CA Prize-winner 2012: Will Griffiths

The eighth annual Classical Association Prize was presented amid the festivities of the Association’s gala dinner in Exeter University’s Great Hall, on Friday 13 April – a date which was clearly not unlucky for everyone! Sir Peter Stothard, the Association’s outgoing President, awarded the Prize to Will Griffiths, Directory of the University of Cambridge School Classics Project (CSCP), in recognition of his efforts and success in promoting the study of Latin. Mr Griffiths joined the CSCP in 2000 as an experienced teacher, and he was subsequently appointed Director in 2003. Since then, the number of schools offering Latin has increased from six hundred to one thousand, one hundred. Furthermore, this growth has been achieved almost entirely in the state sector, with the result that more comprehensive schools are now offering Latin in England than grammar and independent schools combined. New technologies are also being developed to increase the access to Classics further, while the CSCP are working with a national awarding body to make and maintain new Latin qualifications.

The revival of Latin in state schools has been gaining ground in recent years, and Mr Griffiths’ work for the CSCP has been at the forefront of these developments: the course specifically aims to support both pupils and teachers in schools which do not currently provide Latin. In his speech of acceptance, Mr Griffiths paid tribute to the long-standing success of the Project, including its famous Cambridge Latin Course, and announced his plans to put the £5,000 award towards creating additional support for non-specialist teachers wishing to develop their Latin teaching skills. Congratulations and Good Luck, we say, and we look forward to watching Latin flourish further under Mr Griffiths’ direction.

Dr Kathryn Tempest (University of Roehampton)

CA Outreach Officer 2012-2017

June 2012