

Appendix 6

Impact summary report: Young City Poets

Key strategy links

- Cultural and Creative Learning Strategy Goal 1 – Every cultural institution in the City is a learning institution and every educational institution in the Family of Schools is a cultural institution
- Culture Mile Strategy Aim 1 – Develop Culture Mile as a vibrant and welcoming cultural, creative and learning destination for all visitors, learners, workers and residents

This project was delivered in partnership with the National Literacy Trust and involved seven Culture Mile Learning (CML) partners – Barbican, The Charterhouse, The City Centre, Keats House, London Metropolitan Archives, Museum of London and Tower Bridge, plus the Tower of London. It used cultural visits, the opportunity to work with professional poets, and performance and publication opportunities, as a way to inspire disadvantaged young people to enjoy and improve their writing. This year was the fifth year the project had run. Seven poets were involved including Momtaza Mehri, who worked on the project as part of her role as Young Poet Laureate for London. A hard copy anthology of selected poems created through the project was produced.

Beneficiaries

- In 2018/19, 32 schools made up of 12 primary, 19 secondary and 1 special school from 15 London boroughs took part, benefitting 877 pupils. Two of the participating schools were from the Family of Schools and a further 13 were from neighbouring boroughs
- There was a fairly even split of boys and girls and of those who completed the feedback survey (252 young people)
- 29% of pupils who completed the feedback survey reported being in receipt of free school meals

Fusion skills development

Evaluation data shows that creativity, critical thinking and communication were the fusion skills most strongly developed by the project.

- 74% of students agreed with the statement that taking part in this project ‘helped them come up with good ideas for my writing’
- 66% students agreed with the statement that this project ‘helped them think about things from different points of view’
- 58% agreed with the statement that the project ‘enabled them to express their thoughts and opinions’

Wider impact

As a result of taking part in the project:

- 81% students reported that they were better at writing poetry with almost 3 times as many pupils thinking poetry is brilliant or fun at the end of the project than before it
- 66% of students reported that they liked writing more
- 16 out of 17 teachers reported that their students were able to think more creatively

In addition:

- 50% of students told their family and friends about the visit when they got home and many thought that the visit was fun and that it had strengthened their sense of place and belonging

'I found it interesting and it inspired my love for poetry and I discovered I am very good at poetry.'

'I found out a lot more about London than I could have ever known. I am really surprised about all of the things I learnt.'