

A literature festival - by young people for young people

Imagine if you could programme your own book festival. Who would you put on stage and what questions would you ask? Sixteen school pupils from Norfolk have been given this opportunity by the National Centre for Writing based in Norwich.

The pupils from ten schools, all aged 15 – 17, have been handed the reins to their own literature festival on the theme of ‘social activism’. They will be responsible for every aspect of the festival including booking the writers, planning promotion, managing the budget and selling tickets.

The festival will take place in Norwich, England’s first UNESCO City of Literature next spring as part of the City of Literature programme for the Norfolk & Norwich Festival. The project is funded by the European Union under the Creative Europe fund. As part of the project the young people will visit a literature festival in Krakow, Poland, also a UNESCO City of Literature.

Maud Webster, 17, from City of Norwich School said:

“I feel young people’s voices are often neglected so to be given so much freedom to create such a special event is amazing! I am excited about all the skills we’ll develop.”

Hannah Garrard, Programme Manager at the National Centre for Writing said:

“At the National Centre for Writing we are putting young people at the very heart of our programming. We want to invigorate the literature festival format and put it in the hands of some fresh, young talent and see what ideas they come up with. It’s a great opportunity for young people to go out and explore the world and come back and put on their own ground-breaking event. We can’t wait to see the results and will support them all the way”.

The pupils taking part in the programme are;

Mathilda Arminger, Paston College
Martha Dack, CNS
Elizabeth Davy, Hartismere High School
Taryn Everdeen, Paston College
Beatriz Feiteirinha, Dereham Northgate High School
Tomas Frere-Jenkins, Hewett Academy
Ana-Mae Lee, Hellesdon High
Hayden Lewis, Thorpe St Andrew
Nicky Matthew, Springwood High School
Grace Murray, Norwich School
Amelia Platt, Litcham School
Eleanor Sparks, Hellesdon High
Joel Starling, Hellesdon High
Grace Stewart, Hewett Academy
Maud Webster, CNS
Billy White, Norwich School

Notes to Editors:

1. For comment and interviews contact Alice Kent, Communications Director at alice@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk / 01603 877177
2. Engage! Is supported by the European Union Creative Europe Fund and supported by Pen Catala.
3. **The Patrons of the National Centre for Writing are -**
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4. **About National Centre for Writing (NCW)**
NCW is a literature development organisation based in Norwich England's first UNESCO City of Literature. The National Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall promotes great literature, inspires communities through the power of writing, reading and literary translation, nurtures literary talent and hosts world-class events. www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk