



THE FULHAM BOYS SCHOOL

A Church of England School

The Fulham Boys School

SERVICES

Course 8: Real Boys Read

To say that boys don't read is a nasty stereotype. Yet, in 2011, an estimated 60,000 boys failed to reach the expected reading level at age 11. The "reading gender gap" is widening and word on the street is that action needs to be taken. However, it isn't so easy when statistics argue that boys are reading less, reading easier texts and reading less thoroughly than their female agemates. The idea that "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink" may be applicable to an extent, but it also admits defeat and accepts the stereotype as immovable. This session aims to discuss the challenges that schools face when addressing the issue with reference to research papers, case studies from primary and secondary schools, as well as strategies and practical examples from The Fulham Boys School.

Course length: 90 minutes. **Where course is held:** at FBS.

An outline of what the course will look like:

- The "Reading Gender Gap": dissecting the stereotype
- Common Concerns: what are the challenges for teachers of boys?
- Case Studies: what do different schools do? (based on KS3 research done in local London schools)
- The FBS Way:
 - A library geared to boys: going viral
 - Real Boys Read: deploying male role models (teachers, speakers and parents)
 - Reading Ambassadors: a whole school approach
 - Fierce Competition: Accelerated Reader; House Points and Certificates