





# **UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 26th JUNE, 12.15PM**

# **Crewe Teacher Wins National Award for Bringing Food Education to Life**



Sara Randle (46), Head of Food at Sir William Stanier School in Crewe, has been named Food Educator of the Year in the 2025 Jamie Oliver Good School Food Awards, recognising her exceptional work in turning food education into a powerful, hands-on experience for every student and much of the community too.

Sara's impact runs deep and it hasn't gone unnoticed. She was nominated not just by colleagues, but by her own family and local MP **Connor Naismith**, who praised her unwavering commitment to building confidence, community and healthy habits through food. Their words, full of admiration and gratitude, helped secure her place as this year's national winner.

Over the past 25 years, Sara has created a school-wide culture where food brings people together, inspires careers, builds confidence, and offers real-life skills that last far beyond the classroom.

## From Rooftop Gardens to Charity Bake Sales

Sara's classroom stretches well beyond four walls. She recently secured funding to build a **rooftop allotment, wildflower meadow, and school pond**, helping pupils grow their own ingredients as part of a true **"farm to fork"** journey. Students learn where their food comes from—and how to cook with it.

Trips to **local farms, food factories and hospitality businesses** give students real-world exposure, while in-school sessions with **professional chefs** help spark ambition and show what's possible in food careers.







She also invites **local primary schools** into her classroom, ensuring children as young as Year 2 get the chance to cook fresh meals. And in her **after school cooking clubs**, students often cook alongside family members, strengthening bonds and sparking joy around the dinner table.

# **Putting Kindness on the Curriculum**

Sara's passion is matched only by her kindness. She makes sure **no student misses out**, often covering costs for trips or ingredients herself. She's led **charity bake sales** and helps pupils cook for local homeless organisations, showing how food can nourish others, too.

Local MP Connor Naismith, who also nominated her, wrote:

"Sara has built a vibrant, inclusive food culture where students learn about nutrition, sustainability, and the power of food to bring people together. Her impact is felt by students, staff, parents, and the wider community."

#### A Whole-School Force of Nature

Sara supports the school's **in-house food team**, supports the canteen's menus, and was instrumental in securing a **Food for Life Award** for the school. Every student leaves **Key Stage 3** with the ability to cook a range of balanced meals from scratch—and adapt them creatively to suit any budget.

"She's always available—often even on her days off—and is usually the last to leave the building," said Lisa Coombs, Food Technician. "She's constantly coming up with new ideas, sending messages and emails well into the evenings and weekends. Her energy is incredible, but what truly sets her apart is how deeply she cares."

The judging panel, which included **Jessie & Lennie Ware**, **The Wiggles**, and **Has**, praised Sara's "outstanding adoption of a whole-school approach" and the powerful testimonies from colleagues, family and even her local MP.

## Jessie Ware, singer, podcaster and passionate food advocate, said:

"All of the candidates were very worthy winners, however Sara's work is truly inspiring. She's not just teaching recipes, she's teaching confidence, care, and creativity. It's clear how much her students and community adore her, and it's a joy to see someone using food to make such a meaningful difference in young people's lives."

Her words captured the sentiment echoed throughout the panel: that Sara's impact is not only educational, but deeply personal, and profoundly lasting.

"Sara's the kind of teacher who changes lives," said **Jamie Oliver**. "She's shown that good food education isn't just about cooking, it can also spark confidence, curiosity and connection. She's a total star, and I'm so pleased we can celebrate her."

## **ENDS**







## For more information:

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#### **About The Jamie Oliver Good School Food Awards**

The Good School Food Awards celebrate the amazing catering teams, beautiful canteens, holiday programmes, campaigners and unsung heroes who go the extra mile every day to make sure Britain's school children are well nourished – the heroes that make school food and food education brilliant.

### **About Jamie Oliver**

Jamie Oliver is a global phenomenon in food and campaigning. During a 24-year television and publishing career he has sold nearly 50 million books, and his TV series are watched by millions around the world. As a result, Jamie has inspired a generation to cook fresh, delicious food from scratch. His mission to create a happier, healthier world through the joy of food is at the heart of everything he does.

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