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Dear Parents and Carers

Book Festival 2026: Year 8 and Year 9 Author Event Thursday 12 March

On Thursday 12 March, we are planning an exciting event for students in year 8 and 9. Alex Hibbert, author of *The Long Haul*, *Polar Eskimo*, and *Maybe* (amongst other titles) has agreed to visit the school to talk to students about his books and his experience of being a polar explorer. His talk supports and stretches beyond the curriculum from design and technology to writing non-fiction; from natural environments to managing change and from wildlife photography to developing resilience.

Alex Hibbert is the world record-holding polar traveller who has skied further on an unsupported Arctic journey than anyone in history, and is one of only 11 people to have broken the polar unsupported 1000-mile barrier.

Alex has authored four books; *The Long Haul*, *Maybe*, *Kalaallit Nunaat* and *Polar Eskimo*, and has appeared as an expert commentator across mainstream media, including Sky News and the BBC and national newspapers. Photography and filmmaking is central to Alex's work and he has been a BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year finalist three times - this passion for the natural world leading to a degree in biology from Oxford University.

Afterwards there will be an opportunity for the students to buy a book and get it dedicated to them and signed by Alex. A signed book can be a permanent reminder of a special experience and can reinforce the message about the importance of reading. Alex will be bringing books with him and usually accepts card and cash payments.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Kesteven

