

## Spring Term 2026

# Values in Action Winner Aim High



Amy Cotton receiving her award from Jon Peck

**Amy Cotton**  
Associate SLT and English Teacher  
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

**“ Everything we do is for them, and that makes each day incredibly rewarding. ”**

### **How does it feel to be a Values in Action winner?**

“I am incredibly flattered to be celebrated for my Library project. What began as a personal passion has now become a growing project for our whole community. Professionally, it has given me the reassurance to keep exploring new possibilities and to trust that it is always worthwhile pursuing ideas – you never know where they may lead.”

### **What motivates and inspires you in your day-to-day work?**

“I absolutely love seeing the impact our passion has on our students. They recognise and appreciate that everything we do is for them, and that makes each day incredibly rewarding.”

### **What does being part of a values-led organisation mean to you?**

“Our values are ones that students will carry with them throughout their lives. We are helping young people become incredible human beings – that is the power of education and of our roles as teachers. We have a responsibility that goes far beyond the classroom.

I always encourage my students to aim high, to strive for the best and to be their best. For many of them, resilience is the hardest thing. If they can show resilience every day and still have the desire to do better the next, that is success.”

### **What advice would you give to others about living our values?**

“Every great idea has to begin somewhere, and with someone who has the passion to make it an impactful reality.”

### **Any final thoughts or messages?**

“To Jenny Gale and Dan Hood at MER, who spent their own time painting the library with me, and to the Year 10 Librarians who gave many afternoons to promoting something we are passionate about and leading their new roles with commitment, enthusiasm and maturity – we have created a new legacy. I am thankful for your belief in the project from its infancy and every day that it opens for our students to enjoy.”