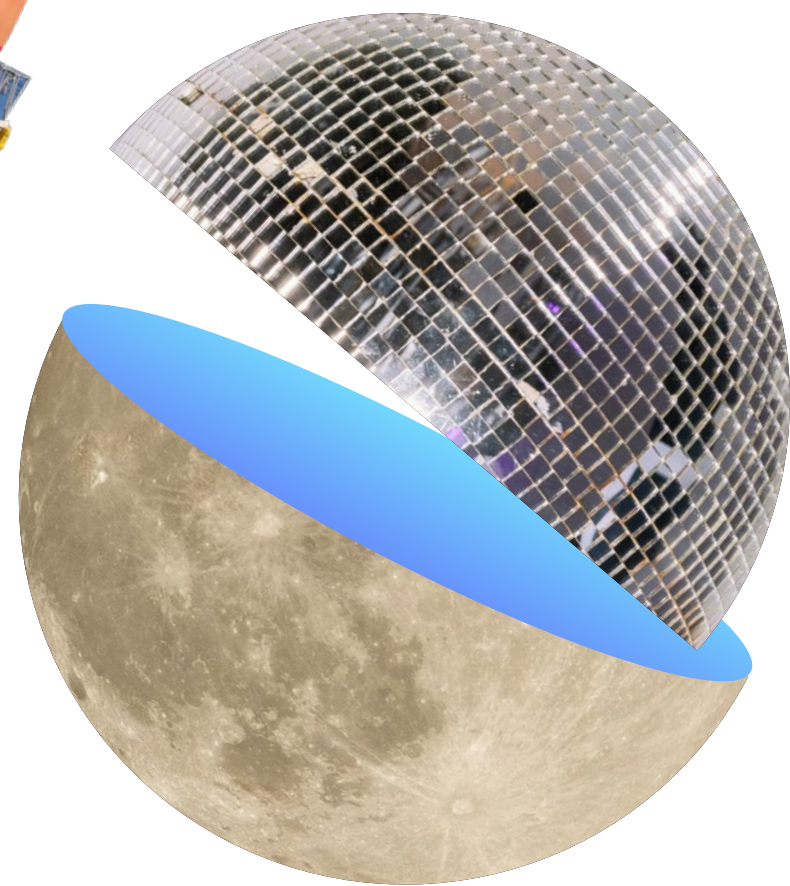


Schools Programme

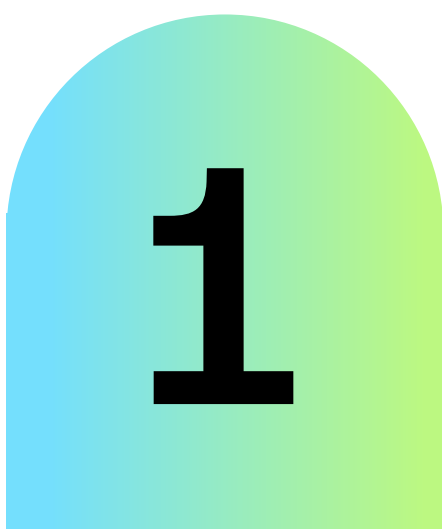


Edinburgh
International
Book Festival

**19 – 22 August
2025**

Free books + transport funding
learning.edbookfest.co.uk

Five reasons you'll love this year's Schools Programme



Every pupil leaves with a free book



Your class can meet their favourite authors



There's financial help for your travel costs



Free activities galore in our Discovery Zone



And special events for you teachers too!

Plus, outside school hours, there's lots on for families, kids, and young people in our main Festival programme – perfect for a fun way to end the summer holidays!

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What's inside



**“ Every child has the right to relax,
play and take part in a range of
cultural and artistic activities.”**

**Article 31 of the United Nations
Convention of the Rights of the Child**

A note from our Director



Welcome to our action-packed 2025 Schools Programme!

With rates of reading for enjoyment amongst children currently at an all-time low, we know how difficult it can be to generate excitement for books – and that the incredible advocacy of teachers and librarians like you has never been more important in encouraging young people to open their minds and hearts to books, and all the knowledge, comfort, and delight they can offer throughout their lives.

In creating the most memorable, joyful – and educational – events for pupils of all ages, we hope we can help you fight the corner for the written word. Whether you'll be visiting for the first time this year, or you're a Festival regular, you'll find plenty to ignite imaginations, spark creativity, and inspire wonder.

We want to make sure that as many schools as possible get to enjoy our vibrant programme, so since last year we've consulted with teachers and librarians who brought pupils to our 2024 Festival about how we could best support them, and others. These conversations highlighted that the biggest challenge for many schools was the cost of transport to the Festival site, which in some cases was thousands of pounds.

So, to increase the amount of travel supporting funding available to bring schools to site from near and far, we're introducing a small ticket price of £4 per pupil. This change will also ensure that all attending pupils still leave their visit with a free book to treasure.

But we never want ticket cost to be a barrier to experiencing the Festival and our fantastic authors, so as well as applying for our transport fund, teachers and librarians can also apply for free tickets for pupils whose families are unable to cover ticket costs. We believe that this approach will enable even more young people to attend the Festival whilst maintaining free access to those who need it, and as a charity we are hugely grateful to our Supporters for making this, and our overall Schools Programme, possible.

If you would like to talk to us about how we can support your visit – whether you've never visited before, or you're a well-kent face – please contact us at:

schools@edbookfest.co.uk.

I hope to see you in August!

Jenny Niven
Festival Director & CEO

Make the most of the Book Festival

We'd love to welcome your class in August, but do you know there's many ways you can keep engaged with us before, during, and after your Festival visit?



At any time

- Spark your pupils' imaginations with our free Learning Resources. With an archive of resources available at any time, and our new 2025 materials published in June to accompany this year's Festival programming, these exercises, prompts, and stories can kick-start your class's excitement for their Festival visit nice and early. Head to: learning.edbookfest.co.uk/resources
- Subscribe to our Schools newsletter – the best way to stay informed! We'll be in touch a few times a year with exciting updates and news that's relevant to you. Sign up at bit.ly/3uwDbMT

Plan your visit and book your tickets

- Mark these dates in your diaries so you don't miss a beat – the Schools Programme will be announced on Wednesday 23 April, and opens for booking on Monday 28 April.
- On this date you can also apply for financial help with travel or request free tickets. Get in touch with schools@edbookfest.co.uk if you need any help with this.

