



## Benjamin Scott - Author Visits

### Assemblies/Talks

#### **Star Fighters**

*Do you have what it takes to become an Intergalactic Force cadet?*

Fire up student's enthusiasm for reading and writing as they explore the hazards of space, meet the crew of the Phoenix and recreate a gripping scene from the books. Perfect for getting reluctant and struggling readers motivated to tackle the books as well as exciting advanced readers about the possibilities for their own writing. Assembly includes five book prizes and free bookmarks. **Audience: Key Stage 2** **Timings: 45 mins – 1 hour**

#### **The Magic Portal**

*The Power of stories and how I became a writer.*

My journey to becoming an author started off with learning to read and stepping through the magic portal into a new world. I talk about the school reading scheme that got me hooked and explore what goes on inside a writer's mind. Pupils get to ask lots of questions and excited about writing their own stories!

**Audience: Key Stage 1 and older**

**Timings: 30 mins**

### Writing Workshops

*With writing, the possibilities for workshops are endless – they can cover almost any topic or any aspect of literacy. These are just some of the workshops I've used in schools – I'm continually reviewing and adapting my lesson plans, as well as adding new ideas to keep them fresh. I've worked from Reception through to Year 6. A minimum of 40 mins with each class is needed, but longer sessions are ideal to take the work further.*

#### **Taking a Story for a Walk**

Writers of any age often struggle to take an idea or 'what if' and create an exciting story with plenty of twists and turns. As a class, we'll take an idea for a walk and explore strategies to create further ideas that we can incorporate in a story. We can then plan and write our own stories.

#### **Character Creation**

Characters are the living heart of any narrative. This session helps students start to create and discover their own characters, as well as learn tools that they can use in other writing situations.

#### **Goodies V Baddies**

Conflict is at the centre of any story. This session helps students to invent their own hero and villain, and then create a story where their two characters are pitted against each other.

#### **The Writer's Toolkit**

We all have a writer's toolkit filled with strategies and experience. This thought provoking session explores the myths and truths about writers and writing – with a few exercises and thoughts that help young writers feel more confident the next time they sit down to write.

**The "Book in a Week" Writer-in-Residence Project** – Working with either the whole school, or a couple of classes, students are challenged to invent, plan, write and illustrate a story in a week. I've run this residency twice with the results often surprising teachers! Contact me to find out more.



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### Testimonials from Schools

"I loved seeing all of my class so engaged with their writing (particularly as writing is hard for quite a few in this class). The sessions were well structured and enthusiastically delivered; a genuine passion for sharing his expertise with children".

*Lucy Stephenson, Year 4 Teacher, Leighfield Academy*

"Benjamin is very good at getting children enthusiastic about writing. The interactivity of the sessions ensured that all the children were enthusiastically involved. We will use his planning and structure ideas in our 'big writing'."

*Ms Coates, ATA, Years 3 & 4 (Key Stage 2), Roecliffe CofE*

"Activities were great for generating ideas and building characters. A highlight was seeing how students wrote - it's hard to get that much out of a whole lesson, but they wrote a lot in a 5 min free flow writing session."

*Elisha Wagstaff, Year 6 Teacher, Kirby Hall*

"Benjamin's assembly engaged the children from beginning to end and threw them into life as a Star Fighter. It grabbed the attention of the children from all reading abilities. Thank you for a superb visit."

*Bourne Abbey CofE Primary*

"The children and staff were all very impressed and really loved your sessions - many are still talking about them! One boy in Year 4 went home and wrote a story. His mum said he doesn't usually talk about school, but was very keen to tell her all about meeting you. It is so good for the children, particularly the boys, to have such a positive role model as you with regards to reading and writing."

*Jayne Gould, School Librarian, Broke Hall Primary School*

"The children were very engaged and the learning was very active. [There were] lots of positive comments [from the class], particularly appealed to the boys."

*Key Stage 2 Class Teacher*

"Seeing the children working so well together and engage in the task was great. They were very proud and keen to share their story to their teacher the following day."

*Heather Naish, HLTA, Reception Class, Marton-cum-Grafton*

"It was really useful to share problems faced by writers and learn strategies to help overcome problems of what to write."

*Sue Scarrott, Year 5 Teacher, Uppingham CofE*