

**26 May 2009**

### **Award-winning children's author to visit Ayrshire schools**

Sophie McKenzie, a Richard and Judy Children's Book Award winner, will be captivating secondary schools in South and East Ayrshire as part of the hugely popular Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, organised by Scottish Book Trust.

To celebrate the tour, Ayrshire pupils have been given an exclusive preview of Sophie's new teenage book, *The Set-Up*, due out on 6 July 2009.

The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour featuring Sophie McKenzie will visit schools in Galston, Stewarton, Maybole, Auchinleck, Girvan and Ayr from 2-4 June.

Scottish Book Trust is Scotland's leading agency for the promotion of literature, reading and writing. The tour aims to promote a love of reading across Scotland, particularly in rural and remote areas. The touring programme has visited all 32 Scottish local authorities in the last three years.

Sophie is a multi-award winning author whose teen-fiction novels are adored by children throughout the UK. In addition to her Richard and Judy Children's Book Award for *Girl, Missing* in 2007, she was also the recipient of three regional Children's Book Awards in Manchester, Bolton and Grampian.

Calum Bennie, marketing manager at Scottish Friendly, which has supported the touring programme for over 10 years, said: "For many years this tour has provided a unique opportunity for children to meet some of the most inspiring authors and illustrators. Sophie's tour will bring the magic of literature to a teenage audience who are hungry for inspiration as they come to the end of their formative school years."

Jasmine Fassl of the Scottish Book Trust added: "The touring programme is committed to reaching all areas in Scotland to enable children to discover the appeal of reading and writing. The pupils in Ayrshire are in for an entertaining visit from Sophie and we're sure her audiences will leave with lots of ideas for their own creative writing as well as some brilliant summer reads."

#### **Tour Dates:**

<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	
11.20am	Loudoun Academy Glasgow Rd, Galston East Ayrshire, KA4 8PD
2.20pm	Stewarton Academy, Cairnduff Place, Stewarton, East Ayrshire, KA3 5QF
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	
9:50am	Carrick Academy, Kirkoswald Road, Maybole, South Ayrshire, KA19 8AB
1.35pm	Girvan Academy, The Avenue, Girvan, South Ayrshire, KA26

	9DW
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	
10:50am	Auchinleck Academy, Sorn Road, Auchinleck, East Ayrshire, KA18 2LY
1:50pm	Queen Margaret Academy, 33A Dalmellington Road, Ayr, South Ayrshire, KA7 3TL

## Ends

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### Notes to Editors:

- The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, organised by Scottish Book Trust, has been running since 1998. It tours throughout Scotland's urban, rural and remote communities and has visited every single Scottish local authority.
- Scottish Friendly is one of the UK's leading friendly societies, providing Child Trust Fund accounts, tax-free savings plans, ISAs, investment plans and term assurance to savers throughout the UK. For more information please visit [www.scottishfriendly.co.uk](http://www.scottishfriendly.co.uk)
- Scottish Book Trust is the leading agency for the promotion of literature, reading and writing in Scotland, developing innovative projects to encourage adults and children to read, write and be inspired by books  
[www.scottishbooktrust.com](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com)
- Every year Scottish Book Trust:
  - Invests £1.5 million in growing readers and writers in Scotland
  - Funds over 1,200 literature events connecting 70,000 readers with writers
  - Reaches people in all 32 local authorities in Scotland
  - Supports over 500 Scottish writers and illustrators

- Runs the Royal Mail Awards for Scottish Children's Books, which are judged by over 9,000 children
- Promotes Scottish writing to over 10 million people worldwide