Getting excited to visit

- Your tickets are booked and your plans are set... now to get your class involved and excited! Consider setting a research task centred around the author or the book you are coming to see. Or, gather your class's questions in advance for the event Q&A!

**Keep the joy
of
books going**

Waterstones, our Festival bookshop partners, are delighted to offer schools a 28% discount on bulk orders of 15 or more books.


The offer applies to all books featured in the schools and childrens programmes and is valid between 28 April - 30 September. You can sign up to register for the discount at: waterstonesaccountsales.com/register

All orders can then be sent to: jane.wood@waterstones.com who will process your order and send it directly to your school.

What's on



Can't bring your pupils in-person?

No problem - your class can still enjoy the Festival with a selection of our Schools events streaming online! Look out for the 'Livestreamed and on demand'  icons under our event listings.

Tuesday 19 August

Everyone's invited to the first day of our 2025 Schools Programme with a mix of events for **all ages!**

Wednesday 20 August

Our Primary School Gala Day! With events for **all Primary years** and free activities in our Discovery Zone for a full fun day out.

Thursday 21 August

It's Teen Takeover Day! Talks, workshops, and activities specially curated for **Secondary School groups.**

Friday 22 August

A final day offering our last but certainly not least events for **Primary ages...** then, that's a wrap until next year (but remember that on demand events are still available to watch online at any time)!

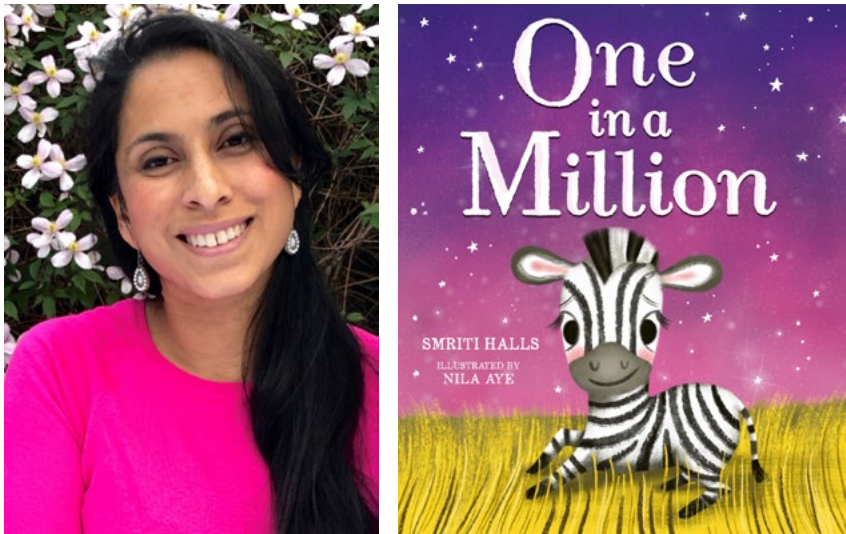
Tuesday 19 August: Events for all ages

We’re kicking everything off with a cracking selection of talks and workshops for all ages, to really get the neurons firing and creative juices flowing.

From number crunching and myth busting, to real stories about gang-life and fantasy faerie worlds; via breaking down barriers and building up self-belief, we’ve got something to inspire everyone.

“The pupils were delighted to get their free book and they all clamoured to get it signed. Our pupils don't get much chance to attend talks and festivals and enjoyed the whole atmosphere of the Book Festival - it is a very welcoming and safe space.”

School librarian, Armadale Academy

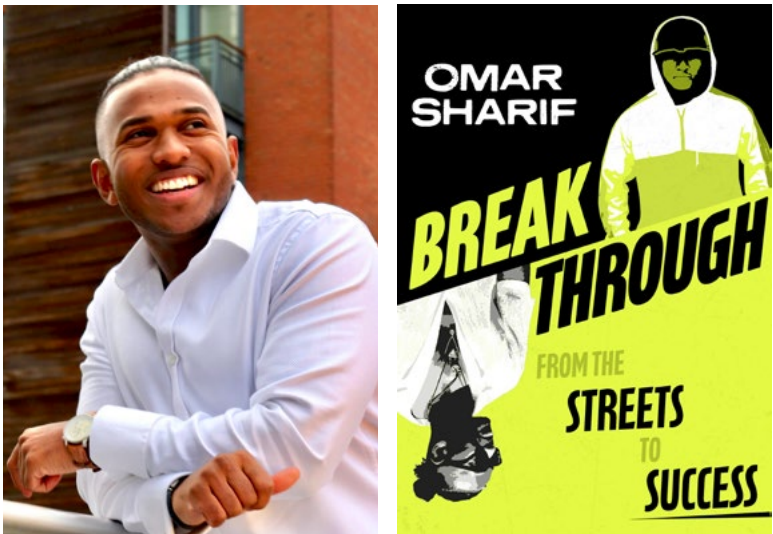


What Really Counts with Smriti Halls

10:00 - 10:45
Venue NW
P1 - 3
£4 per pupil

Numeracy Family Animals

In a world of hundreds, thousands - even millions - sometimes just ONE of us counts most of all. Come along for an inspiring morning with **Smriti Halls** as she shares her new picture book, *One in a Million*. It’s a story all about big numbers, big love, and a little zebra called Debra who discovers she can count absolutely anything and everything. But what happens when Debra realises how big the world is, and just how tiny she is in it?



From the Streets to Success with Omar Sharif

10:15 - 11:00
Venue B
S2 - 4
£4 per pupil

Peer pressure Identity Inspiring

As a former gang member, **Omar Sharif** knows first-hand that a shift in thinking can do more than change your life - sometimes it can actually save it. Since switching course as a young man, Omar has become a coach, motivational speaker, Pride of Britain Award-winner, and the author of an inspiring new book, *Breakthrough*. Join him for an unforgettable event about self-belief that will encourage and equip teens to make great decisions, navigate challenges, and reach their potential.



