



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM
SCHOOL



UOB SCHOOL

NEWS

SUMMER EDITION 2026 | ISSUE 19

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of the School,

I write with the summer term 2026 now behind us, to introduce this edition of the University School's newsletter.

You will note when engaging with its contents that as ever, so much activity has occurred in and out of the classroom, and in partnership work. The last of these is valuable. Partnerships enhance so greatly the experiences pupils, students, and staff benefit from. And, in line with the University of Birmingham's founding heart as a civic University, as a School by design 'for the city of Birmingham' it is invariably energising and purposeful for us to outwardly collaborate.

This year we have been pleased to take a leading role supporting Birmingham City Council with the development of a citywide Inclusion Charter, promoting the educational culture and strategies all settings might consider as they develop or strengthen inclusive practice and intent. During the summer term, this work culminated with a Local Authority Inclusion and Attendance Conference hosted at Birmingham City Football Club – where our pupils and students represented our School, spoke with 400+ School leader delegates from across Birmingham, and provided an uplifting welcome courtesy of our Steel Pan Musicians. As with our own children, the Charter advocates that all children in our city deserve to belong, to matter, and to thrive. I look forward to our School's ongoing contribution to this system work.

Our 2025/26 graduates in Year 11 and Year 13 are to be commended on their steadfast preparations across the year for public examinations. They have shown commitment, maturity, and determination – helping each other along the way. The results days happen 13 August (for A levels) and 20 August (for GCSEs) and at those times I really hope that their endeavours will have proved fruitful. They deserve no less.

I was delighted over the last couple of weeks to engage with the interview processes for our School's senior pupil and student appointments in readiness for the coming academic year. As ever, I found myself bowled over with their confidence, intelligence, thoughtfulness, and excitement about the accomplishments each hopes to land in the future. These included Jayden, Aaliah, Denzel, and Michelle appointed to the Student President Team in Sixth Form, and Eloise, Antonia, Cameron, and Chloe in next year's Year 11 cohort earning roles as Head and Deputy Head Prefects in Lower School. Impressive one-and-all does not come close to describing them sufficiently! I look forward to their leadership across 2026/27, whilst thanking this year's pupil and student leaders for their service to the School upon vacating their roles.

I enclose my sincere thanks to each member of staff for their care, commitment, and skill across the year. To our parents, carers, and families, I send my appreciation of your support and partnership for the School. Finally, I wish all members of our School community a safe and happy summer ahead.

With kindest regards,

Colin Townsend
Principal



From September 2026, Head Prefect, Eloise, with Deputy Head Prefects, Antonia, Cameron, and Chloe.





SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM



We were delighted to host our inaugural Sustainability Symposium this term, an event that brought together pupils and staff from several schools across the city. A day dedicated to collaboration and action, and focused on sustainability and environmental stewardship. Pupils delivered presentations based on topics they researched themselves, each highlighting issues and solutions to help:

- Fast Fashion: exploring the environmental impact of the fashion industry and how our sustainable practices can help.
- The World Cup and Climate Change: how do global events, like the World Cup, affect our climate and what can be done to mitigate their carbon footprint?
- The AI Energy Trap: examining the energy consumption of artificial intelligence technologies and the need for more sustainable approaches.
- The Importance of Hedgerows: highlighting the ecological significance of hedgerows and the role they play in biodiversity conservation.

All pupils also took part in climate change and sustainability workshops throughout the day with special guests from the University of Birmingham, Veolia UK, and Wharton Natural Infrastructure Consultants. Each speaker brought a wealth of knowledge and inspired the pupils with their expertise and commitment to sustainability.

Well done to all schools involved – your dedication and passion are a testament to a bright future ahead. Thank you to all the staff and schools who joined us: Ark Victoria, Holly Lodge High School, King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls, North Birmingham Academy, The Arthur Terry School, Hodge Hill College, and Eden Girls' Leadership Academy.

We look forward to more collaborative efforts in the future as we continue to champion sustainability together!



WORK EXPERIENCE SUCCESS

Well done to our Year 10 pupils and Year 12 students for successfully completing their work experience this term. A significant milestone in their educational development, and we are proud of their achievements.

