

Ideas for funding your

author visit...



An author visit has the power to ignite a spark in your students. Pupils who have author visits are twice as likely to read above their age level, more likely to enjoy reading and are more confident in their reading and writing*. Meeting a successful author can motivate your students to follow their dreams, and even encourage the most reluctant of readers to pick up a book. And, as we all know, reading greatly increases a young person's life chances. Author visits are also a lot of fun! But, author visits are not free, so how can you fund one of these awesome visits on a shoe-string?

*source: The National Literacy Trust

SHARE THE COST

Get in touch with a nearby school and invite them along to the visit. That way you can fill up the hall (or whatever space you use) and split the cost between your two schools. Alternatively, you could ask another school nearby would like to book the author to visit directly before or after yours, and split the author's travel cost. Authors may even offer you both a discounted visit for the convenience.

GET CREATIVE WITH THE BUDGET



Author visits are often funded by the school library or English department. However, they are of an enormous benefit to student well-being, school-wide literacy, as well as students on Pupil Premium. Often an author's books will cover issues that are relevant to PSHE, history, geography and many other subjects. See if you can tap into budgets allocated to other departments or additional funding your school may have. In my opinion, a school library should not carry the full cost of an author visit that boosts student attainment, motivation and interest in so many areas of the curriculum.

FUND RAISING

Get your students involved in raising some money! Hold bake sales, have a non-uniform day, a second-hand book sale. It saddens me that such measures are often needed to provide students with educational experiences, but young people can be incredibly resourceful and will probably enjoy the idea of funding their own author visit. Students could then vote for the author they'd most like to visit their school. You could also contact your governors, PTA, or even put out an appeal to parents. I've even known businesses to sponsor an annual author visit for their local school. Finally, it's not ideal, but you could ask for a voluntary donation of £1 per student for the author visit; that way you may cover at least half of the cost.

IT'S WHO YOU KNOW

You could try contacting the National Literacy Trust, The Reading Agency and Beanstalk. They are all charities and may have some ideas or resources to help you. The Federation of Children's Book Groups is run by people who love children's books and some of their regional groups help to raise money for author visits. You can also try the organisers of local book festivals and book prizes, or any local organisation that supports literacy and education.



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