

It was a wonderful project to be part of. Watching the children learn and create was amazing. Seeing how proud they were of themselves was magical, not only yesterday in the finale, but all the children that participated felt such a sense of achievement. It has done wonders for many children's self-confidence, and I have already seen have such a positive effect on them in school. I would highly recommend the project to other teachers and schools. I sincerely hope I have the opportunity to be part of it, and work with yourself and Molly once more.

Thank you for all of your hard work - you should be just as proud as the children :)

Best wishes, Jade Murray. Year 5 Class Teacher, Sheringham Primary.

The children loved the poetry slam. It was so wonderful, as a Literacy lead, to see children grow in confidence and try out new ideas and push themselves out of their comfort zone! The poetry produced was fantastic and thanks to you and Molly the standard was so so high once again this year.

The children gain so much from it and it was great this year to see the parents get involved in the evening performance and come and watch the children. So so special.

A huge thank you to the sponsors who makes these fantastic events happen for the next generation.

Kind regards, Suzanne Clitheroe (Class Teacher and Literacy lead Sheringham Primary School)

Thank you so much for your time and enthusiasm Phil.

Once again, the Poetry Slam engaged and enthused children about poetry and more importantly, about the power of language itself. The children stepped out of their comfort zones and tried something different in a supportive and encouraging framework.

I look forward to the 2019 slam!

Sue Brady, Head Teacher, Sheringham Community Primary School and Nursery

Thank you to everyone involved in the FALCON poetry slam. Our children hugely enjoyed the workshops and performances and were inspired and excited by the process. The audience and purpose provided by the internal school and grand slam ensured they engaged fully with the experience, enjoying the writing and performing. We felt really proud of their hard work and were amazed by their confidence.

Sam Coles, Class Teacher Year 4 Holt Community Primary School

I would like to send my thanks to everyone at Falcon for organising such a wonderful poetry slam competition. Once again the children were inspired by the workshops and highly motivated to create their own performance poetry. I thought the standard of the poems at the competition was outstanding and the children were obviously proud of their work and keen to perform in front of the audience. The whole competition has been a fabulous experience for the children thanks to the hard work of everyone involved.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Best wishes, Simon Walters, Head Teacher Holt Community Primary School

This is the second year St Mary's Primary School have competed in the Falcon Poetry Slam. The first year, which included poet Molly Naylor coming to our school for two days of workshops, was wonderful. The children gained confidence and enjoyed their learning enormously. They received excellent advice for both writing and performing original work and also the excitement of competing with their peers both in school and out of the school environment, the latter, on a real stage. They had the added bonus of seeing a professional poet perform his work for them.

When the children heard they were going to participate again in the Poetry Slam, they were very excited. This year followed approximately the same schedule as last year but with even better results. This year the children in my class were all extremely eager to perform their play (last year there were several who did not feel able stand in front of an audience). Their poems were more varied and covered a wider range of experiences. Further, more schools participated which made the final competition more exciting. The evening performance, which was new this year, was a bonus because parents and carers were able to watch the winning children perform their poems. This additional performance was a success and parents of my children were very appreciative.

We are very hopeful that Falcon will return with this opportunity next year.
Kind Regards, Melissa Morison, Year 4/5/6 teacher St. Mary's Endowed VA CE Primary

I like that the children are awakened to the idea of performance poetry - not just performing to their classroom peers. I like the techniques that Molly (Naylor) uses to allow the children to think and create, the "Dictionary" word game, and fast five write. I like that they are encouraged to create a topic of their choosing and let their creativity loose with it.

The performance feedback the children receive is excellent and I saw those children who participated last year, recalled feedback they'd received about last year's poems and had built that into their work this time.

Creativity and acceptance in group work are challenging for children, and I wondered this year, if a whole morning was too long. I realise logistical restraints would mean it would be difficult to change this, but as feedback, I wanted to mention this.

I have to say this project is hard work. The results, however, prove that you get out what you put in!
Thanks for all your efforts also.

Kind regards, Emma Cotton, Class teacher Years 4,5 & 6, Langham Primary

It was really useful to observe Molly deliver the lesson to the class in Sheringham that we needed to do with our classes back in school. This gave an idea of: probing questions to ask; ideas to encourage the children to write and then ways in which they could feedback and perform their poems. The video resources were easy to access and engaging.

The sessions back in school encouraged all the children to write and were captivating. Some children were reluctant to perform, this could be a point that is worth considering in future, how could we overcome this? The whole school poetry slam was exciting for the participants and the audience to watch and was well organised. A participation certificate for each child may be a nice touch for the future; the children enjoy receiving his sort of recognition for their efforts.

The event at the Little Theatre in Sheringham was very well organised. It was engaging and exciting for the audience and participants. Luke Wright's performance was exciting, amusing and enjoyable for all. It was great that the judges gave feedback to each group and was encouraging about their efforts. Could this feedback be incorporated in some way to the whole school poetry slam by providing crib sheets for the in-school judges so they can provide meaningful, positive feedback to each group? It was fantastic there were so many awards for different aspects of writing/performance and it was lovely that each school participating won an award for something.

Finally, something of a testimonial from us:

We were delighted to take part in this year's poetry slam which was run excellently well by Molly Naylor. She inspired our children to develop their writing and performance abilities. The in-school finals were inspirational to the rest of our school, and I saw children take part whom I never thought would! The grand final at Sheringham Little Theatre was wonderful - all groups supported one another, and the subject matter was wonderfully varied. We will not hesitate to join in again next year.

Regards, Vic and Rachel, Year 6 Subject Teachers, Cromer Junior School

I thought the day was a real success. It was a clear and effective outcome from lots of hard work by students, staff & writing tutors. It was refreshing to see students so obviously enjoying poetry and using it to explore subjects that interested and inspired them.

I really hope to be a part of it in the future!

Lewis Buxton (poet and one of the judges of the Grand Slam 2018)

What a lovely day yesterday was, you must be so pleased and proud. Molly was excellent, I was so impressed with the way she motivated and developed the children's ideas. The children were great, and your cheer leading talent was particularly impressive. I was really blown away by the whole occasion. It was lovely to see the children so enthused and obviously enjoying themselves. I am so glad that I found Falcon and very pleased that the Arts Society was persuaded to commit to the project. All the members that came were very impressed. Well done to you and all your team.

Congratulations!

Liz Pierce-Roberts (The Arts Society Glaven Valley – part funders of the Primary Poetry Slam Project 2018)

Hi Phil,

Yesterday was truly awesome. A huge well done to you and the FALCON team for coordinating, encouraging and enabling such a lovely event.

Bests, Lucy Farrant, Director Young Norfolk Arts – part funders of the Primary Poetry Slam Project 2018)