Our young people worked across several industries including finance, banking, automotive, education, and healthcare, including a number who successfully secured a place at the University of Birmingham campus. The feedback from placement managers was positive. All pupils and students demonstrated dedication, enthusiasm, and professionalism in their respective roles. Here are some highlights from the feedback we received:

"It was a delight to have your pupil in school last week. He was extremely mature and completed everything that was asked of him in good grace and humour. He built relationships well and professionally. Very proud to see the young man he has become... we would happily welcome him back!"

"It was a pleasure to host your student this week, they were a credit to University of Birmingham School. Throughout their placement, they were polite, respectful, and enthusiastic in their approach to the tasks they were given."

"She was truly wonderful to be around, helpful, committed, and highly professional. Her elegance and positive attitude stood out, and her contagious smile brought great energy to the team. We were very impressed with her contribution and work ethic, and we wish her every success in all her future endeavours."

"They always had a positive attitude towards every task and I don't think I ever saw them without a smile! I hope they enjoyed their time with us as much as we enjoyed having them. They represented your school very well."

"The pupil was fantastic at communicating her own needs and there is such a strength in being able to know yourself, your needs and then be able to regulate emotions to carry on with the rest of the day. It was inspiring to see and she should be really proud of herself for this."

Once again, well done to all our Year 10 and Year 12 participants. You have set a fantastic example for your peers, and we look forward to seeing how you will continue to grow and succeed in the years to come.

MY PLACEMENT AT UOB

"My work experience week at the College of Arts and Law at the University of Birmingham was an enjoyable experience. The thing that stood out the most was how brilliant the staff were across the different faculties. Everyone was friendly and welcoming - I honestly can't express how kind and supportive everyone was.

They were willing to answer my questions and explained what happens behind the scenes within a university. This experience has improved my confidence and understanding of working in a professional environment - and it isn't too bad!

Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the University of Birmingham, and I look forward to seeing where it leads me next."

Pardeep, Year 12 student.



$$E=mc^2$$



BRIDGING THE EDUCATIONAL GAP

A fantastic way to wrap up our final Physics Network session of the academic year with a workshop on, 'Supporting Physics Transition from KS2 to KS3.'

Colleagues explored the KS2 Science Programme of Study, discussing how key physics concepts – including light, sound, forces, magnets, and electricity – provide the foundations for learning at KS3 and beyond. A particular focus was placed on developing pupils' understanding of variables, with attendees trialling a scaffolded resource designed to support progression across both KS2 and KS3.

It was fantastic to hear such positive feedback from participants:

💬 "Great ideas and experiments shared... useful networking."

💬 "Surprised how much students (should) know coming to secondary school, which will be very useful when planning Year 7 lessons."

💬 "Very well put together and presented. I definitely learned something new."

A huge thank you to colleagues who attended from various schools across the city, contributed to the discussions, and shared their ideas. It was wonderful to see engaging conversations and collaborative thinking throughout the session.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for our next Physics Network workshop in the new academic year.



FUTURE SCHOOL LEADERS

We were delighted to welcome twenty enthusiastic students from the School of Education at the University of Birmingham to our School. These students are currently pursuing their Master's degrees in Education and Educational Leadership and Management, and this visit provided them with a valuable opportunity to observe a school in action.

During their visit, the students had the chance to hear from our senior leaders at the University of Birmingham School, gaining insights into the secondary school system in England, allowing them to understand the practical applications of their coursework and of a school environment.



Engaging with future educational leaders is always encouraging, and we look forward to more such opportunities in the future to inspire the next generation of educators.

END OF YEAR UOBS AWARDS

Each term, our Year Leaders have the pleasure of hosting Year Group Awards Assemblies. These gatherings celebrate the growth and achievements of our pupils and students. It's a time for us to come together as a community and acknowledge the development of both intellectual and community virtues among our learners.

The awards assemblies are more than just a ceremony; they are a celebration of our community's collective achievements. The atmosphere is filled with excitement and pride as pupils and students receive recognition for their hard work and dedication.

Well done on for all your efforts this year and we look forward to welcoming you back in September!



SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS FOR DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

Well done to our wonderful staff and pupils who celebrated and raised awareness in school for Disability Awareness Week in June. Pupils delivered informative presentations to their peers and several staff discussing the different types of disabilities and how we can show more understanding and compassion towards them, to have inclusive environments for all. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Disability Awareness Week a success.



