

Platanos College News

Thursday 29th March 2018

Platanos College Writing Academy

This year, selected pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 have been given the exciting opportunity to work with a published poet to help develop their creative writing skills. Since the launch of the Writing Academy in the Autumn Term, pupils have been working closely with poet Lewis Buxton, from First Story (an organisation that aims to foster a love of creativity through students' writing skills). Before our partnership with First Story, pupils worked with Mrs Thompson on a range of challenging texts; they had an introduction to Geoffrey Chaucer's 'The Canterbury Tales', including the portrait of the Miller and Wife of Bath. Pupils were challenged to write their own portraits before going on to learn about satire in 'The Simpsons' and Jonathan Swift's 'A Modest Proposal'.

Having laid the foundations by studying such challenging texts, pupils then started working with Lewis on a weekly basis. They have produced some outstanding work based on the idea of 'home', created imaginative poems





about themselves made entirely of metaphors and they have written creatively about their families and friends. Pupils have immensely enjoyed the project so far – so much so that we were able to extend our partnership with First Story for another term!

As part of the Writing Academy, our pupils are encouraged to enter a number of national competitions during the course of the year. Rebecca Obadina-Adebowale in year 8 entered the First Story 100 Word competition with a very tense and gripping piece. The competition was entered by 24 national schools and was judged by editors at Vintage Publishing; our very own Rebecca won the overall first prize! As part of her prize, she will receive books for both herself and Platanos College and her story will be printed on postcards for distribution.



We're all looking forward to the Summer Term when pupils will once again begin work with Lewis and will have the opportunity to see their favourite creative pieces published in an Anthology. Well done Writing Academy pupils!