

Professional updates: Autumn 2025

Interesting articles and reports

Concerned leaders tell TES the government has not equipped them to deal with debates on immigration, race and St George's flags.

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/news/general/schools-criticise-support-vacuum-racial-tensions-st-georges-flag>

Author Nathanael Lessore argues that empathy through reading can counter toxic masculinity.

[Using fiction to discuss boyhood and masculinity | BookTrust](#)

Review of the film The Librarians

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2025/sep/24/the-librarians-review-the-heroic-women-battling-against-book-bans-and-censorship>

<https://thelibrariansfilm.com/> Watch for free on BBC iplayer

Votes at 16: Are schools prepared for politics in the classroom?

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/vote-at-16-are-schools-prepared-for-politics-in-the-classroom/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/jul/17/voting-age-to-be-lowered-to-16-in-england-and-northern-ireland>

Internet Resources and webinars

The Social Reading Spaces Project Research and Toolkit

<https://sla.org.uk/social-reading-spaces>

Lucas Maxwell Ten minute book club launched September 2025

<https://glenthornelrc.blogspot.com/2025/09/the-launch-of-ten-minute-book-club.html>

Interview with Lucas Maxwell

<https://www.writeandwrong.co.uk/home/episode/25556a24/241-lucas-maxwell-or-childrens-author-school-librarian-and-dungeon-master>

Go All In! – The National Year of Reading 2026

<https://www.goallin.org.uk/>

Books and reviews

The UK's leading, independent children's book magazine. Free to download.

<https://booksforkeeps.co.uk/>

Book Awards and shortlists

Spark! Book Awards. To participate register by Friday 28 November. Suitable for KS3 - Fiction for 11+. £65

<https://www.sparkbookawards.co.uk/>

Excelsior Award – shortlist will be announced in December. Sign up to read, rate and review the shortlisted graphic novels and manga. £30 not including books.

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

The shortlists for the 2025 Nero Book Awards will be announced on 20th November.
<https://nerobookawards.com/about/>

The Young People's Book Prize is an annual award sponsored by The Royal Society. Its purpose is to support the writing of high quality, accessible STEM books for under-14s, and to encourage young people to read about science. The 2025 shortlist will be announced on 18th November and student judging runs until April 2026.
<https://royalsociety.org/medals-and-prizes/young-peoples-book-prize/>

The Carnegies
Nominations have been announced.
<https://carnegies.co.uk/medals/>
Register for The Carnegies shadowing.
<https://carnegies.co.uk/take-part/>

Events

Empathy Action Month
<https://empathylab.uk/empathy-action-month/>

Non-Fiction November 2025
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/non-fiction-november/>

The Poetry by Heart Competition – Registration and competition opens October. Deadline for competition entries is Thursday 2 April 2026.
<https://literacyhive.org/poetry-by-heart-competition/>

Take part in the National Reading Champions Quiz. Registration opens in early December.
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/reading-champions/national-reading-champions-quiz/>

The British Library:
Katherine Rundell on Fantasy and Maps – free live streaming of event. Suitable for Years 5 to 8. Monday 8 December 2025
<https://events.bl.uk/events/katherine-rundell-on-fantasy-and-maps>
Explore Black British literature with Malorie Blackman. Suitable for Years 10-13. Live and online – Friday 22 May 2026
<https://events.bl.uk/events/exploring-black-british-literature-live-with-malorie-blackman>
The British Library Padlet
https://padlet.com/discovering_childrens_books

The British Library – Teacher CPD
Hamlet: Wednesday 12 November
The Tempest: Tuesday 3 February
<https://events.bl.uk/?refinementList%5BeventCategoriesWhoFor%5D%5B0%5D=Schools>