EXPERIENCING THE MAGIC OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



An unforgettable experience! UoBS pupil, Taiya, travelled to the FIFA World Cup to watch England in action recently.

Taiya's connection with the tournament is quite unique. Her father is the official barber for many of the players in the squad. His professional relationship with the team allowed him to be present at the tournament, lending his support to the players as they compete on the world stage.

During her visit, Taiya had the incredible opportunity to meet some of the players and this meeting was made more special as the players took the time to sign our School pennant, including a special message for everyone at UoBS.



The pennant will take pride of place in our School as a wonderful reminder of this experience. A huge thank you to the England team, Taiya, and her family for making this memorable experience possible.

OUR JOURNEY TO THE SCHOOL TES AWARDS 2026



Whilst we didn't take home the award this year, we remain humbled to have reached the shortlist for 'Inclusive School of the Year' at the Tes Schools Awards 2026. Being recognised amongst the leading schools in the country is a testament to the dedication of our staff, pupils, students, families, and wider community to create an environment where every young person can flourish. Congratulations to the winners and all fellow finalists.

In celebration of this recognition, we remain committed to fostering an inclusive environment. We will continue to innovate, support, and uplift every member of our community, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey.





CHALLENGE WEEK 2026







FUTURE FOCUS DAY: FORMER PUPIL INSPIRING SUCCESS



It was a pleasure to welcome back our former pupil, Miya, who is now working as a Product Designer at BT. As part of our 'Future Focus' day, Miya shared her career story with our Year 9 pupils - inspiring their futures.

Miya reflected on her time at UoB School and the pivotal moments that guided her toward a career in product design. She shared the importance of hard work, perseverance, and embracing opportunities and challenges that may come your way. Miya also offered a glimpse into her role at BT, explaining the responsibilities of a Product Designer including problem solving, creativity, and teamwork.

We are grateful to Miya for returning to UoBS and sharing such valuable knowledge and experience with our pupils, inspiring the next generation of innovators and leaders.



UOB SCHOOL TASTER DAYS

Our Sixth Form Taster Day and Year 6 Transition Day were an exciting opportunity for new pupils and students to explore what life as a pupil/student is all about at UoB School & Sixth Form. From meeting their teachers to making new friends, the day was filled with discovery and excitement.

Stepping into a new environment in September can be daunting, but the taster day provided the perfect setting for pupils and students to get involved with icebreaker activities, taster lessons, and get to know the UoBS community.

We are excited to welcome all our young people back in September as they join us for Year 7 and Year 12.





ARTSFEST 2026





Birmingham
City Council



Department
for Education

FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES WITH FOOD

LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO WITH THE KIDS OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

Bring It On Brum! is running **FREE** activity clubs in Birmingham for children aged 4-16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Activities include sports and games, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and music. Every child will be given a nutritious meal too!

If you're in need of a little inspiration to give your child a fantastic holiday, check out your nearest Bring It On Brum location and register today.



FIND OUT MORE
BRINGITONBRUM.CO.UK



@BRINGITONBRUM

HOW TO BOOK

UoB School BIOB code is: 3304014



STEP 1

1. Go to www.bringitonbrum.co.uk and click **BOOK NOW**
2. Enter your criteria E.g. Location, participant age, date and click **SEARCH**
To view the session details click **MORE INFORMATION**
3. Once you've found a holiday club you like, click **BOOK NOW** and choose a date and time that works for you
4. Enter your child's details – you can add more than one child
You may need to add 'Supplementary Information'.
Please write 'None' in any fields that do not apply.

Repeat
to add more
sessions!

STEP 2

1. Once you have chosen all your sessions, go to your cart and click **CHECKOUT**
2. To complete your booking, you will need to create a log-in. You can then view/edit and add any additional bookings at any time by logging in.

Create a Log-In

- ☒ Add your details
- ☒ Sign up for session reminders
- ☒ Enter your child/children's details
- ☒ Sign up to our newsletter

STEP 3

1. Click **COMPLETE BOOKING**

Why not take a photo
of these instructions?



No longer able to attend your session?

Please contact the organiser if you are unable to attend one of your booked activities. Places are limited and the venue will be able to open up space for other children and young people.

bringitonbrum.co.uk

THE BOOK NOOK

Steph's Poetry Space

The library hosted a series of poetry writing workshops for pupils across KS3 this term with the former Birmingham Poet Laureate, Jasmine Gardosi. Funded by The Poetry Society and Steph's Poetry Space, the sessions gave pupils the opportunity to develop their creative writing skills and aimed to encourage a sense of wellbeing in those taking part, through self-expression, creativity, and collaboration. Five of these brave pupils then went on to perform their poems at our annual Artsfest.

Young Poet Laureate

UoBS first became involved with the Young Poet Laureate Programme during the Autumn Term. Created by the National Poetry Centre in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, the programme celebrates the power of poetry to inspire creativity, build confidence, and help children and young people express themselves.

As part of the programme, Birmingham's former Poet Laureate and beatboxer extraordinaire, Jasmine Gardosi, delivered an inspiring assembly to Year 9, sharing their experiences as a writer and explaining why poetry is such a powerful form of expression. This was followed by an online masterclass in English lessons with acclaimed poets Nikita Gill and Karl Nova.

Pupils were then invited to write and submit their own poems for the chance to become the West Midlands Young Poet Laureate. Jasmine also met with members of our Creative Writing Club, where Key Stage 3 pupils confidently shared their own poetry.

We were delighted when pupil Titus H was shortlisted from more than 1,200 applicants nationwide to become the West Midlands Young Poet Laureate. Another pupil, Jack R, was also recognised with a Highly Commended award – an outstanding achievement for both pupils!

You can read about Titus' experience opposite – 'My Journey as a Young Poet.'



Top Borrowers

1. Jack RM (Year 9)
2. Salih D (Year 7)
3. Aisha R (Year 8)
4. Max R (Year 7)
5. Faisal E (Year 10)
6. Hannah A (Year 9)
7. Mustafa K (Year 7)
8. Kashif B (Year 11)
9. Hephzibah O (Year 8)
10. Zack P (Year 7)

Most Popular Books

1. One of Us is Lying – Karen M McManus
2. Jujutsu Kaisen 22 – Gege Akutami
3. Party Pooper – Jeff Kinney
4. Tom Gates is absolutely fantastic (at some things) – Liz Pichon
5. Death Note Vol 2 – Tsugumi Ohba
6. Powerless – Lauren Roberts
7. Black Clover 1 – Yuki Tabata
8. Point Blanc – Anthony Horowitz
9. Simpsons Comics Unchained – Matt Groening
10. The Cruel Prince – Holly Black



Reading Champions of the Year are Form 7X2! with 768 books borrowed!



MY JOURNEY AS A YOUNG POET

"I was as surprised as you would expect after being shortlisted for the Midlands Young Poet Laureate. Normally, one enters a competition like this and just accepts that they didn't go further. But this was such an enlightening experience. It is a shame I did not go further, however it has made me strive further to achieve such a wonderful thing.

So how did I start writing in the first place? Mostly, it was the UoBS Creative Writing Club (exquisite place, I would highly recommend). I had never been much of a writer, I just read. But that club led me to such a superb place in terms of writing. The staff member that ran Creative Writing Club, Ms Middleton, recommended me for writing workshops with professional writers such as Jas Gardosi and Kenechi Udogu. Pieces came together and I wrote an entry to the Midlands Young Poet Laureate.

That day at the Library of Birmingham was amazing. The other shortlisted candidates and I had poets such as Kurly and the aforementioned Jas Gardosi help us to prepare to perform. They taught us how to stand confidently, how to speak clearly, and how to project our voices. We practised performing and then we actually did. Unfortunately, my efforts were not the superior one to the other also truly brilliant candidates and I did not go further but I still enjoyed the experience and it helped for future attempts.

I really learnt a lot by being given this opportunity and would highly recommend getting into creative writing. I would also recommend entering competitions like this one because, like me, you may unearth an authorial new you."

Titus, Year 9 pupil.



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CYBER SECURITY

We were delighted to welcome experts from Aston University and West Midlands Police to deliver an inspiring cyber security workshop for 30 of our female pupils from Years 8 and 9 as part of our International Women in Engineering Day celebrations.