Tuesday 19 August



When Worlds Collide with Ross MacKenzie

10:45 - 11:30
Courtyard Theatre
P5 - 7
£4 per pupil

Fairytales Dark Mystery

What would happen if a wave of people came to our world from a magical realm? If they were fleeing war and disaster and asked for your help - how would you react? Would you feel threatened by their mysterious, magical ways? **Jennifer Horan** chats to author **Ross MacKenzie** about these questions (and more!) as he launches his new book, *The Uninvited*: a thrilling fantasy adventure where faerie refugees and everyday folk must live side by side.

 In-person



Write the World with Claire Mabey

11:15 - 12:00
Venue C
P4 - 6
£4 per pupil

Adventure Creative Writing Fantasy

How do we build whole new worlds? Join children's author **Claire Mabey**, author of *The Raven's Eye Runaways*, to find out. In this writing workshop, you'll work together to create a 'world dictionary' full of ideas, possibilities, and adventures. Share your favourite worlds from books (or film and TV), and create a brand new world to set a story inside. You might even come away with an idea for a book, a short story, or a whole new creation altogether!

 In-person  Workshop



Celebrate Your Differences with Lucy Edwards

12:00 - 12:45
Venue B
P5 - 7
£4 per pupil

Inspiring Adventure Disability

You might recognise **Lucy Edwards** from her myth-busting TikToks about daily life as a blind person. Today, the multi-award-winning broadcaster, content creator, and disability activist joins us (along with guide dog, Miss Molly) to chat about *Ella Jones vs the Sun Stealer*, her amazing adventure novel. Hear how Lucy's experiences with blindness inspired the story, and get involved with some interactive, tactile, and sound-based games. This empowering event will show young people that disabilities don't have to hold you back.

 In-person



Scots Fairytales with Ashley Douglas and Kate Osmond

13:00 - 13:45
Venue C
P4 - 6
£4 per pupil

Scots Fairytales LGBTQI+

The Lass and The Quine is a fairytale for the modern day, a story that will challenge the tales you already know - and it's all in Scots! Flex your imagination and writing skills in this fun, creative workshop with the book's writer **Ashley Douglas** and illustrator **Kate Osmond**. Hear them share the inspiration behind the story, themes, and characters, then get ready to write your own Scots poem. Whit ever will ye come up wae?

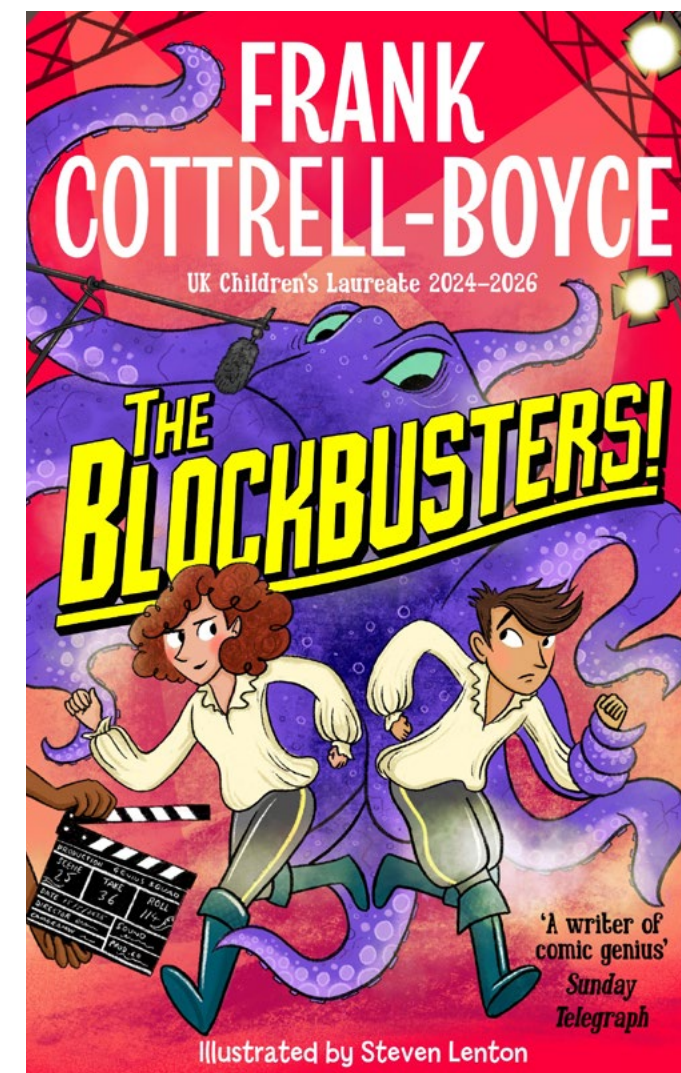
 In-person  Workshop

Wednesday 20 August: Primary Schools Gala Day

Your class contains budding space scientists, eco superheroes-to-be, and historians in the making – help unfurl the possibilities of their futures when you bring them along to our exciting selection of Gala Day events, specially curated for younger age groups.

Enjoy big ideas for growing brains! And with our 2025 festival theme of 'Repair', you can be sure that these events will expand horizons with each having a positive outlook on how we nurture and heal our relationships with ourselves, each other, and our environments.

Make a full day out of your visit: along with author talks, our Gala Day features the drop-in Discovery Zone! Located in the Lounge on Level 2, pile on in any time between 10:00 – 14:00 for a super fun range of interactive activities... think quizzes, story sessions, badge making, and much, much more!



The Front List: Schools Edition

Take on Tinseltown with Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Steven Lenton

13:30 - 14:15
McEwan Hall
P4 - 6
£4 per pupil

Adventure Friendship Movies

We're over the moon to welcome a dynamite duo to the Schools Programme this year: multi-award-winning Waterstones Children's Laureate **Frank Cottrell-Boyce**, and fantastic and funny illustrator **Steven Lenton**. Join them for a hilarious, globetrotting adventure as they share their newest book, *The Blockbusters*. Expect runaway brothers, imposter movie stars, and folks becoming famous for all the wrong reasons - and yes, there will be a draw-along. Pencils at the ready!

