

# THE FUTURE IS OURS SAFE, FUN AND CONNECTED ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 18-22 NOVEMBER 2013



## Dear colleagues

Anti-Bullying Week 2013 'The future is ours: safe, fun and connected'. This Anti-Bullying Week we call on children and young people to take the lead on creating a future without bullying - using new technologies to promote positive communication rather than being held back by cyberbullying.

Our aims for the week are:

- To ensure all children and young people are equipped to recognise and challenge bullying behaviour wherever it happens - whether face to face or in cyberspace.
- To equip schools, colleges and youth service leaders with resources to encourage youth led anti-bullying initiatives and the positive use of new technologies.
- To educate those who support and work with children to recognise those who may be particularly vulnerable to bullying through new technologies - encouraging an inclusive approach to all e-safety education.

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## Anti-Bullying Week 2013 writing competition - in partnership with Random House Children's Publishers

This year ABA have joined forces with ABA partner organisation Random House Children's Publishers UK (RHCP) and two of their brilliant young authors to raise awareness of the issue of cyberbullying through a prestigious and inspirational writing competition for children and young people in schools and colleges in England. The competition aims to encourage young people to get involved with the campaign throughout the summer months for the build up to Anti-Bullying Week.

**The competition has two age categories, each to be judged by an expert children's author:**

- The 8 - 12 years group will be judged by young, talented writer/illustrator of Darcy Burdock, Laura Dockrill. A graduate of the Brits School of Performing Arts, Laura has been dubbed one of The Times 'top ten literary talents' and named in the 'top twenty hot faces to watch' by ELLE magazine.
- The 13 - 18 years will have their work appraised by incredible new author John Lucas, author of gritty novel *Turf*, a 'powerful and unsettling' (Telegraph.co.uk) read which was received with a swathe of glowing national reviews including the Financial Times who proclaimed it 'a terrific debut'.

**Laura Dockrill said: "Creative writing is a perfect way to help tackle the root of bullying so I am honoured to support Anti-Bullying Week 2013. Young people can write honestly and openly, using characters and guises to explore and challenge their experience, use animals or superheroes or warriors to express their inner emotions. Emptying their heads and hearts onto an empty page can be daunting but less scary than telling somebody their own story. This creative and cathartic response can be shared from classroom to Facebook, helping and encouraging others and also embracing social network sites as a place for socialising rather than negativity whilst also achieving some special dazzling work, something a young person can be proud of."**

***John Lucas said: "Bullies are basically unhappy. If they weren't they wouldn't feel the need to make other people's lives miserable. That's a fact. One aspect of writing that I've always loved is the opportunity to take life experiences - good or bad - and turn them into something positive by the very act of writing about them. If you're being bullied, social media gives you the chance to tell people what's happening in ways that never used to be possible. Write about your experiences, share your experiences. Bullies thrive on fear and control - take them away and they're powerless. You'll actually be doing them a favour in the long run too. Although, maybe don't expect a thank you."***

Entrants are required to write a short story, blog, news article or poem of no more than 500 words, that describes their vision of a world where young people have taken control of cyberspace - and eliminated bullying for good.

The best entries will be shared through the RHCP social networking sites and the Anti-Bullying Alliance blog, websites and social networking sites. The successful applicant in each age category will win the opportunity to personally select their own collection of titles whilst a further fifty books will be awarded to their school or college from RHCP. In addition, the winner will receive a visit to their school or college by Laura Dockrill (8-12 years category) and John Lucas (13-18 years category) who will present the prizes to the winner of each category.

Entries should be sent in via the entry form on the ABA [website](#).

The competition closes at midnight on Monday 30th September. More details of the competition and Anti-Bullying Week 2013 can be found at [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

For more information about Random House Children's Publishers UK go to <http://randomhousechildrens.co.uk/>

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### **Get involved in Anti-Bullying week today!**

- 1) Support ABA by promoting the fact that Anti-Bullying Week was established by ABA and is coordinated by ABA. The week has more impact if we work together. Please use the attached Anti-Bullying week logo wherever you can to publicise the week - whether on your websites, social network sites, publications, etc. Later in the year we will also send out some recommended text for use on press releases relating to the week.
- 2) Forward on these ABW 2013 updates to your colleagues and networks to help spread the word.
- 3) Support one another on Twitter by using the #ABW2013 and retweeting member tweets. It's a great way to share member updates, news and activities relating to the week.
- 4) Send ABA any existing resources you have that support the theme - or create bespoke resources, so we can upload these to the ABA website. It's a great way of publicising the work that your organisation does to prevent bullying. Email [aba@ncb.org.uk](mailto:aba@ncb.org.uk).
- 5) Send ABA statistics or case studies relating to the theme that we can use in the briefing materials for children, school staff, youth providers and parents and carers. We draft these materials in June and July so the earlier you send these to us the better. Email [lseager-smith@ncb.org.uk](mailto:lseager-smith@ncb.org.uk).

We have a real opportunity this year to work positively with children and young people to prevent cyberbullying and to make sure our advice is up to date and inclusive of all children. It's set to be an exciting campaign!



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Anti-Bullying Alliance is a partnership body based at National Children's Bureau.  
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