The pupils explored exciting career opportunities in cyber security, heard from leading academic Dr Anitha Chinnaswamy, and took part in a range of hands-on activities, including experimenting with robots, playing a 'Catch the Hacker' challenge, and tackling a cyber escape room.

Thank you to everyone involved for championing cyber security careers and helping to inspire the next generation of women in engineering and tech. Opportunities like these are great to build confidence, spark curiosity, and encourage more young people to consider careers in the digital sector.



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Success on the courts for Year 7 pupil **David V.** David's hard work, determination, and a love for the game of Tennis has secured him three titles:

- 1 Under 12s trophy
- 1 Under 14s trophy
- 1 Under 14s team trophy.

We're super proud of David's achievements and look forward to following his successes - on to the next challenge! 💪



Year 8 pupil **Haania M** has become a published author! Her two stories were published in the Young Writers Annual Book - wonderful news! Haania loves arts and crafts too and been a runner up in a local Art Competition.



Ameera P in Year 10 has taken up horse riding and her family is very proud of her progress so far. Ameera also loves to read in her spare time, bake, and learn to cook food from different cultures!



We are delighted to celebrate **Ava M** in Year 7 who took part in a violin concert at West Bromwich Town Hall. A memorable performance and a wonderful achievement. Well done Ava!



Brothers **Anatoli M** (Year 9) and **Manolis M** (Year 11), have won the top prize at the Birmingham Inter Club Pickleball Cup 2026. Manolis was the tournament's top player, and their team - featuring both brothers alongside their father - finished as overall champions! 🏆

🏆 In addition to pickleball, Anatoli and Manolis enjoy taking part in tennis, football, jiu jitsu, as well as learning Greek.



We love to share pupil and student accomplishments from outside of School. Whether it's a new skill, winning an award, or helping others in the community - we want to hear about it! If you would like your child to be featured and celebrated, please contact us by scanning the qr code opposite:



SCAN ME



SPORT AT UOBS

Padel Workshops & Tournament

Well done to pupils who took part in a Padel Workshop where they spent the day developing their padel skills before competing against five other schools for a place at the National Finals in Manchester. Pupils put in a fantastic effort but were unfortunately knocked out in the quarter finals. It was a great experience, we had a wonderful day, and have plenty to build on for the future! A special shoutout to Anatoli who was named UoBS Player of the Tournament for his excellent consistency of shots and decision making throughout the day 🏆🌟



DofE Expeditions

Congratulations to all of our pupils and students who have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions this term.

Our Silver and Gold participants demonstrated outstanding resilience, teamwork, and determination as they completed their qualifying expeditions, navigating independently and overcoming the challenges of the great outdoors with confidence.

During Challenge Week, our Year 9 pupils also took part in their Bronze DofE expedition, embracing the opportunity to develop new skills, build confidence, and work together to complete their learning. Their enthusiasm, perseverance, and positive attitude were a credit to themselves and the School.

A huge thank you to the staff who supported the expeditions and helped make these experiences possible. We are proud of everyone involved and look forward to seeing our participants continue with DofE in the new academic year.



From the Classroom to the Commonwealth Games!

From winning double gold at the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2023 at just 15 years old, to becoming a Paralympian, and now making her Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2026 debut - what an incredible journey!

We're so proud of our very own UoBS student, Maddie, who will be competing at the Games this summer. Even more impressively, she's been balancing her training alongside studying for her A level exams.

Wishing you the very best of luck, Maddie. We'll be cheering you on every step of the way! 💙🏆



IN OTHER NEWS...

The IMI Summer School

Year 12 students successfully participated in the IMI Summer School at the University of Birmingham. Throughout the week, professionals from various fields came together to share insights, explore cutting-edge research, and delve into the latest advancements in microbiology and infectious diseases. Our students benefited from the expertise and thought-provoking discussions.

Exploring the Life and Works of Shakespeare

A level English Literature students visited Stratford-upon-Avon for a day exploring the life and works of William Shakespeare. The visit began with a guided tour of the historic town, including a stop at Shakespeare's Birthplace. Students then visited Holy Trinity Church, where Shakespeare was baptised and is buried, gaining further insight into his life and legacy.