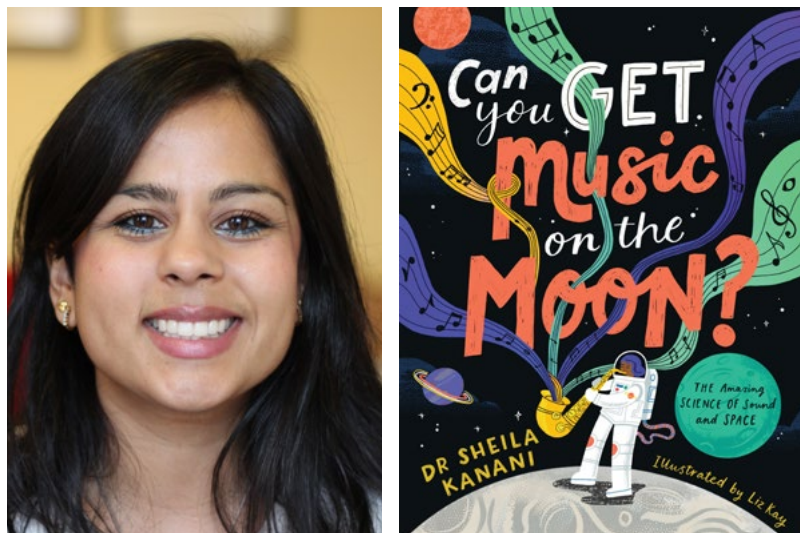


In-person



Livestreamed
and on demand

Wednesday 20 August: Primary Schools Gala Day



Go on a Space Science Adventure with Dr Sheila Kanani

10:00 - 10:45
Venue NW
P3 - 5
£4 per pupil

Music Science Space

Did you know that sound travels faster underwater? Or that crickets can hear with their knees? Astronomer extraordinaire **Dr Sheila Kanani** is the author of *Can You Get Music on the Moon?* and she has SO MANY more mind-blowing facts like this up her sleeve. Come along and hear them in this fascinating exploration of the world of sound and space science (and yes, you'll even find out whether you can play music up in space!).

 In-person



Finding Home with Zeshan Akhter

10:15 - 11:00
Venue B
P1 - 3
£4 per pupil

Refugees Empathy Family

Celebrate identity, belonging, and our connection to each other with **Zeshan Akhter**, author of *Noah's New Home* and the Empathy Lab selected *My Name is a Gift*. Explore the power of names, what makes a home, and how empathy connects us all as Zeshan shares her heartwarming stories about some of the real challenges children face today. With an emphasis on the importance of togetherness, this will be a warm and engaging event.

 In-person



Become an Eco-Adventurer with Hannah Gold

10:45 - 11:30
Courtyard Theatre
P4 - 6
£4 per pupil

Environment Climate change Adventure

Are you ready for an eco-adventure? Because **Hannah Gold** (bestselling author of beloved *The Last Bear*, *The Lost Whale*, *Finding Bear*, and *Turtle Moon*) invites you to join her on a thrilling expedition where you'll discover amazing animal facts, journey from the Arctic to the Costa Rican rainforest, and test your knowledge in a wonderful wildlife quiz. Plus, Hannah will reveal how you can become a planet superhero - just like the characters in her books!

 In-person



Celebrate 10 Years of Read Write Count with Tracey Corderoy and Steven Lenton

11:00 - 11:45
Venue T
P1 - 3
Free but ticketed

Stories Drawing Games

This special, free event is in partnership with Scottish Book Trust and celebrates 10 years of *Read Write Count*, Scotland's national book-gifting campaign. Get an exclusive first peek at what's in this year's bags! Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam are back for a PAW-some new adventure. Join author **Tracey Corderoy** and illustrator **Steven Lenton** to find out how the robber dogs turned crime-solving-baking-duo keep saving the day. Expect storytelling, live-drawing, games, and loads of fun as the characters come to life.

 In-person  Livestreamed and on demand

Wednesday 20 August: Primary Schools Gala Day



Own Your Story with Polly Atkin, James Catchpole, Matilda Feyişayo Ibin and Elle McNicoll

11:30 - 12:15

Venue NW

P5 - 7

£4 per pupil

Disability Inspiring Wellbeing

Growing up disabled can be an isolating experience. As much as you might be surrounded by loving, well-meaning friends and family, chances are no one close to you is going through something similar. But you're not alone. Today, hear from a selection of brilliant authors who've shared their experiences of childhood disability in *Owning It*, a powerful anthology exploring the highs, lows, and in-betweens of navigating social life, school, sports, and friendships while growing up disabled.

 In-person



Blast to the Past with Maisie Chan

12:00 - 12:45

Spiegeltent

P4 - 6

£4 per pupil

History Friendship Ghosts

What do you get when you combine flying roast chickens, Chinese New Year... and karaoke? **Maisie Chan's** newest book, *Nate Yu's Blast from the Past*, that's what! When Nate gets hold of an artefact from the First World War, it sparks a friendship he doesn't see coming. Literally no-one else does either - because Nate's new friend is a ghost. In this fantastic, funny event, hear bestselling author Maisie chat about this period of history and the real-life inspiration behind her writing.

 In-person



Uncover Mysteries with Patrice Lawrence

12:15 - 13:00

Courtyard Theatre

P5 - 7

£4 per pupil

Mystery Diversity Inspiring

People Like Stars is the latest page-turning mystery from multi-award-winning author **Patrice Lawrence**: a story of long-buried secrets, friendship, fury...and foxes! In this enthralling event, Patrice introduces the novel's unlikely cast of characters who are on a mission to uncover the truth about a mysterious graffiti artist. Hear her chatting about the real-life inspirations behind her work, the vibrancy of mixed heritage, and learn some handy tips for creating your own compelling mystery along the way.

