



UPDATES AND NEWS



This Week's Highlights

19th March 2026

Whole School Approach to Mental Health Networks: Meet our new WSA leads, learn about updates and opportunities, share practice (**ICB funded for all Liverpool schools; sessions for primary and secondary settings**)

Movement and Storytelling Training: CPD on how to deliver a whole-class intervention for Reception classes supporting language and movement skills (**LLP member schools**)

Reading Training focusing on Diversity, Inclusion and Marginalised Communities: CPD on representation of diverse communities in children's/Young Adult books and on using books to build an ethos of empathy (focusing on the experiences of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants) (**FREE to LLP subscribed schools, available at a cost to non-members**)

Animates Author Event with author Natalie Reeves Billing; Primary author event to launch River of Life, a book about maritime careers (**FREE to all LCR schools**)

Author Event with Illustrator Ben Rothery: UKS2/3+ interactive author event with photo-realistic wildlife illustrator Ben Rothery (**FREE to LLP subscribed schools, available at a cost to non-members**)

LEGCT Funded Spaces for Secondary Schools to attend the All Ears Poetry Expo: ONLY 1 SPACE LEFT (**open to all Liverpool secondary settings, mainstream and special**)

LEGCT Bursaries: Bursaries for pupils in Y13 going to University (**all Liverpool settings with sixth forms**)

Access to Culture for Low Income Families: Find out about Ticket Bank (**all can signpost to this, LLP schools can access direct codes for families**)

CPD on using Canva for Education: FREE CPD in Liverpool on 23rd April (**all schools**)

Phone Restriction Policy Survey: Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership survey on phone restriction policies (**all Merseyside schools**)

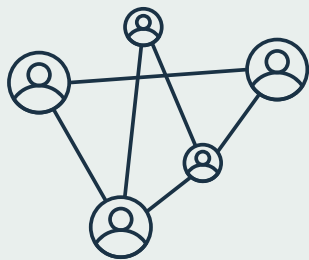
Tate Schools Online Platform: art resources (**all schools**)



Mental Health



Whole School Approach Networks: Liverpool Schools



We'd love you to join us for the first Whole School Approach to Mental Health Network session with our new leads, Damian and Leigh. This is an opportunity to meet other Mental Health leads, exchange ideas, and stay up to date with what's happening across the WSA partnership.

PRIMARY: Thursday March 26 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am

ONLINE: [BOOK A SPACE](#)

SECONDARY: Friday March 27 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am:

ONLINE: [BOOK A SPACE](#)

Reading and Literacy CPD

These training sessions are free to LLP member schools and available at a cost of £30+VAT for non-member schools. This includes the session and access to a support web bank.

Diversity and Inclusion through Children's Books

 **Wednesday 20th May, 3.45-4.45: TEAMS**

This session will explore how diverse current children's literature is, how to identify diverse inclusive books and provide frameworks for thinking critically about the representation of characters and groups depicted in books. This session explores diversity and inclusion in terms of race, disability, neurodiversity, LGBTQ+, class etc.

BOOK A SPACE: [Diversity and Inclusion in Children's Literature – Liverpool Learning Partnership](#)

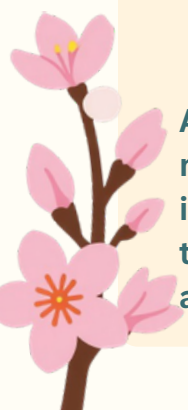
Using Books to Build Empathy for Marginalised Communities

 **Wednesday 17th June, 3.45-4.45: TEAMS**

This session will focus on how we can use books to help children and teenagers to build empathy and learn about the lives of others, particularly in terms of refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants.

BOOK A SPACE: [Using Books to Build Empathy for Marginalised Communities](#)

As communities navigate big conversations about identity, equality and global migration, these CPD sessions give staff across all phases practical ways to use inclusive, high-quality texts to build empathy and understanding. Ideal for teachers, LSAs, librarians and SLT, the sessions also signpost trusted organisations and resources to support inclusive practice.



