



*Working Today  
For a Brighter Tomorrow*

**February 2017**

## **BROADLANDS HALL SCHOOL –Fantastic Learning Support Staff**

We know that parents and carers appreciate the care that Broadland's LSAs give to the students – but maybe we don't shout enough about the high level skills and training our LSAs possess. I thought you might be interested to know more, and thus will be publishing a profile of one of our great team members every month, starting off with Mel Thomas.

Mel Thomas is not only studying for her Level 3 LSA (SEN) qualification with us but she is going on to enhance her skills with specialist Speech and language Therapy qualifications. Clearly, based on the fact that she was recently awarded the 'Communicate' TA of the Year (see below), she is well on her way to pursuing this career specialism.

In addition, Mel is an able athlete and every week swims more than 2-miles alongside her charge, encouraging his physical development and co-ordination skills!

Communicate Excellence Awards

# Award Winner



**Mel Thomas**  
**Broadlands Hall School**

Mel is our winner for the Summer 2015/16 award. Broadlands Hall School is a specialist residential secondary school. She was working with a specific pupil alongside Bethan.

She will be personally gifted with £30 worth of our training sessions, we have adopted the word 'dedication' from the ICAN charity in her name, and a fun game for therapy is also on.

“In September 2015 we began implementing the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) with the young man Mel was supporting. She embraced it from the start and worked so hard to get the student using PECS on a daily basis, even spending hours of her own time making him his own PECS folder. The student now has an effective way of expressing himself thanks to Mel and the other staff in the class. I'm really grateful for Mel's enthusiasm, and her dedication to the students she works with!”

**Bethan Franklin**  
Specialist Speech and Language Therapist