The trip concluded with a matinee performance of Henry V at the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), offering students the opportunity to experience one of Shakespeare's most celebrated history plays performed by a world-renowned theatre company. A wonderful day which brought Shakespeare's history and legacy to life.

The Brilliant Club Scholars Graduation

Our Year 12 students graduated from the Scholars Programme with The Brilliant Club at the University of Oxford. Students explored the topic of "Who Owns the Past? History, Heritage, and Power in Italy and Beyond", examining how history and cultural heritage are interpreted, preserved, and contested by different groups and institutions. The experience encouraged Year 12 to think critically about the relationship between the past, identity, and power.

Graduating was a memorable experience for all. Thank you to The Brilliant Club, the tutors, and everyone who supported us throughout the programme. We look forward to applying the skills and confidence gained to future academic and professional opportunities.

Bhangra Beats!

An energetic Bhangra workshop brought together pupils and students to participate in this vibrant traditional dance form. Delivered by the University of Birmingham Bhangra Group, the event was a success, filled with lively beats and fun dance moves. A huge thank you to the UoB Bhangra Group for organising a wonderful workshop for us!



TERM DATES 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026

*Staff Professional Development Day: Tuesday 01 September 2026

*Staff Professional Development Day: Wednesday 02 September 2026

Induction Days for Year 7 & 12 ONLY: Thursday 03 & Friday 04 September 2026

Term Starts for ALL pupils & students: Monday 07 September 2026

*Staff Professional Development Day: Wednesday 07 October 2026

Half Term: Friday 23 October to Monday 02 November 2026 (11 days incl)

*Staff Research Day: Thursday 03 December 2026

*School closed: Friday 04 December 2026

Term ends: Friday 18 December 2026 from 12.00

*no pupils or students to attend/non-teaching day.

Spring Term 2027

*Staff Professional Development Day: Monday 04 January 2027

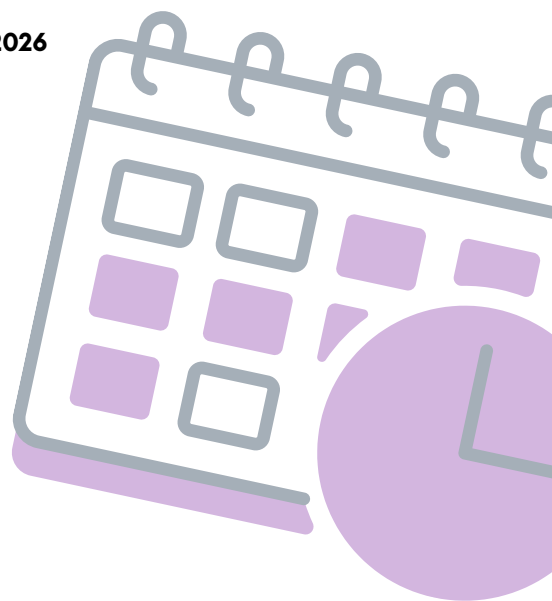
Term Starts: Tuesday 05 January 2027

Half Term: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2027 (09 days incl)

*Staff Research Day: Wednesday 10 March 2027

Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027 from 12.00

*no pupils or students to attend/non-teaching day.



WATER SAFETY AWARENESS

Water Safety Awareness Message from West Midlands Fire Service

To keep yourself and your loved ones safe around water please be aware of the following:

- Of all drownings in 2025, 57% took place in inland water – canals, rivers, lakes, ponds – the type of bodies of water we have lots of in the West Midlands.
- Even if the weather is warm the water may be cold, causing your body to go into cold water shock.
- If you fall into water, Float to Live – put your head back, float on your back, and keep yourself stable by using small movements of your hands.
- Once you are stable you may call for help or swim to the bank if it is feasible.
- Do not go into the water to save people or pets. Call 999 and ask for the Fire Service.

For more information about staying safe around water please visit:

[West Midlands Fire Service Water Safety](#)

[RNLI Education](#)



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorfy and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

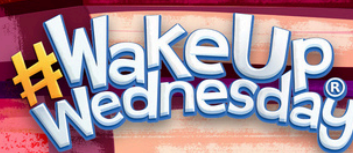
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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