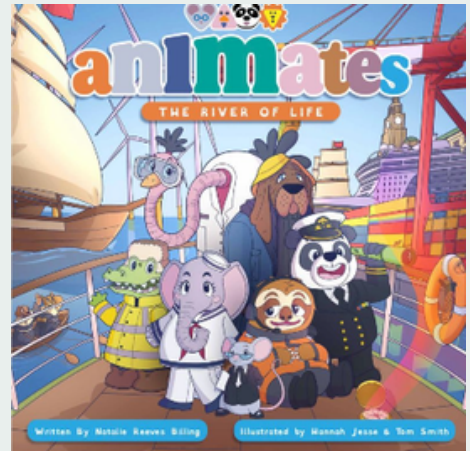


Animates Masterclass with author Natalie Reeves-Billing

 Tuesday 21st April, 1.30-2.30: ZOOM

Inviting all Liverpool City Region Schools to join Elevate EBP and Liverpool Learning Partnership for an on-line Children's Masterclass to launch The Animates: River of Life.

This fun packed hour will give your students an opportunity to have a unique reading of the book by the author Natalie Reeves-Billing and the Animates team, ask questions and meet some of the real business professionals who have inspired the characters in the story.



About The Book

The Animates: River of Life is a story about the maritime industry in the Liverpool City Region and celebrates our area's rich heritage and the people who helped shape it, from shipbuilders and dock workers to sailors and innovators.

All schools in the LCR will be receiving a printed copy of River of Life for their book collections and libraries. You can also find a downloadable copy, alongside the earlier books in the series, [on the Animates website](#).

You can also find lesson resources created by Elevate EBP and Liverpool Learning Partnership to support the River of Life book [on the Teacher's Resources page of the Animates website](#).

What is The Animates?

Created for primary schools, The Animates story books and supporting resources are designed to inspire children with skills, careers, and innovation. Along the way, we meet industry leaders, explore jobs, and discover amazing inventions, showing every child that imagination and invention are for everyone.

Created by award-winning author Natalie Reeves Billing and innovation leader Alex Cousins, we believe anything is possible.



BOOK A SPACE: [Animates Masterclass](#)

This session is hosted by Elevate EBP/Children's University and Liverpool Learning Partnership as part of our partnership with The Animates. It is free to all schools within the Liverpool City Region.





Author Event with Ben Rothery

 Thursday 7th May, 1.30-2.30: ONLINE



We are holding an online illustrator event for UKS2/3+ pupils with the incredible Ben Rothery. Ben creates intricate and finely detailed illustrations of wildlife which look at first glance (and even at second and third glance) like photographs.

Much of Ben's work is inspired or informed by his love of nature, having grown up wanting variously to be a shark, dinosaur or David Attenborough crossed with Indiana Jones, only relatively recently settling upon Illustration as a compromise allowing him to bring those fantasies to life on paper.

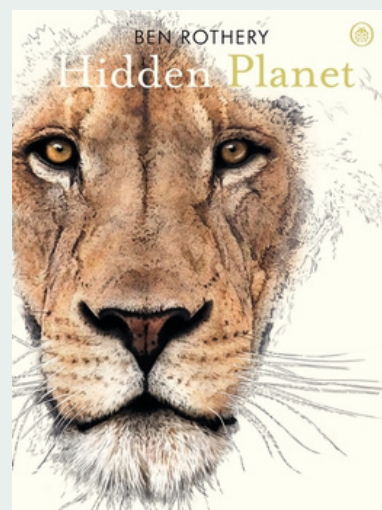
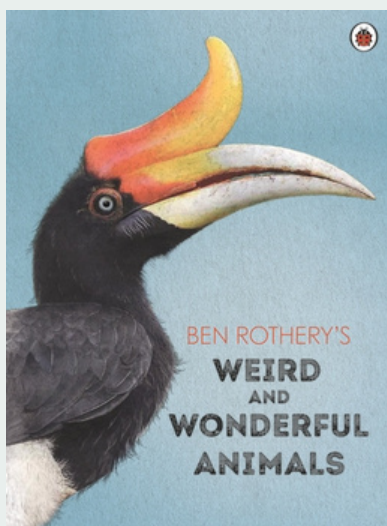
This is an opportunity to hear from a professional wildlife illustrator and ask questions about his art, animals and his career. We can even ask him about the other way that he spends his time... training and then competing in strongman competitions!

