



Every term, we share the latest news from the [Read On Nottingham](#) campaign and other literacy-focused activities across the city.

Read On Nottingham campaign activity



Summer book giveaways

Read On Nottingham has had a busy summer, giving away hundreds of books to families and young children at various locations across the city. Starting at the Bulwell Arts Festival in July, campaign representatives and newly-recruited Literacy Champions gave away books kindly donated by Usborne Books.

We were also present at the Nottingham City Council and Nottingham Building Society StoryParks events, which encouraged families to develop their reading and maths skills through literacy-focused activities, crafts, music and nature trails in Nottingham's city park – and joined by the Gurrffalo himself!

Finally we visited Nottingham City Homes Fun Day for residents for the second consecutive year.



Usborne collateral

As part of our partnership with Usborne Books, we created posters and an interactive leaflet inspired by the *That's Not My...* books. The materials are to encourage parents and their child to engage with the images and enjoy sharing stories and were given away alongside the books kindly donated by Usborne over the summer.

Early years



Literacy Champions

Our Literacy Champions Project Officer Lynne has been working hard to recruit and train Literacy Champions, who work in their local communities to boost low literacy levels. Since July, 27 local and willing volunteers have taken part in a 1:1 training and 24 have completed a registration form and are currently designing or delivering their project.

One parent and Literacy Champion, Emmanuel, is making a difference by delivering books to families visiting his local food bank, where he volunteers.



Small Talk

Local families in Nottingham were invited to visit Stonebridge City Farm over the summer to take part in a series of fun, free activities as part of our Small Talk campaign (as well as meeting the animals and exploring the gardens).

[Small Talk](#) aims to help parents turn the things they are already doing with their children every day into new opportunities to fill their child's world with words. Every child who took part in the activities were given a free tote bag to take home, filled with goodies including a brand new book, bubbles, activity sheets and a fridge magnet.

Schools



Words For Work at Nottingham Academy

28 students from Nottingham Academy visited Paul Smith's offices to experience how literacy is used in the workplace as part of the National Literacy Trust's [Words For Work programme](#).

Eight volunteers from Paul Smith took the students on a tour of the office and saw the pattern cutting, design and production. The students found out more about the volunteers roles and career histories in a speed interview session. The volunteers helped to prepare the students for interviews and gave advice on how to improve their verbal communication skills.

The pupils had the following feedback:

- "I thought it was a very helpful session and the advice given has allowed me to be more open and aware of the careers and opportunities out there."
- "It was really good and has given me a great insight to how to prepare for interviews."
- "It really opened my eyes to see how it is to have a job and how all jobs can lead to lots of different jobs."
- "It helped me to understand the work environment and to know what is needed in an interview."



Nottingham Playhouse

The Young Critics programme, hosted by the Nottingham Playhouse, is aimed at 14-25 year olds who are keen to develop their writing, critical thinking skills, and those looking for guidance and development towards professional review writing.

Led by professional Nottingham writer Sara Bodinar - a script editor to Amazon best-selling authors, commissioned playwright, and a former Nottingham Post columnist – the programme is an opportunity for young people to meet established writers and critics.

Sara has worked with film studios and TV production companies all over the world The Young Critics also meet other established writers and critics.

It's £50 for 10 sessions. [Find out more and book your place.](#)



Scavengers transition project

We teamed up with Usborne Books to help ease pupils' transition from primary to secondary school this term. Pupils in Year 7 at The Farnborough Academy and The Nottingham Emmanuel School read the first chapter of *Scavengers* by Darren Simpson at primary school in the summer term and upon arriving at secondary school, they each received a free copy of the book by the Nottingham-based author.

To celebrate the partnership, Darren Simpson visited both schools to discuss life as a writer, sign books and launch a creative writing competition. Entries will be judged by representatives from the National Literacy Trust and Darren Simpson himself.

Pupils said:

"The event was very, very inspirational!"

"It has inspired me to write a book!"



Innes England donates £2,000 to local school

Commercial property agency, Innes England has gifted Welbeck Primary School in Nottingham with a cheque for £2,000 as part of its commitment to raising literacy levels in the city. The money will be used to fund the '50 things to do at Welbeck challenge', which is part of the school's enrichment programme and gives the children an opportunity to experience a range of activities, including visiting the Houses of Parliament, swimming

25 metres and sleeping in a tent. Innes England will also deliver a Children's University programme to give Year 5 and 6 pupils a taste of a career in building surveying.

Headteacher Rebecca Gittins said: "We are grateful to Innes England for their generosity. As an outstanding, inner city school we serve a diverse, multicultural community in the Meadows and high aspirations are at the heart of everything we do.



Nottingham City of Literature host Our Past, Our Stories, Our Future international learning symposium with a keynote from Kate Clanchy

Forward Arts Foundation Education Advisor and author of *Some Kids I Taught, and What They Taught Me*, Kate Clanchy, will be sharing experiences and approaches from her thirty years of teaching as part of a keynote speech at the Nottingham City of Literature international learning symposium.

The event will be a cross-sector space in which to explore ideas and share practice, learn new things and creatively engage with young people. It will take place on 28 November at Nottingham Conference Centre, Burton Street, Nottingham. Tickets cost £35.00 per person. [Book your place now.](#)



Summer at Nottingham City Libraries

Over 1000 children in Nottingham took part in the Summer Reading Challenge this year, themed around 'Space Chase'. The initiative asks children to read six books to win rewards. Every child that finished received a medal and certificate, presented at special ceremonies in their local library. In the image here, children are presented with their prize by MP Alex Norris, the Sheriff and local Strelley Road Councillor, Graham Chapman.

3455 children also attended library holiday activities, which included a theatre production of *The Girl of Ink and Stars*, craft activities, magic shows and much more.

If you would like us to include your literacy-focused activities in the next Read On Nottingham newsletter, [please get in touch](#).

Please [let us know](#) if you would no longer like to receive this newsletter and we will remove you from the list.