 In-person

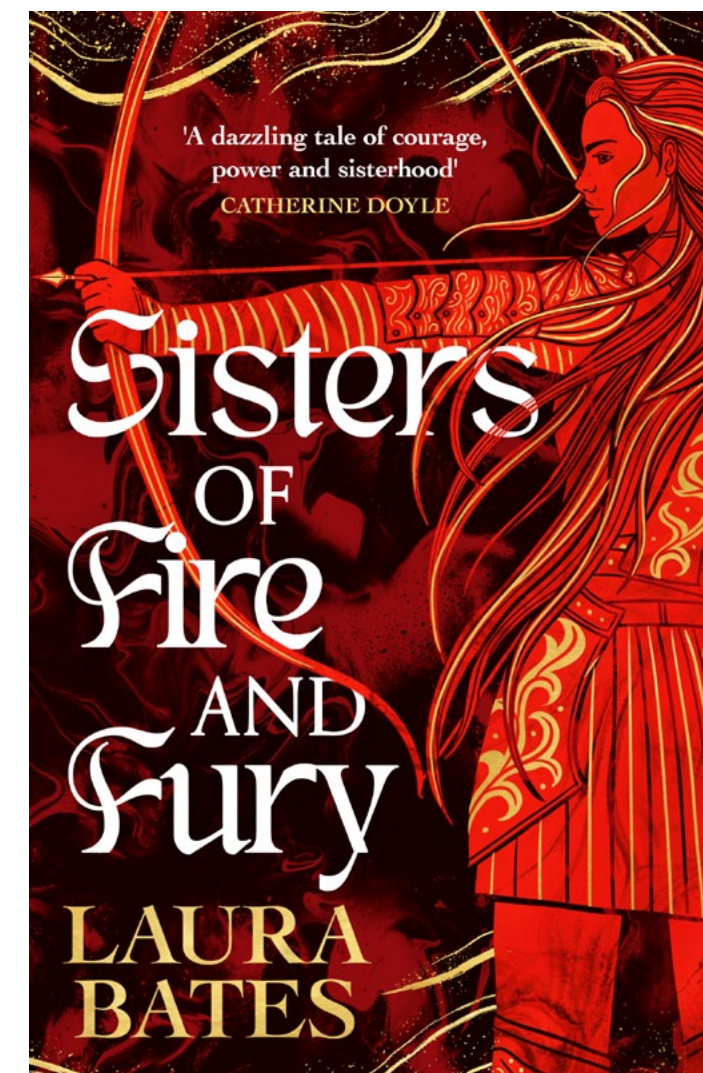


Thursday 21 August: Secondary Schools Teen Takeover Day

We all know that teenage years can be tumultuous as we figure out who we're becoming. So, the events here have been designed, with our Festival theme 'Repair' in mind, to help your students connect with themselves. Find author talks that focus on figuring out identity and finding our authentic voices... even by ripping up the typical writing rule book!

Plus, drop in to the Discovery Zone (located in the Lounge on Level 2) between 10:00 – 14:00 for a range of engrossing, interactive events. Teenagers can tune into their inner selves with letter-writing and postcard-making, or explore our Festival theme of 'Repair' in a broader sense with lessons in mending clothes, creating personalised bookmarks, and more.

And don't miss the chance to meet and hear from the shortlisted writers of this year's YA Book Prize with our two panel talks – right before the winner is revealed!



The Front List: Schools Edition

Women are Legends too: Reimagining Fantasy with Laura Bates

13:30 - 14:15
McEwan Hall
S3 - 6
£4 per pupil

Fantasy

Feminism

Legends

We've all heard the legends of King Arthur, Excalibur and the Round Table. But what if it wasn't him who really united the kingdom of Britain? What if it was a powerful knight who also happened to be a woman? **Laura Bates** gives the inside scoop on *Sisters of Fire and Fury*, the sequel to her bestselling *Sisters of Sword and Shadow*, conjuring a world of old magic, battles, and a mythic showdown - and explores how we can move through fear to find our courage.



In-person



Livestreamed

Thursday 21 August: Secondary Schools Teen Takeover Day



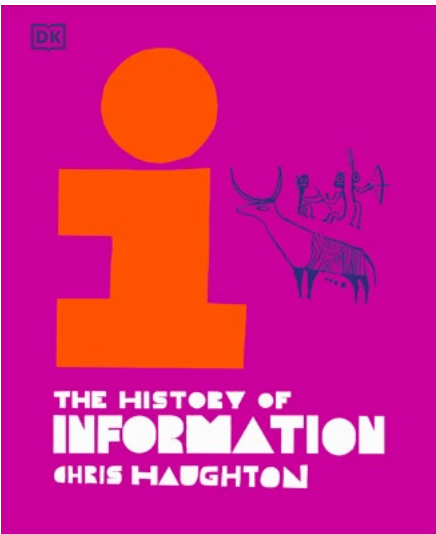
The First Year with Matt Goodfellow

10:00 - 10:45
Venue NW
S1 - 3
£4 per pupil

School life Mental health Friendship

Matt Goodfellow describes poetry as ‘rebel writing’ – an opportunity to throw out the typical rules and really write from the heart. Hear him talking about how he embraced his own writing rebel while working on *The First Year* – his much-anticipated new verse novel about 11-year-old Nate, who has a tumultuous start to secondary school life. Get inspired to tell your own story in verse and – most importantly – to be proud of your own, authentic voice!

In-person



The History of Information with Chris Haughton

10:45 - 11:30
Courtyard Theatre
S1 - 3
£4 per pupil

Information Art Technology

Have you ever wanted to know information... about information itself? Well, there’s a book on that – and **Chris Haughton** has written it! Listen to this fascinating chat between Chris and fellow bestselling author-illustrator **Dapo Adeola** as they talk about *The History of Information*, exploring how humans have stored and processed information throughout the ages, from cave paintings to the advent of computing and beyond! Expect live-drawing, props, and the chance for curious minds to ask lots of questions.

In-person



YA Book Prize 2025: Meet the Shortlisted Writers

11:00 - 11:45 + 12:45 - 13:30
Venue T
S3 - 6
£4 per pupil

Young Adult Award winners Discussion

Meet the authors shortlisted for 2025’s YA Book Prize. Organised by *The Bookseller*, previous award-winners include Lex Croucher for *Gwen and Art Are Not in Love*, Danielle Jawando for *When Our Worlds Collided*, and Alice Oseman for *Loveless*. As always, this year’s winner will be decided by a panel of experts and teenage judges. Join us to hear from some of the best voices in YA today. Full line-up revealed in June – check our website for updates. (Note: this event takes place twice, with different shortlisted authors appearing each time.)

In-person Livestreamed
 Panel discussion



What Happens Online with Nathanael Lessore

11:30 - 12:15
Venue NW
S1 - 3
£4 per pupil

Social media Friendship Wellbeing

If you could craft a notorious online persona to get even at school, would you? From Yoto Carnegie Medal shortlisted **Nathanael Lessore** comes a hilarious new teen comedy, *What Happens Online*, about figuring out who you are both on and off the internet. Join Nathanael for a funny and interactive event as he shares his top tools and tricks to write professionally. Find out the formulas and rules of writing, as well as how you can find inspiration in your own life.