This session will focus on the natural world, art careers and the enjoyment we can get from drawing. Make sure that you have pencils and paper ready as we'll be able to join in with some drawing too!

At a time of year where many classes are focusing on revision, this is a great opportunity to take some time to focus on drawing and the natural world, factors that we know really support our mental health.

This session is FREE to LLP member schools. Non-members who are interested in attending can email admin@liverpoollearningpartnership.com for information of our pay as you go training, events and resource offer.

BOOK A SPACE: Ben Rothery Event



Movement and Storytelling Training

We would like to let you know about our upcoming Movement and Storytelling training for Reception teachers that is available free to LLP member schools. This training will be delivered by Professor Clare Wood from Nottingham Trent University.

 Friday 15 May

 10:00am – 3:00pm

 Liverpool Hope University, Hope Park Campus
Room: i3 building, room 114

 Lunch: Please note that attendees will need to bring their own lunch.

MAST is a research-informed, 12-week whole-class intervention combining movement and storytelling to support children's language development and fundamental movement skills. Sessions are delivered once or twice a week for around 30 minutes, usually during PE, and follow a consistent language,- movement,-language structure. The programme is based on children picture books of your choice, and covers locomotor skills, as well as vocabulary development throughout.

Evidence of impact

MAST was independently evaluated in Reception classes through a Nuffield Foundation-funded study and was found to:

- produce significantly greater improvements in children's language and movement skills compared with business-as-usual
- be practical, feasible and deliverable by Reception teachers
- boost children's engagement and confidence in movement and storytelling activities

How To Book

To reserve your place, please complete the short booking form below:

Booking Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqkro_MpAVCkMrud2uosN3pn5ZJKlGkuXEDt9XooOQRPG19w/viewform?usp=dialog

To find out more, please email admin@liverpoollearningpartnership.com. If you're not sure if your school is a subscribed member of LLP you can also send us an email if you'd like to check before booking.

Funded Opportunity: Liverpool Secondary Schools

LEGCT Funded Spaces for Secondary Schools to attend All Ears Poetry Expo

The Liverpool Education Grants Charitable Trust (LEGCT) is pleased to offer 11 fully funded places for Liverpool secondary schools to attend the All Ears Poetry Expo 2026. Each funded place covers a package for 10 pupils (accompanying adults are free), usually £220 including booking fee, at no cost to the school. Schools will need to arrange their own transport to the exhibition centre.

At the time of publishing this update document, there are fully-funded spaces for two schools remaining. To request a LEGCT funded place, please email Jenny@liverpoollearningpartnership.com.

Places will be allocated and confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

All Ears Expo

The All Ears Poetry Expo returns in 2026 for its second year. This year's theme is Diversity and Inclusion, with the World Cup setting the creative tone. Schools will take part in a World Cup-style poetry showcase, with each school representing a country and creating original poems that celebrate culture, identity and inclusion. Schools will compete head-to-head in a knockout format, with one school crowned the winner for best rhythm and rhymes.

Students will also explore a vibrant expo space featuring stalls, organisations and interactive activities linked to the theme. The day is designed to be creative, educational and inspiring, helping young people to develop confidence, communication skills and a love of reading and writing. Liverpool poet Joseph Roberts is passionate about supporting young people through poetry and literacy.

Every student will receive an AEP tote bag, notebook, pen and a pack of creative resources, and schools that book onto the event will also receive a free visit from Joseph Roberts.

