

Secondary library network meeting

Agenda item 2: Professional updates for Autumn 2024

Interesting articles and webinars

A coalition of publishers, authors, educators, and industry professionals sent an open letter to Prime Minister Keir Starmer, calling for a cross-government commitment to prioritise reading for pleasure among children.

<https://openletter.earth/open-letter-to-the-prime-minister-on-childrens-reading-dcfee21b>

You may know if your students can read well, but do they 'want' to read? Professor Teresa Cremin urges schools to focus on reading attitudes and children's sense of themselves as readers.

<https://www.sec-ed.co.uk/content/blogs/reading-attitudes-matter-do-you-know-what-your-students-think>

The Excluded Voices report finds that books with main characters from minority ethnicities or who are disabled or neurodivergent are written by those who do not share the protagonist's identity.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2024/oct/03/majority-of-uk-childrens-books-with-black-main-characters-written-by-white-authors-study-finds>

Alice Oseman, the creator of the bestselling graphic novels and TV series on turning 30, making playlists for her books and why it's important to her to be visibly political

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2024/sep/22/graphic-novelist-alice-oseman-heartstopper>

A national celebration to commemorate and champion the legacy of Benjamin Zephaniah, led by Qian Zephaniah, Benjamin's wife. The first annual event is to be held on Saturday 12 April 2025, hosted by Brunel University of London.

<https://www.brunel.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/Benjamin-Zephaniah-Day>

Poetry By Heart 2025 competition launches 3rd October 2024

<https://poetrybyheart.org.uk/>

Getting Boys to Read – Lucas Maxwell Glenthorne High School Library blog

<https://glenthorneirc.blogspot.com/2024/10/getting-boys-to-read.html#more>

In a series of original essays, award-winning writer Katherine Rundell explores the world of children's fiction in a journey that reveals its fundamental importance to us all.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0023x8p/episodes/player>

Inclusive Libraries Conference: Exploring Race, Culture and Identity with Children and Young People in the Library
The Literacy Trust

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/primary-school-library-programmes/inclusive-libraries/>

https://nlt.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Talking_points_resource_Inclusive_Libraries.pdf

Resources

Lauren Asprey discusses an innovative online resource developed by Newcastle University to ease the transition from sixth form to university.

https://www.elizabethahutchinson.com/podcast/episode/a4c1bcbd/bridging-the-gap-empowering-sixth-formers-for-university-success?utm_medium=email&utm_source=substack

Sixth Form Study Skill – Free Online Resource from Newcastle University

<https://sixthformstudyskills.ncl.ac.uk/>

November is Empathy Action Month: encouraging young people to put empathy into action by focusing on how they can make a difference and helping them to build a more empathetic world. There are four different themes for each week of the month.

<https://www.empathylab.uk/empathy-action-month>

The Lit in Colour book lists have been created to support and help teachers and pupils find exciting books written by authors of colour. Recently updated for 2024.

<https://wp.penguin.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/incomplete-Lit-in-Colour-secondary-fourth-edition.pdf>

Barrington Stoke: November 20% off discount NONFIC20

[https://collins.co.uk/collections/non-fiction-](https://collins.co.uk/collections/non-fiction-books?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Barrington%20Stoke%20November%20newsletter%20SCHOOLS&utm_term=Barrington%20Stoke%20Teachers%20and%20Librarians)

[books?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Barrington%20Stoke%20November%20newsletter%20SCHOOLS&utm_term=Barrington%20Stoke%20Teachers%20and%20Librarians](https://collins.co.uk/collections/non-fiction-books?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Barrington%20Stoke%20November%20newsletter%20SCHOOLS&utm_term=Barrington%20Stoke%20Teachers%20and%20Librarians)

The Literacy Hive – resources to support all aspects of the literacy curriculum.

<https://www.literacyhive.org/>

Awards and shortlists

Diverse Book Award 2024 winners.

<https://www.thediversebookawards.co.uk/2024-winners>

The Carnegies – nominated titles for 2025.

<https://carnegies.co.uk/medals/>

Waterstone's Book of the Year 2024 shortlist.

<https://www.waterstones.com/category/cultural-highlights/book-awards/the-waterstones-book-of-the-year>

UKLA longlist 2025.

<https://ukla.org/ukla-book-awards-longlist-2025/>

Excelsior Awards 2025 – Register to shadow award.

<https://www.excelsioraward.co.uk/registration2025>

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