



****PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release****

Applications open for *The Usborne Academy* 2019 **Second year of inclusivity programme for children's independent**

Usborne has announced August dates for its annual placement week aiming to improve inclusivity in the publishing industry – with all travel and accommodation paid for eight successful candidates

Following brilliant feedback on the inaugural year in 2018, the independent, family-run children's publisher is repeating *The Usborne Academy* in August this year. Usborne will be opening its doors during the week of Monday 5th – Friday 9th August to 8 talented young people from groups currently under-represented in the industry.

To ensure this programme is accessible, the publisher will be covering travel expenses from anywhere in the UK, accommodation in central London, London transport costs and paying the London Living Wage for a 40 hour week.

To be eligible to apply, candidates need to be over 18, have the right to work in the UK, and be available for the week in question. Usborne are working with diversity & inclusion specialist Di Airey on the selection process and we will be looking for candidates to tell us what being granted a place on the Usborne Academy means to them.

The eight people chosen will get to spend a week experiencing daily life in a range of different departments including editorial, design, marketing, production and rights.

The publisher will be actively seeking applications from over 18s whether they be school or college leavers, graduates or in work.

Di Airey of Diversity Dynamics Ltd says:

"I have always believed that children's books have a powerful role in promoting openness and understanding about diversity amongst young people. As such the whole industry needs to be inclusive and embrace difference. I am delighted to be working with Usborne again on their ground-breaking Academy programme. These kinds of opportunities change lives, not just careers."

Peter Usborne, Founder and MD of Usborne, told last year's Academy:

"For me, the Usborne Academy isn't about getting people to apply for jobs at Usborne - or even in children's publishing more generally. It's about sharing with them how important it is to find something that you love, that you can do for the rest of your life and never get bored."

Deputy MD Nicola Usborne, who has led this project at Usborne, says:

"The children's publishing industry is a creative and dynamic one to work in and we feel lucky to have jobs making and selling amazing books. The Usborne Academy is about sharing that passion and allowing more people, from more diverse backgrounds, an opportunity to find out more. We want young people from all walks of life to be able to discover what children's publishing is and what roles are available in the industry."

Interested parties can find out more about – and apply to take part in – The Usborne Academy at usborne.com/academy. Follow the project's progress on Twitter: [@Usborne](https://twitter.com/Usborne) #UsborneAcademy

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