

Free tickets and books for all school kids at the 2022 Edinburgh International Book Festival

Thanks to the generosity of long-term Lead Sponsor, Baillie Gifford, the Edinburgh International Book Festival has been able to announce that this year's Schools Programme will be entirely free. In addition to all tickets being free, every child attending in person will receive a free book, and free online resources will be made available on the Book Festival's Learning site.

Aimed at welcoming young people back into the fold of literature and live events after the two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic, the Baillie Gifford Schools Programme will run from the 22 – 30 August and is available to all primary and secondary school children.



Ivor and Oona Dooks enjoying their free books courtesy of this year's Edinburgh International Book Festival Baillie Gifford Schools Programme. Image credit – Ian Georgeson

The Edinburgh International Book Festival team are also delighted to announce that all authors appearing in this year's line-up will be there in person, live on stage. However, keeping health, safety and accessibility front of mind and reflecting the current climate, the programme will be wholly hybrid, meaning all events will be streamed live and be made available to watch on-demand on the Book Festival's website.

To ensure all schools and pupils can attend, regardless of location and financial means, Baillie Gifford will also be supporting the Edinburgh International Book Festival Transport Fund, which helps lift significant barriers for many schools across the region by facilitating affordable travel to and from the festival site.

Rachel Fox, Children & Schools Programme Director, said: "We are over the moon to be able to offer every child of school age, from in and around Edinburgh and regardless of

circumstance or financial means, the opportunity to engage with what we do – it really is a dream come true. While the world has been shut down, our young people are some of those who have suffered the most, so to be able to offer an entirely live and in-person programme, completely free, really is something very special.

“That said, we are also aware that the pandemic is far from over, so we are also excited to be able to offer a fully digital programme for those who cannot attend in-person. We are so grateful to Baillie Gifford for making this possible.”



Ivor and Oona Dooks enjoying their free books courtesy of this year's Edinburgh International Book Festival Baillie Gifford Schools Programme. Image credit – Ian Georgeson

Michelle McLeod, Sponsorship Manager at Baillie Gifford, said: “The Schools Programme is an excellent way for schools to inspire and engage young people in books, and develop their love for reading. The festival team have worked incredibly hard to develop a wholly hybrid programme for schools, making it easy for any primary or secondary to take part. Our

partnership has always been one of collaboration and we are delighted to support the festival's ambitions, helping to remove barriers for schools and pupils so they can fully enjoy the magic that the festival brings".

The line-up for the Edinburgh International Book Festival Baillie Gifford Schools Programme will be announced on Weds 27 April. Tickets can be booked from Tues 3 May.