

1 October 2019

Professional development scheme gives young people in Norfolk a behind-the-scenes look at the world of books in Norwich

Young people in Norfolk aged 14 – 17 years are being offered a behind-the-scenes look at the world of books in Norwich, England’s first UNESCO City of Literature, through an exciting new professional development scheme launched by the National Centre for Writing (NCW), based at Dragon Hall.

Lit From the Inside is a fantastic opportunity for young reading, writing and book enthusiasts who might want to pursue a future career in the creative arts. From January 2020 – December 2020, the group will meet monthly with NCW staff to: explore how an arts organisation works from the inside; judge the Young Norfolk Writing Competition and plan the finalists showcase; meet and interview authors, translators and international writers; and develop their own creative writing.

There is also an opportunity to complete a Bronze Arts Award – a nationally recognised qualification – and take trips to other UNESCO Cities of Literature around the world.

Hannah Garrard, Learning & Participation Manager at NCW said:

‘Lit From the Inside is not only an opportunity for young people in Norfolk to get the inside scoop on literature and writing, but an opportunity for the National Centre for Writing to enjoy the ideas, energy and enthusiasm of young readers and writers – from interviewing authors we work with, to judging the Young Norfolk Writing Competition. We can't wait to meet the new Lit Insiders!’

In the past year, NCW has worked with 4,440 children and young people across Norfolk, including through Engage!; a collaborative project with four other UNESCO Cities of Literature which saw 15 young people organise and run their own literary festival in a day at Norfolk & Norwich Festival. The project culminated in trips to Krakow, Poland and Barcelona, Spain.

Mathilda Armiger, 17, who took part in the project, said:

‘Putting on a Festival made me feel like I could pursue a job in the creative arts. I have the skills to put on events and work with others, and I can apply this to my future endeavours in the industry.’

Applications are open for Lit From the Inside until midday on **Monday 25 November**. Apply now by visiting <https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/lit-inside/>

If you have any questions, email learning@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk or phone the office on 01603 877177 and ask to speak to Hannah or Vicki. Regular office hours are Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm.

Lit From the Inside is supported by Anguish’s Education Foundation.

/END

Notes to Editors:

1. For comment and photos contact Steph McKenna, Communications Manager at steph@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk / 01603 877177
2. About National Centre for Writing

The **National Centre for Writing** (NCW) is a place of discovery, exchange, ideas and learning for writers, literary translators and readers. Based in the restored and extended 15th-century Dragon Hall in the heart of Norwich England’s first UNESCO City of Literature, it explores how writing can inspire and change the world we live in. Its year round programme of events, festivals and courses reaches over 14,000 people a year with an additional 110,000 engaged online. Through its learning and participation programme it supports 5,000 young people a year and has a commitment to working with those in the most disadvantaged areas. NCW’s patrons include Margaret Atwood, JM Coetzee, Kei Miller and Elif Shafak. www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk

3. About Anguish’s Educational Foundation

It is one of the four registered charities in the Norwich Charitable Trust group. The charity makes grants to individuals and other charities for educational purposes. It is named after Thomas Anguish who lived between 1536 and 1617.