

NRCQ 2024: Contacting your local MP

How and why to engage your local MP

You might want to engage your local Member of Parliament (MP) to raise the profile of the Quiz in your community.

As an MP is elected to the House of Commons by their constituents, they act as a figurehead locally, trying to meet as many people as possible and gather their views to inform their decisions within parliament. They tend to have a large following on social media, weekly newsletters, a website and in some cases a column in their local paper.

For all these reasons, we would suggest writing to your local MP asking them to support and publicise your participation on their channels.

Top-tip: If you're a librarian or teacher and your MP supported you through the heats, be sure to tag them on social media if you make it through to the finals! They may want to re-share on their accounts and follow your progress.

Top-tip: If you are a regional organiser, you can share this guidance with schools in your areas or reach out to MPs yourself if there are multiple schools taking part in their constituency.

Contacting your local MP

You can check who your local MP is using your postcode [here](#) or alternatively, you can call the House of Commons Information Office on 020 7219 4272.

We would advise you to first approach your MP with an email, outlining some background about the quiz and asking very clearly for their support. We have drafted an email template below that you can use. We would also suggest you attaching your press release to this email to give your MP more context. If your school has an existing relationship with your local MP we would suggest that the person who holds that relationship to approach the MP with this request.

Dear XXX,

I am writing to you from (name of school, also include the postcode of your school so that the MPs team can clearly see you are from their constituency) which is in your constituency. I wanted to share some exciting news - we have made the regional heats of the National Reading Champions Quiz (NRCQ). I know that our students would really appreciate your support, and I was therefore wondering if you could support us on social media or with a quote for our press release.



National
Reading
Champions
Quiz



The National Reading Champions Quiz (NRCQ) is an annual opportunity for enthusiastic young readers go head to head with their peers to showcase and celebrate their knowledge of reading. It's an initiative from the National Literacy Trust, generously supported by the ALCS, aiming to build a love of reading and celebrate reading for pleasure in schools across the country.

Schools from 22 regions across the UK are competing with others in their area for a place in the national final and the chance to be crowned the National Reading Champions 2024. We are really hopeful that we will make the final and be crowned champions and we would really appreciate your support on our journey to get there.

Please can you share the below message on your social media channels on the ([date of regional heat here](#)) - I am wishing the best of luck to the students at [school name] taking part in the regional heats of the National Reading Champions Quiz. I'm sure all the students taking part will do incredibly well #NRCQuiz2024

I have also attached a press release with further information that you could put on your website or newsletter. I was wondering if you may also be able to give me a short quote of support that I could include?

We are really hoping that you're able to share this exciting news, I know how much it will mean to all our pupils taking part to have their local MP support them on this journey. I will of course keep you updated about our progression and let you know if we reach the finals.

Thank you so much.

Kind regards,

(Name)

MP follow up

Once you have approached your MP and asked them to share a post on social media, we would advise monitoring their account and retweeting/re-sharing their post thanking them for their support.

It's important to build a relationship with your MP so we would advise you to follow up with your MP letting them know how your school got on in the regional heats and thanking them for their support. You can easily update the above email and edit the suggested tweet depending on how you progress through the heats.