highlight the talent that undoubtedly exists in our schools. This project has gone from strength to strength and with support from Arqiva and the government we are on target to achieve our very ambitious aims for SchoolsRadio.com!

Ken Livingston who presented the award said “I am delighted to present this award as this scheme has wide ranging benefits for those taking part and is so adaptable that, as in the case of the winning school, programmes can be made with just a computer and a microphone.”

Although this scheme was an initiative of Vision, a charity which works for blind, visually impaired and dyslexic children, this scheme is in fact for ALL schools with a view to levelling the playing field for children in a classroom setting. SchoolsRadio.com was launched in at The House of Commons by The Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, The Secretary of State for Schools, Children and Families and The Rt Hon James Purnell MP, The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

SchoolsRadio.com patrons are veteran broadcaster Nicholas Parsons and the author Ken Follett.

For further information contact bernie.muir@visioncharity.co.uk

Notes to Editors

The purpose of the award is to recognise the most outstanding schools radio station of the year. Schools registered with SchoolsRadio.com were invited to submit an audio recording to illustrate their

achievements together with a written submission and any other supporting material that might give evidence of their achievement, such as a website address or publicity material. They were also invited to recognise any co-operation received from member stations of the RadioCentre.

Submissions were received from schools across the country. An initial judging process reduced these to a short list of three. A panel selected by the RadioCentre then considered the final three and the winner was chosen.

The Arqiva Awards are an annual event organised by the RadioCentre on behalf of the commercial radio industry throughout the United Kingdom. SchoolsRadio.com is not itself a member of The Radio Centre. It is honoured to be invited to participate in this event for the second year, representing the future supplier of talent to the industry.