

## **Distinguished Achievement Awards 2022**

### **Teachers of the Year**

The nominations for teacher of the year were judged against the following criteria:

- they are individuals whose teaching over the past year has been outstanding
- they communicate ideas effectively
- they motivate our students to learn
- they show commitment to innovation and excellence in education

### **Dr Doron Cohen, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health**

Dr Doron Cohen is a lecturer, student experience director and employability lead on the BSc Psychology degree. Daron is an exceptional and popular educator whose evidence-based teaching effectively incorporates often difficult broader issues relating to social responsibility to inspire and engage students.

His dedication to student welfare is outstanding and he contributes to the educational evidence base on student mental health and employability through his own research and publications. He is continuously active in his Widening Participation role and often makes links with external organisations, recently, for example, with the Manchester Proud Trust LGBTQ+ organization. Doron excels in providing students with high quality research-led teaching that inspires students. By consistently framing his teaching on key psychological concepts around timely and relevant social issues and a global perspective, he helps his students to understand how psychology and the scientific study of the human mind and human behaviour can be applied in the real world for the greater good. He encourages students to use the content of the course to effect positive social changes, such as joining the 'Campaign to End Loneliness' or 'Green Impact' which a high number of students do.

Doron contributes significantly to course management and development and has played a key role this year in supporting the course in the face of a hugely increased cohort and introduction of high-quality blended and online learning.

### **Dr David Hughes, Faculty of Humanities**

Dr David Hughes' achievements as Programme Director of the MSc Organisational Psychology demonstrate his unwavering commitment to students' learning and wellbeing, and to the support of his colleagues. With his passion and high standards, he has demonstrated a dedication to excellence. He played a key role in shaping the School's COVID-19 response and the development of online resources, designing and delivering a series of workshops for colleagues that translated faculty guidance into practical teaching advice. He was elected to the School-level Teaching Taskforce as a result of the blended learning model he developed.

He created a range of resources and support to students through the challenging study period, as well as designing and integrating innovative methods into the curriculum including interactive lectures - even composing and performing a song to help students to learn. Student feedback noted that he delivered the "technological aspects of teaching with genuine flair". He also found novel

ways to facilitate student engagement and make them feel part of the community while learning at a distance, including group discussions, essay writing clubs and games events.

Dr Hughes has achieved outstanding teaching evaluations under tremendously challenging circumstances - this demonstrates his continuous dedication to his students.

### **Dr Ben Parslew, Faculty of Science and Engineering**

Ben's exemplary student-feedback paired with a practical, thought-provoking approach to education has led to him being nominated for the Distinguished Achievement Award of Teacher of the Year. Helping to guide and develop the next generations of aerospace engineers, Ben's background in secondary school teaching has shown his engagement with students through hands on in-class engineering challenges. Ben's classes are encouraged to develop socially responsible technologies with local relevance: our aerospace students graduate with the experience of designing drones to monitor air pollution in Greater Manchester.

Ben's commitment to innovation is evidenced by the new technologies he incorporates in teaching. In 2020 he created a virtual drone design tool, enabling students to experiment and gain appreciation of how digital tools can save time and cost in engineering industries. Ben also works closely with other instructors and research students to understand the latest drone technologies that can be brought to students. For 2022 he will be providing every student a miniature microcontroller to undertake a crowd-sourced experiment with 100 aircraft launched simultaneously: 'The Great British Take-Off'.

Through his teaching Ben embraces University goals of teaching and social responsibility ensuring there is 'something for everyone' and creating an inclusive learning environment that embraces the diversity of our students' academic and cultural backgrounds, reflecting the university value of humanity.