In-person

Thursday 21 August: Secondary Schools Teen Takeover Day



Share Your Story with Bruna de Luca

12:00 - 12:45
Venue B
S1 - 3
£4 per pupil

Creative writing Diversity Identity

There's nobody quite like you, so why not write the story only you can tell? Join **Bruna de Luca**, author of *Livia in Rome*, for a fun, interactive writing workshop where you'll turn your unique experiences into compelling fiction. Through quick-fire writing exercises, creative prompts, and opportunities to share, you'll explore how setting shapes character, how identity drives storytelling, and how to bring more of yourself to the page. Perfect for teens who love contemporary fiction and diverse voices!

 In-person  Workshop



Take a Journey of Self Discovery with Joseph Coelho

12:15 - 13:00
Courtyard Theatre
S3 - 6
£4 per pupil

Identity Mythology Coming-of-age

The Boy Lost in the Maze won the YOTO Carnegie Medal for Writing in 2024 and it's not hard to see why. It's a spellbinding interactive verse novel by **Joseph Coelho** (former Waterstones Children's Laureate) that skilfully interweaves the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur with a modern coming-of-age story of a teenage boy on a quest to find his dad. It's amazing, really - and today Joseph chats to poet and storyteller **Nadine Aisha Jassat** all about it.

 In-person

“It's a genuine privilege to run this trip every year, and one of the highlights of my school year. Without fail, our kids are energised and enthused by the world of books, reading and stories, and the positive atmosphere on arrival is a key part of that.”

School librarian, St Ninian's High School



Friday 22 August: Events for Primary ages

We're putting on a brave face for our final Schools events of 2025. In fact, with stories of being brave enough to learn the secrets of bees, how to train a dragon, and how a little bit of courage and compassion can help us all accept each other, bravery is the force that connects our final three events!



Dive into Dragons with Cressida Cowell

10:00 - 10:45
Venue T
P4 - 6
£4 per pupil

Fantasy Adventure Movies

Join superstar author **Cressida Cowell** for the launch of *How to Train Your Dragon School*, the first new novel in her Dragon World series for over 10 years! Hear all about Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third and his dragons as they get up to hilarious hijinks, and learn some epic writing and drawing tips from Cressida as she shares her secrets, chats about what inspires her, and reveals some exclusive behind the scenes stories from the new live action film based on her smash-hit book series.

 In-person  Livestreamed and on demand



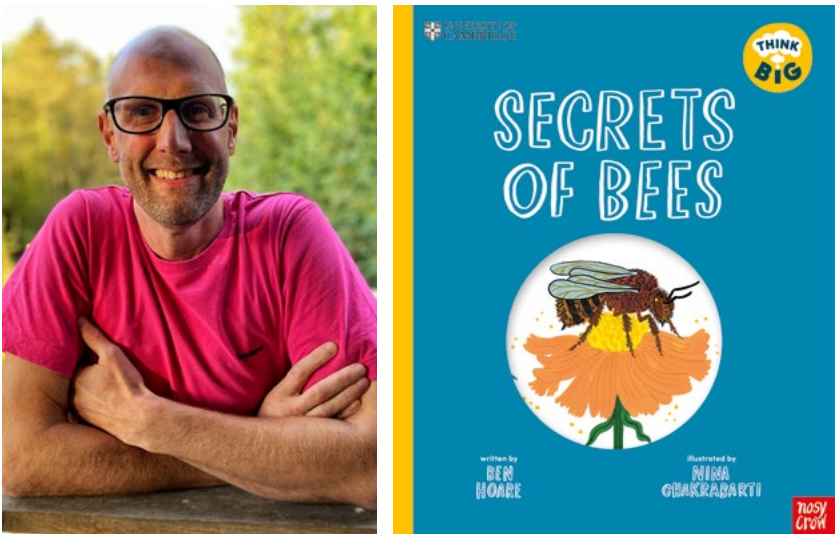
Marvellous Masks with Louise Gooding

10:30 - 11:15
Spiegel tent
P1 - 3
£4 per pupil

Inclusion Empathy School life

Have you ever felt like wearing a mask could help you feel braver? Like you need to put on a disguise to be liked? Well, you're not alone. In fact, the main character in **Louise Gooding's** *Minna's MASKS* feels exactly the same. Hear Louise chat about this inclusive, heartwarming story which introduces the idea of masking to young children - neurodivergent or otherwise. Learn about empathy, compassion, and how we can accept each other - with or without a mask.

 In-person



Discover the Secrets of Bees with Ben Hoare

10:15 - 11:00
Venue C
P3 - 5
£4 per pupil

Environment Conservation Nature

Become a pollinator pro in this fabulouzzzzzz event with bee-fanatic and author of *The Secrets of Bees*, **Ben Hoare**. With his bee-rillicant science facts, Ben will get you to THINK BIG about these small but incredible creatures. Bee prepared to get buzzing, bust some bee myths, and take part in amazzzzzing games as you learn all about why our planet would be in a sticky situation without bees. (Have you had enough of our bee puns yet?)

 In-person

Events for Teachers



Read On! A Career-Long Professional Learning Event with Claire Mabey and Leyla Josephine

Wednesday 20 August
18:15 - 19:15
Venue C
£10.50 [£5*]

With rates of reading enjoyment declining in children and young people, and teachers facing greater challenges in promoting reading for pleasure, it's more important than ever to think creatively about supporting reading. Join literary festival founder, book editor, and children's author, **Claire Mabey**, in conversation with poet and theatre maker **Leyla Josephine**, as they discuss the power of children's books and reimagine practical ways to encourage a love of reading for all children and young people.

*£5 for teaching students



YA Book Prize 2025: Award Ceremony

Thursday 21 August
17:30 - 19:00
Spiegeltent
£10.50 [£5*]

Exciting news! We're collaborating with magazine *The Bookseller* again to host 2025's YA Book Prize award ceremony. Come along to discover the best Young Adult fiction coming from the UK and Ireland right now. Previous winners include Lex Croucher with *Gwen and Art Are Not in Love* (2024), Danielle Jawando with *When Our Worlds Collided* (2023), and Alice Oseman with *Loveless* (2021). Hear this year's shortlisted authors read from their books before one of them is crowned winner.

