

**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

**Best-selling authors promote accelerating learning in literacy at Renaissance Learning Scottish Symposium**

Renaissance Learning UK Ltd will be hosting their first Scottish Symposium on Accelerating Learning in Literacy on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

Taking place at Sandeman House, home of the Scottish Book Trust – a superb venue situated just off the Royal Mile in the centre of Edinburgh’s Old Town – the event is aimed at promoting literacy best practices amongst Scottish primary and secondary schools.

Carnegie Medal winning author and respected commentator on children’s literacy and youth librarianship, Theresa Breslin, will be speaking at the event – as will best-selling author Cathy Cassidy. Other presentations will be made by ‘Reading Hero of the Year’ Beverley Humphrey, LRC Manager at Woolwich Polytechnic School, as well as Sheila Malcolm – Head Teacher of Castletown Primary School. Sheila’s school has been using Renaissance Learning’s Accelerated Reader program for the last seven years with considerable success – some pupils have even shown up to four years reading age improvement in just one year. Beverley Humphrey, LRC Manager was recently won the prestigious award of Reading Hero of the Year which she received in February at No.10 Downing Street. Though she does many things to stimulate “her boys” to read for pleasure include overnight fundraising and weekly drop everything and read days, her Write Path project is something of significant note.

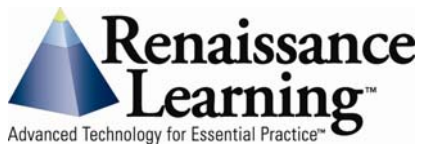
Dirk Foch, Managing Director of Renaissance Learning UK Ltd, who will be opening the Symposium, comments: *“We are delighted to be continuing the series of Renaissance Learning Symposiums in Scotland, and are especially pleased to be hosting it at the wonderful home of the Scottish Book Trust.”*

Additional information on this, and forthcoming events, can be found at [www.renlearn.co.uk](http://www.renlearn.co.uk).

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#### **About Renaissance Learning UK Limited**

Renaissance Learning UK Limited is a subsidiary of Renaissance Learning Inc, a company founded in Wisconsin (USA) in 1986. Renaissance Learning UK Ltd is a leading provider of educational solutions to primary and secondary schools across the United Kingdom.

Adopted by more than 75,000 schools worldwide Renaissance Learning's advanced technology makes the practice component of a school's reading, maths and writing curriculum more personalised and effective than ever before. The company's hosted and web-delivered Accelerated Reader Advantage and Accelerated Maths Advantage programmes are used successfully by well over 220,000 children in the UK every day to help them improve their results and achieve a life-long love of reading.

Renaissance Learning produces software that provides teachers and pupils with immediate access to information on academic performance. This information technology provides timely and reliable feedback that enhances individualised instruction, creating a better learning environment for more motivated pupils.

Renaissance works closely with the National Literacy Trust and Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, and is supported by best-selling authors for children, such as Malorie Blackman, Peter J Murray and GP Taylor.