

Bradford Schools Literacy Pledge – June update

Welcome to the Bradford Schools Literacy Pledge update. We will be using this update to touch base with pledge signatories, update you on the work that has been taking place across the district, share ideas and practice, and bring you up to speed with opportunities which could further support your own literacy approaches.

As well as bi-annual updates, we will also be holding networking events to help us continue to build on this work together. Since the launch of the Schools Pledge we have a total of 31 signatories who are committed to building holistic approaches to develop literacy.

The next network meeting will take place early in the autumn term, date to be confirmed.

Get involved

Submit a best practice case study



We are excited to announce that this month our friends at local restaurant MyLahore are offering six prizes of £50 vouchers for Bradford teachers and practitioners. We want to hear about all the amazing work you've been doing in your school to develop literacy as part of the Schools Pledge. Please email us at bradford@literacytrust.org.uk with a short (300 words maximum) example of a literacy initiative you've introduced and the impact it has had. This could be a whole-school strategy, a specific event you've held or interventions to engage

with parents and the wider community. The deadline for entries is **14 July** and six winners will be selected by a panel of school improvement and teaching colleagues.

Use your National Literacy Trust membership

In February we held our first training session, which looked at navigating the membership resources online and was attended by 11 schools. Colleagues found it useful to have a practical demonstration, work through the technicalities and be steered to areas of interest. All schools have been issued with their membership passwords. If you do not know what your password is please email membership@literacytrust.org.uk.



Bradford Family Cookbook

We are calling on children and their families to submit recipes to be included in a Bradford Family Cookbook, which will be published later this year. We need your help! You could organise for your pupils' entries to be collated at school for you to send in a batch, or ask pupils to do research at home and write up their recipes at school. 50 recipes will be chosen to be published in the cookbook. [Find out more.](#)

Free resources

World Cup resources



The 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia is here! To help schools use the excitement around the tournament to boost literacy, the National Literacy Trust has created a series of brilliant football-themed resources for schools and families – including an exciting [live story](#) from author Tom Palmer with new chapters published daily, [free classroom resources](#) from Walker Books, and a [writing competition](#) with Kickaround magazine.

Fake news and critical literacy resources



The National Literacy Trust has created a series of [fake news and critical literacy resources](#) for primary and secondary teachers, school librarians and parents, designed to equip children with the critical literacy skills they need to survive and thrive in today's digital world. The resources have been developed in response to the findings and recommendations from the Commission on Fake News and the Teaching of Critical Literacy Skills in Schools, which found that just 2% of children have the critical literacy skills they need to tell whether a news story is real or fake.

Students can become published authors

In March, schools attended a twilight session on Amazon Young Storyteller, a partnership between the National Literacy Trust and Amazon which gives schools a chance to create a published anthology of students' writing and then sell it on Amazon. [Watch a short video](#) about the initiative or visit the [Amazon Young Storyteller website](#) for more information.

Training

Understanding the Literacy Requirements of the new GCSEs

We are looking for secondary schools to host two sessions in school as part of the National Literacy Trust's [Understanding the Literacy Requirements of the new GCSEs training](#). Host schools will receive a free place for the training. The dates we are currently looking to run the sessions on are: 19, 20, 21 September and 1, 3, 4 October. If you can host a training session at your school for the above dates please email on imran.hafeez@literacytrust.org.uk. This will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Dads and literacy



A range of training and support materials are available for primary schools and children's centres wanting to further develop engagement with dads and male carers of children aged 0-5 years. They are designed to help build father inclusive practice in settings which supports the home learning environment. Schools and settings that want to find out more, please email imran.hafeez@literacytrust.org.uk.

Our Stories: creative writing and performance poetry



Developed for Years 6, 7 and 8, the Our Stories programme will return in September 2018. Training resources and visits from local performance poets will support schools interested in interventions to engage disadvantaged pupils in writing and oracy through performance poetry. Interested schools should send their expressions of interest to imran.hafeez@literacytrust.org.uk.

TutorMate pilot

We're looking for 10 Bradford primary schools to join a pilot for online literacy programme TutorMate. The programme engages volunteers from the corporate sector to provide 'remote' reading support to Year 1 readers in disadvantaged communities. The TutorMate model is ideal for schools that struggle to find parents or local volunteers to provide additional support for children who need reading practice. If you are interested in being one of the 10 schools then please get in touch by emailing bradford@literacytrust.org.uk.

What have pledge schools been up to?

Beckfoot Allerton Primary poetry week

As part of a week's focus on poetry at Beckfoot Allerton Primary, our Hub Manager Imran Hafeez visited the school to share poetry performance workshops, inspire the children to get excited about poetry and have fun with writing and performance. If you are thinking about fun ways of introducing poetry in school or specifically looking at performance poetry, then please get in touch with Imran on: imran.hafeez@literacytrust.org.uk.

Canterbury Nursery School



Canterbury Nursery School have worked with the Bradford Stories team to create an innovative programme for parents called Making Reading Fun. Together they ran four hour-long parent-focussed sessions in which the group looked at the importance of reading with their children and the ways that they could make stories really come alive. The parents were encouraged to explore the importance of stories and memories to themselves and to their families, and to look at the props and settings which can help transform a story into an experience. In the final session the parents tried out their skills with children from the nursery.

Beckfoot Upper Heaton Literacy Champions



Beckfoot Upper Heaton have recruited 12 [Literacy Champions](#) from Years 7, 8 and 9, who are supporting individual Year 8 pupils with their reading. The students were asked to apply for the role and attend an interview in order to be selected. They were given training where they explored the importance of literacy, the benefits of the scheme to the school and to themselves, and how they could best help younger pupils by making them feel comfortable, by correcting mistakes and by giving encouragement and praise.