# **Northampton College Virtual Library Awards Ceremony 2021**

# **Transcript**

Hello and welcome to our fabulous 2021 Library award ceremony. For the second year running, we're unable to celebrate together in person, but we're sure that you'll agree that a virtual award ceremony is the next best thing.

And some of you might even have us visit your classes with your certificates and prizes.

You all continue to amaze us with how well you have adapted to change and despite many challenges, have continued to participate in our Library schemes to the best of your abilities over the last year.

So, whilst we will feature some special guests, this ceremony is all about you.

We will be recognising students that have excelled in many of the Library’s schemes such as Word Detective, Maths Magician, DigiCap and Reading Ahead, as well as our annual creative and literary competitions.

We have missed being able to see you as much as we would have liked this year, but we are hopeful that the start of the next academic year will allow us to get more of you back into enjoy what the Library has to offer so you can continue to succeed and shine.

So, a big thank you goes to you and to our featured special guests.

I'd like to begin today celebrations by congratulating the students that have participated in and completed the Library's award-winning Word Detective and Maths Magician schemes.

We all know how literacy and numeracy is really important for students to progress, so this year we moved the schemes online so that students could continue through remote learning. Throughout Lockdown and during a period when access to the Libraries has been restricted, you have all demonstrated a real determination and high commitment to succeeding in very challenging circumstances.

Well done to all Word Detective and Maths Magician award winners.

Hello. I would like to congratulate the students that have achieved the platinum certificate in digital skills.

This year, digital skills has become part of the curriculum for all Entry, Foundation and Level 1 students across the college and has resulted in an incredibly high number of completers.

For those of you that haven't come across it before, our digital skills programme, or DigiCap is an award-winning scheme created by the Library that teaches computer skills with four levels of difficulty from bronze, which includes the fundamentals of using a computer going up to platinum level, which covers areas such as formulas in Excel and using shared documents.

It is genuinely a huge achievement for students to work through the programme and we hope those that have accomplished it this year feel much more confident with the skills they have learned. You should feel proud of yourselves, and your names will appear on the screen shortly.

Valentina and I would also like to thank the staff that have supported us throughout the year and have worked with us to continue to develop the programme, we really appreciate it.

Again, congratulations to all of you and good luck as you continue your studies in college.

In response to the pandemic we created online courses for all of our Information and Study Skills sessions. This meant that students could develop their academic skills in essay writing, referencing, E-safety, and so on. And we use these in our performing arts clinics, one to ones and even in digital skills.

We would like to present the following students with certificates to acknowledge their achievement across the entire Information and Study Skills programme, and we know these skills will be of great value to you in the future. Well done! Thank you.

Hi, I'm Lily, programme manager for adult reading at The Reading Agency.

The Reading Agency is a national charity that uses the proven power of reading to tackle life's big challenges and we run the Reading Ahead programme so I wanted to send a huge congratulations to everyone at Northampton College who completed Reading Ahead this year. It's a huge achievement and I just want to wish you the best of luck Continuing to discover the joys and benefits of reading.

Hello everybody, thank you very much for inviting me to the Virtual Library awards this year. It would have been lovely if we could have met up since this is the second time that we had to do it this way, but hopefully next year it'll be a bit different. I just really wanted to congratulate everybody who's worked so hard on these awards this year, with all the different challenges, with periods of lockdown, so the library and the college has had to close for quite long periods and you still manage somehow. All the staff, the wonderful Library staff, the whole college staff to keep things going for the students. I think it was 82 students this year that have taken part in the awards, which is fantastic. You've all done so well. All of you.

The fact that the library is closed hasn't been perhaps quite accurate because I know people have been able to go into the Library and there's been a few special meetings specially organised, and you've also hired out laptops. So in that sense, the Library has remained open.

Whenever I speak to you of course, I'm talking from my experience of being an author of writing and books, although I know the awards also include maths tests and computer skills, and you've all done really, really well on those too, I'm told.

But for me the main thing I think is the literacy, because it's been my life, books and writing, and reading are life so I know how very important it's been for me all my life in my career to have those reading skills and the students that have passed these Library awards will take those skills forward with them into life into everything they do and it will make such a difference. I hope that having been successful with the Library awards that you will take these skills forward with you.

Some of you have also taken part in the creative writing competition, which I think was on the theme of sunshine this year, which seems very apt and I hope some of you will have also found a love of reading for pleasure while you've been taking part in these awards. It's something that, although reading of course and literacy skills are very useful.

Reading itself can be such a pleasure. Through reading books, you discover new worlds. You discover thoughts from different people all around the world, different experiences, different dips into different culture. I mean, I particularly like reading cookery books, sometimes in bed and reading about the origins of some of these recipes to me is fascinating. It's just one aspect of my enjoyment of reading so I just want to wish all of you congratulations for your hard work for passing these awards. I wish you every success in everything you do and well done, well done to all you, all the students, to all of the staff in such a difficult year. You really have done some brilliant work and I think you're all amazing. So, all best wishes and I hope to see you in the flesh very soon.

Hello, I'm Jan Hutt, Vice Principal for Human Resources and Student Services. I'm here today to share the names of our winners from the Library's array of creative and literary competitions from the last year.

We've had over 50 entries this year and the standard was very high, making it incredibly hard for judges to decide on the winning entries for the Daniel Stannard literary competition. Students were invited to submit entries relating to the theme 'Once Upon a Dream'. Entries could be either as a poem or a short story, and our students certainly didn't disappoint. Here are a handful of the entries received from students that we would like to congratulate as winners.

For the art competition, the Library accepted entries in any artistic medium using the theme 'Thoughts, Feelings and Emotions' as inspiration. The winning entries showcase the creative talents of college students and staff in using a range of mediums and styles that match the theme perfectly. Well done to our competition winners.

This year's creative writing competition used the broad theme of 'Sunshine' to encourage as many students to get involved as possible and resulted in many submissions that demonstrate the literary skill of our students. Here are the winning entries with congratulations to all.

Our final competition was the photography competition. Using 'Colour' as this year's theme, students were encouraged to enter via the Library's website straight from their phones. What resulted is a collection of interesting and dynamic images that we will be sharing on the screen now.

Hello, my name is Pat Brennan-Barrett and I'm the Principal of Northampton College and I'd like to congratulate all of you on the awards you're about to receive for your Reading Ahead, for the Word Detective, Maths Magician, DigiCap and those of you who've entered into the four literacy and artistic competitions. It's a great achievement, in particular it's a great achievement because of Covid and how difficult it has been for everybody.

And I always say if you can read, you can live in the book. It's a great skill to have. And developing your reading, for now, and for your future is going to be wonderful for you to help you to achieve at a time when it will be quite difficult.

I'd also like to say thank you to all the Library staff, particularly Lynn and Grazyna, for the work that they've done in helping you to develop your reading.

It's been a tough year. And the fact that you've managed to do the Reading Ahead challenge on top of your work is just tremendous and I take my hat off to you. It's a splendid achievement and I wish you well for today. Bye bye.