

Teachers of the Year 2015

Nominations were judged against the following criteria:

“The nominee should be an individual whose teaching over the past year has been outstanding. He or she should demonstrate an ability to communicate ideas effectively, be able to motivate and stimulate students to learn, whilst at the same time showing a commitment to innovation and excellence in education.”

Dr Lee Wickham, School of Psychological Sciences, FMHS

Dr Lee Wickham is Programme Director of the BSc in Psychology.

Lee is described as having successfully negotiated a series of significant challenges over the past year, while simultaneously providing positive and supportive leadership to a large and diverse teaching team.

She has taken a lead role in innovative curriculum development to establish a curriculum fit for the 21st century. This has been no small undertaking given the scale of change and not least because it required the engagement and buy-in from all the academics involved in its delivery.

Lee is also responsible, in response to student demand, for developing and leading on the enormously popular Forensic Psychology unit. This unit consistently receives unit evaluation score (or UEAs) above the School’s mean.

Both her students and her colleagues describe her as approachable and supportive, with a passion for delivering a first class teaching and learning experience for students.

Dr Paul Dewick, Manchester Business School (MBS), FHUMS

Dr Paul Dewick is described as having had an exceptional year last year -exceptionally high satisfaction ratings – including the best undergraduate rating scores across all MBS courses – and outstanding peer review evidencing the quality of his teaching.

Innovative teaching initiatives have supported Paul’s approach of creating interaction in the classroom, engaging students in deeper learning. The wide interest in his work on gamification (learning through games, essentially) and transformative learning is indicative of his commitment to excellence in education that stretches well beyond the University.

What also emerges clearly from the supporting statements backing his nomination is that his attention to pastoral care is second to none: ‘caring’, ‘encouraging’, ‘inspiring’, ‘confidence building’ are frequently mentioned in the statements submitted by those who have been involved with Paul’s teaching.

Dr Michelle Keown, Faculty of Life Sciences

Dr Michelle Keown is described as being a lecturer who has achieved excellence in co-ordinating and delivering two second year academic units as well as in delivering medical Problem Based Learning and academic and nursing Enquiry Based Learning tutorials.

Her enthusiasm in supporting and guiding other tutors, and particularly her willingness to 'go the extra mile' with her tutees, is way above and beyond the requirements of these roles.

Michelle is highly regarded by the students she teaches, evidenced by the student feedback received. This is a reflection of her ability to stimulate and engage with students, her outstanding dedication to teaching and learning, and unceasing commitment to her students.

Dr. Chris Blanford, School of Materials, FEPS

Dr Chris Blanford is a lecturer in the School of Materials who is described as standing out for his dedication, energy, and creativity.

To quote his students; 'Chris is a genius', 'perfect lectures', 'he really helped me understand better', he makes thermodynamics really fun... and sparked my interest'; 'he never hesitates to help us when we need it.'

With infectious enthusiasm, problem based learning and in-lecture smartphone polls, he has turned teaching thermodynamics from one of the least liked topics to a 'must attend' subject, where the students really gain a deep understanding.

Chris has also single-handedly brought the Peer Assisted Study Scheme to his School, adding his own flair, with events such as the 'hunger games' and 'university challenge'

In short, he has made an outstanding contribution to teaching and learning and in so doing has enhanced the student experience for those whom he teaches.