Event details:

Friday 3rd July 2026, 9:30–14:30
Liverpool Exhibition Centre



Student Bursaries



LEGCT Bursaries for Y13 Students

Liverpool Education Grants Charitable Trust holds some historic funds which are available to give prize bursaries to some pupils who are leaving schools in Liverpool to study at university. In 2026 they have a bursary fund of £1500 which will be awarded to up eight students, with a maximum of £250 awarded to an individual.



The bursaries can be given either to pupils who will be studying history, music, or modern languages at university or to pupils who during their time at secondary school have engaged successfully in activities such as community service, supporting other pupils, and public debating and speaking.

Headteachers in Liverpool schools are invited to nominate one or more pupils who meet these criteria. The nomination should give the pupil's name and should say at which university the pupil hopes to study. The headteacher should provide information which explains briefly why the nomination is being made. In deciding which bursaries to award the assessors will take notice of evidence of academic commitment for the awards linked to subjects to be studied, or any similarly appropriate information which can be provided for the community activity awards. Financial hardship may be mentioned but is not essential.

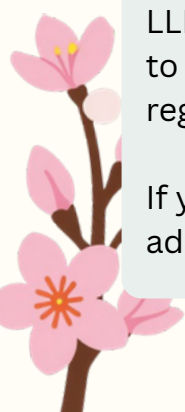
Nominations should be sent by email to jenny@liverpoollearningpartnership.com to arrive no later than 12pm on 12th June.

Improving Access to Culture for Low Income Families

Liverpool Learning Partnership has partnered with The Ticket Bank to help families facing financial challenges access free or heavily discounted cultural and sporting events across Liverpool and the UK.

LLP member schools can request unique access codes for families who may struggle to afford arts and cultural activities, giving them an easy way to sign up and explore regularly updated events ranging from theatre and music to family shows and sports.

If you're from an LLP member school and would like to know more, please email admin@liverpoollearningpartnership.com.





Learning Labs Roadshow in Liverpool: Thursday 23rd April



Canva is an all in one visual communication platform used by over 260 million people monthly, worldwide. It is 100% FREE for primary and secondary schools, helping teachers and students create, collaborate and bring learning to life.

With tools for presentations, videos, whiteboards, websites and AI powered features such as Canva Code, Canva Education helps teachers save time and create engaging lessons, while supporting students to develop creativity and future-ready skills. We are bringing the future of classroom creativity to your region, for your school. Learning Labs is coming to Liverpool, Glasgow, Birmingham, Leeds and Bristol, followed by a four day festival in London at the end of June.

At each event, you can:

- See how Canva Education empowers teachers and students to create and collaborate effectively.
- Join workshops on Canva AI, Canva Code, and tools for boosting teacher productivity and student creativity.
- Discover the latest Canva Create 2026 features.
- Leave equipped with practical toolkits and ready to use resources.

Sign up: <https://public.canva.site/uk-canva-learning-lab>





MVRP: Mobile Phone Restriction Policy Survey

Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership are exploring how schools across the region are implementing mobile phone restriction policies, including the use of phone pouches and other approaches that support safer, more focused learning environments.

They are looking to collate best practice, understand what is already working well, and bring together a group of schools who would like to be part of a regional discussion on this important topic.

If you, or a colleague in your school, would like to contribute your experience, insights, or interest, please complete the short survey attached. Your involvement will help shape a shared approach across Merseyside, and your consideration is genuinely appreciated.

[Merseyside Schools Mobile Phone Restriction Policies – Fill in form](#)

Tate Schools

Tate Schools Online Platform

A message from our friends at Tate:

We are delighted to share Tate Schools, our new online platform for teachers to bring the nation's art collection into classrooms across Britain. Offering **free** resources inspired by the world-class art in Tate's Collection.

Tate Schools has been designed with teachers to support curriculum goals in a way that sparks creativity, curiosity, and connection. Teachers are invited to explore diverse global perspectives, and engage with inclusive, sensory-friendly prompts that support all learners.

This project reflects Tate's commitment to art as a critical part of all young people's education in the UK.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/schools>