*£5 for teaching students



Edinburgh Teachers' Reading Group Launch

Thursday 21 August
18:15 - 19:15
Venue C
Free but ticketed

Interested in developing your practice on Reading for Pleasure? Keen to share ideas with colleagues in a supportive environment? Come along to find out about the Open University/UK Literature Association Teachers' Reading Groups (TRG) to hear how you can get involved, and access a range of free resources and evidence-based tools. There will be the opportunity to hear from local TRG group leaders and author **Nadine Aisha Jassat**, as well as the chance to network with other learning professionals.



Make use of a 10% discount at our Waterstones Festival Bookshop!

Exclusively for teachers, make use of this at any point during the full festival - just show proof of employment at the till.

How to book

😊 Attending in-person:

Booking opens Monday 28 April

Tickets are £4 per pupil (with a free adult ticket for every 10 pupil tickets), and allocated on a first come, first served basis. Help is available for transport via our travel fund, and you can also register for free tickets if cost is a barrier for any pupils.

Booking a visit for your class is easy! Simply follow these steps:



1. Browse the Schools Programme and pick out the event(s) you would like to attend.
2. From Monday 28 April, complete our online booking form to submit your ticket request, and any transport fund or free tickets applications, at learning.edbookfest.co.uk/tickets.
3. Take note: the deadline for submitting booking forms, or letting us know of any changes or issues with previously submitted forms, is Thursday 13 June.
4. Our Schools Booking Coordinator will notify you once your tickets have been allocated, and provide you with further information regarding the cost of your booking and payment options. You will have the chance to confirm you would like to proceed.
5. Get ready for your visit to the Book Festival using our tips on p5!

If you have any questions, please contact our Schools Booking Co-ordinator at: schools@edbookfest.co.uk.

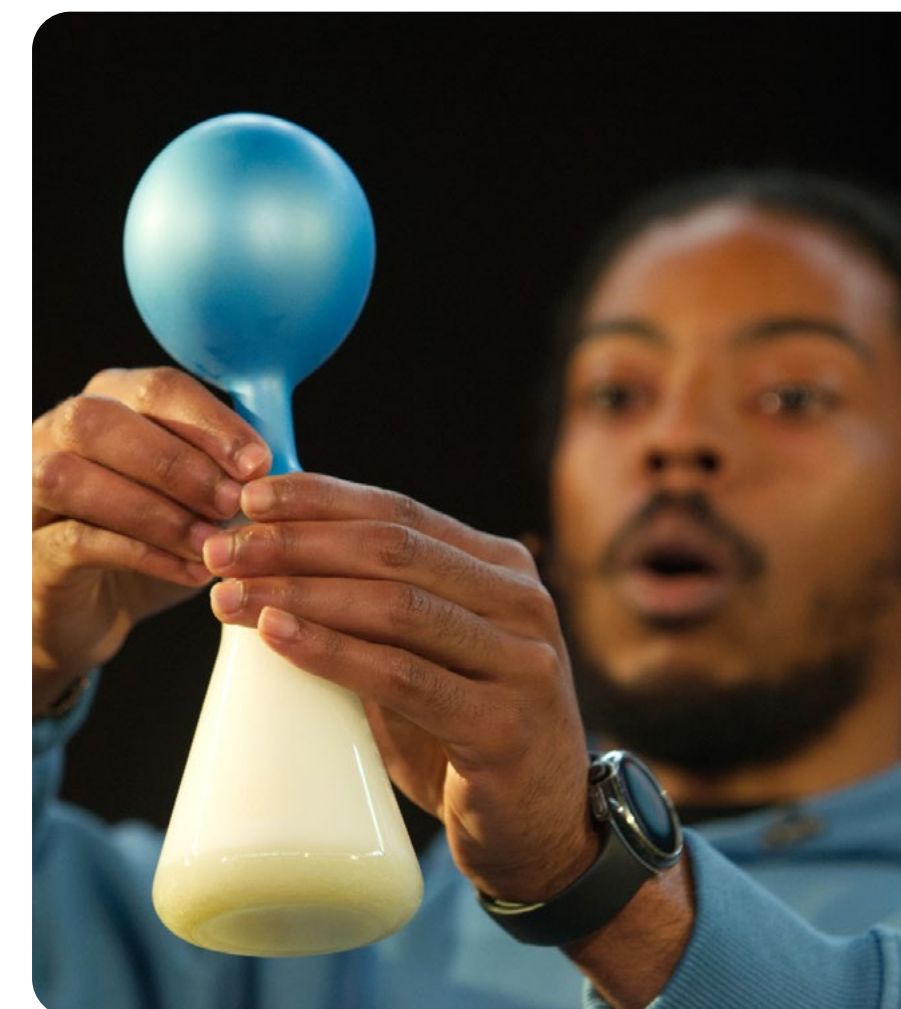
📺 Watching online:

Book for free from Tuesday 10 June

Selected Schools events are available to watch via online livestream, or on demand following the event. To join us online:

1. Register or log in to your account at edbookfest.co.uk/login.
2. Find the event you want to register for, and select 'school' and 'free ticket' options. You'll receive an email confirmation with a link to watch.
3. Once booked, simply log in to your Book Festival account before the event starts and go to the event page.
4. Tune in, grab some snacks, and enjoy!

If you have any questions, please contact our Schools Booking Co-ordinator at: schools@edbookfest.co.uk.



Visiting in-person

Booked to come along with your class in-person? Fantastic!
Here are some helpful pointers to prepare for your visit...

Accessibility

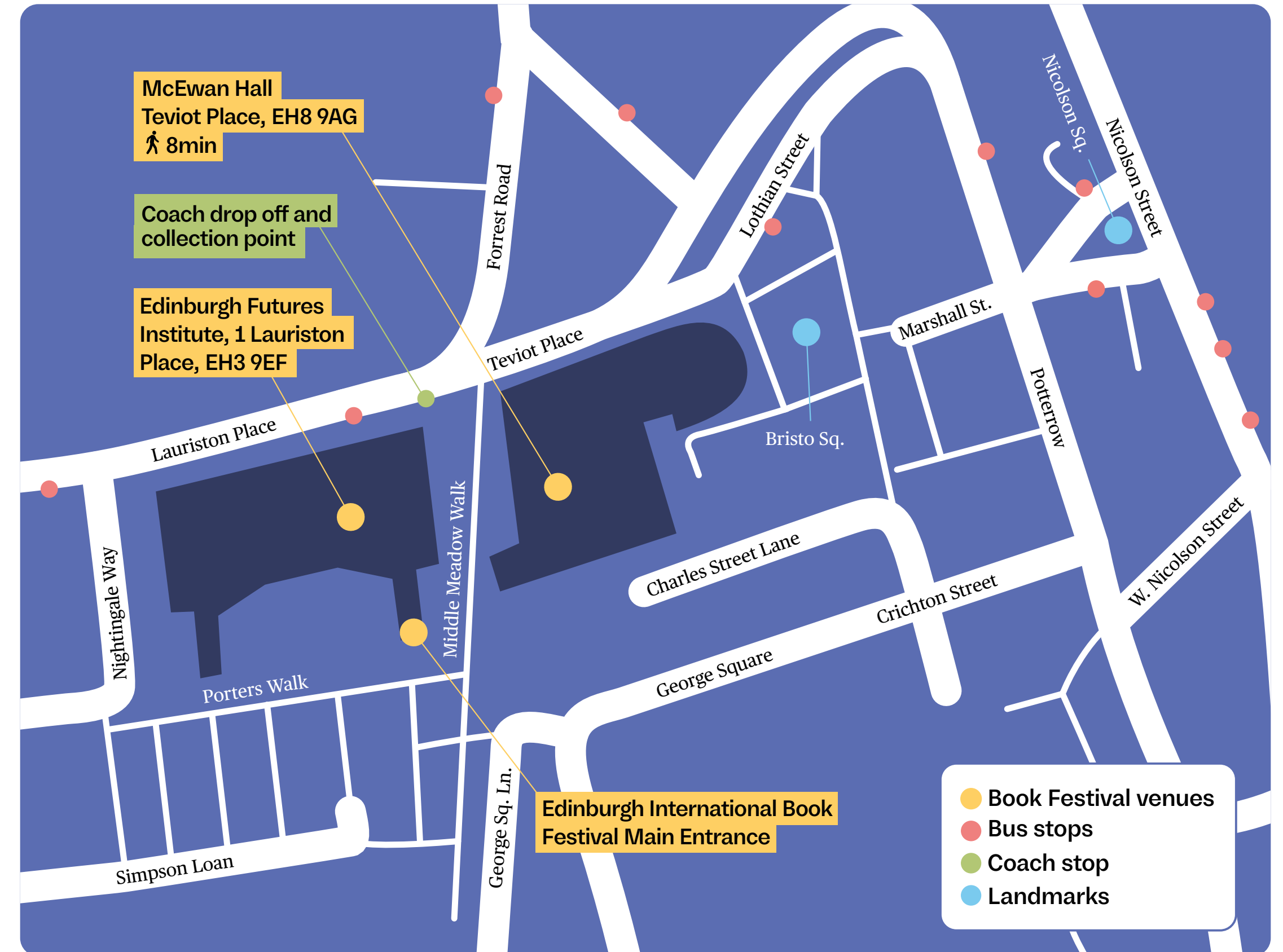
The Book Festival is wheelchair accessible and there are infrared and/or audio induction loop systems in our theatres. You can also request a BSL interpreter for any event in the programme - just do let us know as soon as you have booked tickets. Please do get in touch with us if your class has specific access requirements at schools@edbookfest.co.uk.

Pre-visit

- Don't forget to apply for transport funding and any free tickets required at your time of booking.
- Once your booking is confirmed, you'll receive an email with a helpful information pack covering key information and a photos permission form. A risk assessment document is also available on request.

Your visit

- All of our Schools events take place at our main Festival site at Edinburgh Futures Institute, apart from **Take On Tinseltown with Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Steven Lenton**, and **Women Are Legends Too: Reimagining Fantasy with Laura Bates**, both of which take place at McEwan Hall (see locations map opposite).
- Each event lasts for 45 minutes, with authors appearing live on stage.
- Each pupil attending in-person will receive a FREE book related to the event. Keep your class around post-event for the chance to get these signed by the author.
- Visit the Discovery Zone, located in the Lounge on Level 2, on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 for activities galore.
- Packed lunches can be enjoyed outside in our grassy courtyards or in one of our cosy indoor spots if the weather is unkind.
- The Festival Bookshop, brought to you by Waterstones, is packed full of more titles from every author in the programme. Don't forget you can bulk order with a discount (see p5 for details)!



April

Wednesday 23 April

The 2025 Schools Programme officially launches!

Monday 28 April

Ticket booking opens for attending in-person, along with applications to our transport fund and free ticket requests.

May

Thursday 29 May

Deadline for completing applications to our transport fund.

June

Tuesday 10 June

Booking opens for the Schools Livestreamed events. Our Public programme, including events for Kids and Families, is announced.

Thursday 12 June

Booking form deadline.

Monday 16 June

Information packs will be emailed to Schools bookers.

August

Saturday 9 – Sunday 24 August

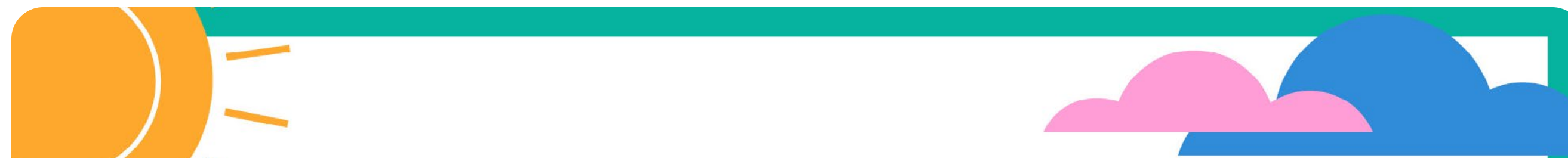
The 2025 Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Tuesday 19 – Friday 22 August

The Schools Programme takes place!

Dates for your diary.





WATERSTONES


Proud Bookselling Partner at

Edinburgh International Book Festival

Join us onsite at this year's festival to browse our shelves, meet your favourite authors and get your books signed!

Or, if you're joining in the fun from your classroom, look us up online to find a whole world of books and reading.

Waterstones.com



With thanks to our supporters

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Free books for every pupil enabled by the generous support of Book Festival Benefactors:



School Programme Partners:



And with thanks to our public funders:

