



'First Story is an inspiring initiative... It's a joyful project that deserves as much support as we can give it.'

Zadie Smith

IMPACT REPORT 2018-19

FIRST STORY
CHANGING LIVES THROUGH WRITING

MISSION

We're working towards a society that encourages and supports young people from all backgrounds to write creatively, for pleasure and agency. We tackle inequality of opportunity by providing extra-curricular enrichment programmes for students from less advantaged backgrounds. Our programmes expand horizons and encourage aspirations. Participants gain the skills and confidence to thrive in education and in life.

INTRODUCTION

In 2018–19, thousands of young people from less advantaged backgrounds benefited from participation in our extra-curricular enrichment programmes, developing in confidence, creativity and ability. I joined as Chief Executive at the end of 2018–19, but I'm no less proud of the achievements highlighted in this report. Huge thanks to all those who contributed to, and made possible, our work during the year; not least the 1,565 young people who took part in our intensive workshops whose voices were amplified and celebrated in the pages of our 71 published anthologies.

We could not achieve all we do each year, without the writers, teachers, schools, universities, arts organisations, companies, funders, individual supporters and volunteers who contribute their time, talents and funding. Working with partners, regionally and nationally, is fundamental to achieving our mission.

We know, from the many alumni who remain in touch, that First Story has changed lives: we are broadening horizons, encouraging aspirations, and equipping young people with the skills to thrive in life and education. With persistent need for our intervention in too many parts of the country, there is still much work to do. As I develop and implement the strategy to take First Story successfully into its 15th anniversary in 2023, I look forward to changing even more young lives together.



**Antonia Byatt,
Chief Executive**



Our summary of First Story's impact during the academic year ending 30 June 2019.

Trustees 2018–19

Ed Baden-Powell, Chair
Jamie Waldegrave, Treasurer
William Fiennes
Katie Waldegrave
Aslan Byrne
Sophie Harrison
Sue Horner
Betsy Tobin
Sarah Marshall
(appointed 21 November 2018)
Aziz Bawany
(appointed 30 January 2019)
Beth Colocci
(resigned 21 November 2018)
Andrea Minton Beddoes
(resigned 21 November 2018)
Charlie Booth
(resigned 30 January 2019)
Antonia Byatt
(resigned 26 February 2019)

Executive Directors 2018–19

Mónica Parle (to October 2018)
Linda Craig (Interim from October 2018)

Charity registered number:
1122939

First Story registered office:
44 Webber Street
London SE1 8QW

2018–19 AT A GLANCE

WE WORKED IN
69
SCHOOLS
IN LOW-INCOME
COMMUNITIES

1,565
STUDENTS
TOOK PART IN OUR
INTENSIVE
PROGRAMMES

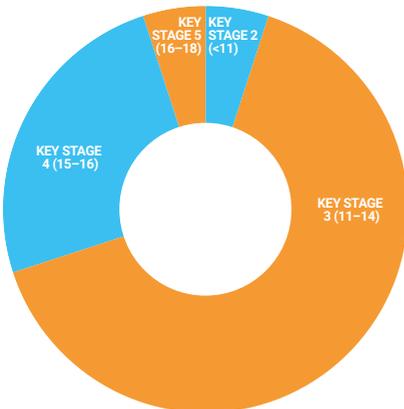
OUR WRITERS DELIVERED
73
CREATIVE-WRITING
RESIDENCIES

54
WRITERS
IN RESIDENCE
DELIVERED MORE THAN

1,300
HOURS
OF INTENSIVE WRITING
WORKSHOPS



% OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE RANGE



PROGRAMMES BY TYPE

38 X YEAR-LONG PROGRAMMES

32 X TERM-LONG PROGRAMMES

3 X CONNECT PROGRAMMES

SALLY'S STORY



Sally participated in our year-long Writer-in-Residence programme during 2018–19. She also applied successfully to attend the Arvon summer residential. By her own admission quite introverted, she says her confidence has grown since becoming involved with First Story. Sally has since performed her work on BBC Radio Humberside and at the BBC's Contains Strong Language Festival.



I was completely and utterly thrilled by the idea of a class every Monday, dedicated only to writing.

One of the first things [the First Story Writer-in-Residence, Joe Hakim] told us was: 'Spelling doesn't matter. Whatever anyone has said to you about writing having to be like this or like that, forget it. Writing isn't about what someone else has told you, it's about you.'

When my class was offered the chance of a creative writing trip, and I was the only one that seemed enlightened by the idea, I jumped at it and wrote my 300-word piece on what writing meant to me. Later, I discovered, despite my lack of belief in being picked for anything in my life, I'd been accepted.

First Story heard my cry in the crowd, I was given the opportunity to work with such talented writers, tutors and students alike. I learnt so much about myself.

I didn't realise until I got home, how much it had actually done for me. I started writing in a frenzy, coming out with all sorts of things I never knew existed underneath my layers of doubt and over-thinking. I understood how influential and important just a week away, focused on writing and not stressors, truly is.'

EVALUATING OUR IMPACT

First Story's flagship Writer-in-Residence programme puts professional writers into state secondary schools for one or two terms where they deliver weekly, extra-curricular creative-writing workshops, working intensively with a group of up to 21 students and their teachers.

Sessions culminate in the publication of an anthology, celebrated with a book launch event. Complementary enrichment opportunities during the year, such as events and competitions, add significant value for students and the school.

Our intervention is recommended for students who, regardless of ability, are most at risk of not fulfilling their potential. First Story's Theory of Change

sees participants move along three outcome pathways: increased confidence, enhanced creativity, and improved writing ability; though many other positive skills and behaviours are developed too.

Following an Arts Council-funded three-year project to evaluate perceptions of creative writing, 2018–19 was the first year that we tested our own evaluation framework. Using start-point and end-point surveys as the primary means of assessing students' progress, we sought to gather quantitative data across a range of areas related to our Theory of Change.

Results from our pilot year are very positive. We know that First Story impacts:

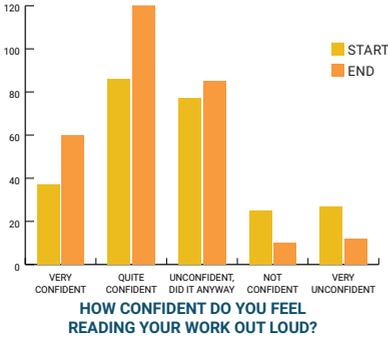
- young people's attitudes to creative writing and whether they find writing outside of the curriculum a fun and fulfilling activity;
- their confidence and competence in reading aloud;
- students' range of writing techniques and skills, and their confidence in using them;
- their persistence when writing;
- students' confidence in experimenting with writing;
- their ability to review and reflect on their own work; and
- young people's self-belief in their ability.

We know that First Story has a powerful impact on students who take part in our intensive programme and the extended opportunities on offer. We look forward to conducting further years of evaluation to confirm this more thoroughly.



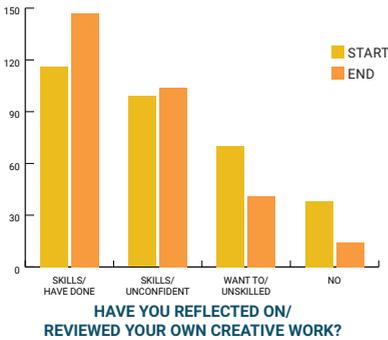
I have grown more confident in putting my hand up, when no one else is willing to. I am more confident in speaking to others who are around me. I've learnt other ways of writing creatively and am now confident in using them.

PARTICIPANT FROM WEMBLEY HIGH TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE



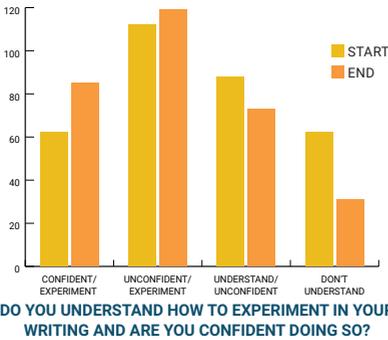
INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN READING ALOUD

We aim to develop agency in young people. Students may have written creatively before but few will have read their work out loud to their peers; of those who have, few feel very confident to do so at the start; by the end of the programme, many more students are confidently reading their work aloud.



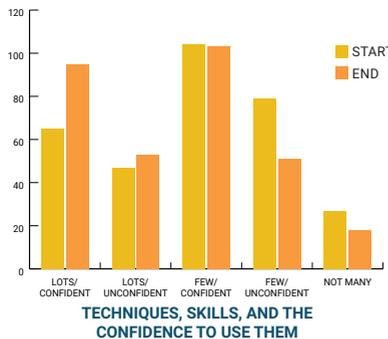
REFLECTING AND REVIEWING

An ability to revisit, improve or correct one's writing is emphasised in the GCSE mark scheme. Reflecting and reviewing are also key to becoming a better creative writer. First Story workshops provide opportunities for students to practice reviewing and editing. It's clear we positively impact students' development of these skills.



EXPERIMENTING IN WRITING

Our extra-curricular programmes provide opportunities to play with language and form, to experiment and to take risks creatively, all of which are signs of a maturing writer. After having participated in our workshops, many more students felt more confident to experiment and said they had experimented with their creative writing.



TECHNIQUES AND SKILLS

First Story writers share their expertise freely and aim to nurture students' confidence. Workshop participants learn a range of new writing skills and techniques. On completion of the programme, many more students said they had lots of skills and that they felt confident in using them, evidencing the effectiveness of our approach.

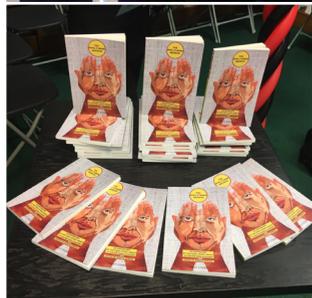
ANTHOLOGIES

All of our intensive Writer-in-Residence programmes work towards and culminate in the publication of an anthology of each First Story group's writing. Our anthologies are professionally designed and printed, each with their own ISBN, qualifying for inclusion in the collection at The British Library.

First Story's anthologies elevate young people to the status of published authors, transforming students' self-belief and confidence. Each book represents a tangible and permanent record of achievement, in which every participant can take pride.

In 2018-19, we published over 3,500 new stories and poems by young people, in 71 anthologies.

Celebratory launch events were held for almost every new anthology published. Many were staged in collaboration with local arts venues, including theatres and bookshops, as well as in schools.



ELIZABETH'S STORY

'One of [our] teachers came into my English class to explain how the [First Story] programme could be a great way to share our feelings in writing, and how you can use spoken word to describe your emotions. At first I thought it was something that would never be of interest to me, but I found myself telling her that I wanted to give it a go.

When I arrived [at the workshop], I felt quite nervous. I didn't know what to expect from the others when I read. But the Writer-in-Residence made everyone feel relaxed, which I really appreciated.

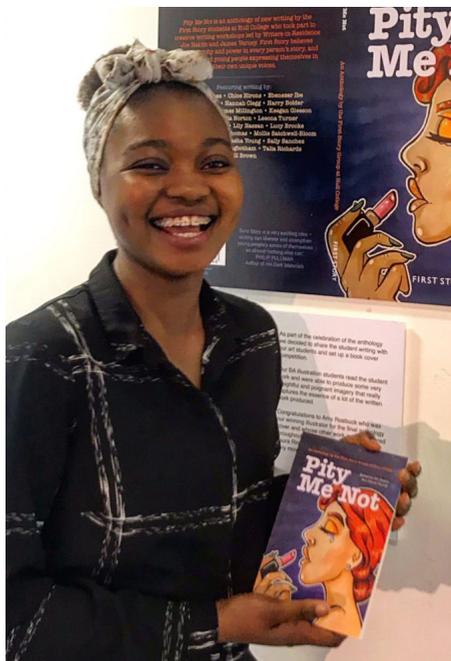
First Story gave me the opportunity to be able to write my first piece and the privilege to perform at The Big Malarkey Festival. That's when I felt worthy of my work and when I knew I really wanted to keep writing.

I never imagined myself becoming a writer one day, or having to present my ideas to an audience. It all started just like a dream which has ended up becoming a reality. Writing has enabled me to express my feelings and emotions. Most times, having to express myself verbally can be a challenge. But with writing, it's like it's easy to pour out my feelings.

James Varney [our Writer-in-Residence] took us through the steps to make your writing professional and presentable to the reader. Getting published as a writer felt amazingly awesome. To see my work published, I felt really proud of myself and that I can achieve anything I put my mind to, despite what the storm might be.

Writing provides room for your voice to be heard, and it provides you with different types of skills you maybe thought you'd never have, like analytical skills and communication. Saying yes to beneficial opportunities like writing can be a great thing in life because it takes you way out of your comfort zone.'

Having never written creatively before First Story, since taking part, Elizabeth has gone on to attend spoken word and poetry events where she shares her writing with audiences of 50 and more.



EXTENDED OPPORTUNITIES

During 2018-19 we reached nearly 6,000 young people through programme extensions like our two national writing competitions, local and national writing events and partnerships.



REGIONAL EVENTS

First Story's writing events expand horizons and encourage aspirations, assisting young people to engage with arts and culture in the places where they live, and introducing future higher education pathways. In 2018–19 we organised 10 mid-programme events for First Story participants. Arts partners included Hull's **Big Malarkey Festival**, the Leeds **Writing on Air Festival**, and London's **Migration Museum**; higher education partners included the universities of **Bristol, Hull, Huddersfield**, and **Loughborough**, plus **Leeds Beckett University** and **University College London**.



COMPETITIONS

Short-form writing competitions are invaluable confidence boosters for young people. We offer two national competitions each year. **Six-Word Story** in the autumn term had over **300 entries** in 2018, with the winner printed on limited-edition pencils. In the spring term, **100-Word Story** was judged by the editorial team at **Vintage Books**. Winners and runners-up saw their stories printed on specially-designed postcards, as well as receiving bundles of books for themselves and their schools' libraries.



BBC YOUNG WRITERS AWARD

2018-19 was the second year of our partnership with the **BBC** and **Cambridge University**. The **Young Writers' Award** received almost 500 entries, while the **Student Critics' Award** engaged students to develop skills in literary criticism.

THE YOUNG WRITERS' FESTIVAL

The Young Writers' Festival is our flagship national event, open to all First Story participating schools. The annual, day-long festival takes place in the autumn term, bringing together First Story students from diverse backgrounds across Greater London, the East Midlands, and East and West Yorkshire.

In 2018 the festival was staged in partnership with the University of Cambridge. Attendance inspires young people to write, read, learn and collaborate. Through a packed programme of workshops, talks and readings, the Young Writers' Festival promotes a sense of identity and of belonging to a shared community of creative writers.

330 STUDENTS
40 TEACHERS
19 SCHOOLS
26 WRITERS
25 VOLUNTEERS

In a 2018 survey of teachers' experiences of the festival:

- **93%** reported that the festival made their students feel more **confident**.
- **81%** felt that attending the festival improved students' **writing skills**.
- **100%** believed the festival was an encouraging **creative** outlet and introduced students to new writers.



NATIONAL WRITING DAY

Our third annual National Writing Day took place on 26 June 2019, supported again by Old Possum's Practical Trust.

NWD is celebration and promotion of creative writing, which aims to get the whole country giving it a try. Our message is simple: everyone has a story to tell and sharing it can be a source of pleasure and power.

The campaign is a collaborative initiative and in 2019 we worked with some **40 partner organisations**, across arts, literacy and education – an increase of 28 per cent on 2018.

Thousands of people took part in our national call to action, a seven-minute free writing exercise inspired by our *'In this place...'* prompt.

Meanwhile, our free teaching and learning resources were downloaded **4,427 times**, reaching an estimated **156,000 students**, an increase of 47 per cent.

Through partnerships with the BBC and local media, press and PR reached an estimated **4 million people**, while combined social media reach was **1.23 million**.

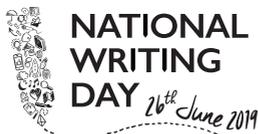
156,000
STUDENTS

40
PARTNERS

1.23 MILLION
SOCIAL REACH

4,427
RESOURCES
DOWNLOADED

4 MILLION
MEDIA REACH



NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

The focal point or call to action of NWD 2019 was a seven-minute free-writing exercise, inspired by the prompt "In this place..." At live events, through schools' resource packs, and on social media, the national action was led by writer Laurie Bolger; thousands, young and old, shared their often raw and emotional stories.

HULL PICKET LINE POETRY

Five First Story schools in Hull took part in a NWD event, Picket Line Poetry, which saw young people visiting sites around the city to write on traditional typewriters strategically-placed at venues including the city library, the university and BBC Humberside. Carrying placards containing poetry, the young people were stopped en route to ask why and the event quickly captured the wider public's interest.

LONDON MIGRATION MUSEUM

40 students from three First Story schools took part in a special NWD event in collaboration with London's Migration Museum. After exploring the museum's exhibition 'Room to Breathe', about the history of immigration to the UK, participants were encouraged to write in situ, considering themes of place and identity, with support from First Story's professional writers and museum staff.

LEICESTER Y THEATRE

The Y is a beautiful old theatre in the heart of Leicester. To celebrate NWD 2019, First Story brought together participating schools from across the region for a public performance of their work. Compèred by writer John Berkavitch, and featuring guest performer Rebecca T Antony, more than 50 students took to the stage to read their writing.



PROGRESSION ROUTES

Working in partnership helped us to extend our reach and impact in 2018-19.

ARVON SUMMER RESIDENTIAL

We continued to work with the **Arvon Foundation** to offer our summer residential programme. In July 2019, thanks to the generous support of **teamArchie**, sixteen First Story students spent a week at Arvon's idyllic writing retreat, Lumb Bank, in West Yorkshire. The summer residential is a rare and valuable opportunity for promising First Story students to develop their confidence, creativity and writing ability. Taking part can be a life-changing experience.

RATHBONES FOLIO MENTORSHIPS

In 2019 four more First Story alumni benefited from a second year of **Rathbones Folio Prize Mentorships**, through which mentees are paired with acclaimed Folio Academy writers to receive intensive support. The scheme is an incredible progression route for First Story alumni who are serious about pursuing their writing practice. Mentees develop a portfolio of work and the programme ends with a public performance at the **British Library**.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND PERFORMANCE

We offer regular opportunities for First Story students to develop their skills in public speaking and performance. In 2018-19, our alumni were invited to perform their work at **The Big Malarkey** children's literature festival and at the **BBC Contains Strong Language** spoken-word festival; others addressed audiences at **Clarence House** and **RIBA** events; and two alumni addressed over 300 current students at our annual **Young Writers' Festival**.



WRITERS AND TEACHERS

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE ICE BURSARY SCHEME

One of the ways we aim to support the professional development of teachers is through our partnership with the **Institute of Continuing Education** at the **University of Cambridge**, which offers two bursaries for ICE's PGCert in Creative Writing, specifically for teachers who write, or writers who teach, working in schools in low-income communities.

'I count myself as very lucky to have had this amazing opportunity to develop my skills and confidence. I have learnt that I am able to achieve a great deal when I step outside of my comfort zone... As for the students I teach, I am more effective at helping them to explore their own creativity and enjoy writing.'

**ANGLEA ANDREW, BUSARY RECIPIENT,
TEACHER AT HAVEN HIGH ACADEMY
IN BOSTON**

Developing teachers' confidence and skill to practice and teach creative writing is central to our mission.

In 2018-19 we employed

54 PROFESSIONAL WRITERS

providing a vital source of income to support UK creative talent. First Story's Writers-in-Residence shared their expertise with schools' teaching staff through complementary training sessions, which are included with our intensive programmes.

During 2018-19, at least

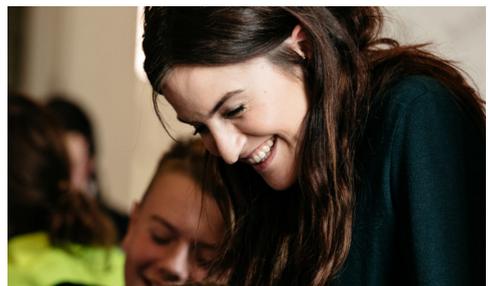
135 TEACHERS

in state secondary schools across England directly benefited from our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provision.

We also ran

17 SKILLS-SHARING FORUMS

through which writers and teachers were able to share expertise and best-practice. Regular skills-sharing sessions also help us to ensure high-quality, consistent programme delivery across each region and nationally.



FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

CLARENCE HOUSE RECEPTION

In July 2018, our Patron, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, kindly hosted a reception for First Story at her Clarence House home in honour of our tenth anniversary. A small group of First Story's closest supporters, writers, and alumni were invited to celebrate our first decade. After chatting with Her Royal Highness, guests heard from our co-founder, William Fiennes, as well as readings of poetry and prose by talented First Story alumni.



10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

In November 2018, over 200 guests attended our 10th anniversary gala fundraising dinner at the Royal Institute of British Architects. In the company of guest speaker Joanna Trollope OBE, guests participated in a live auction hosted by Sotheby's. Lots included rare editions of classic literature, kindly donated by Penguin Random House. First Story alumnus, Imaru also gave a moving talk on how his life has been changed by writing.



LETTERS LIVE

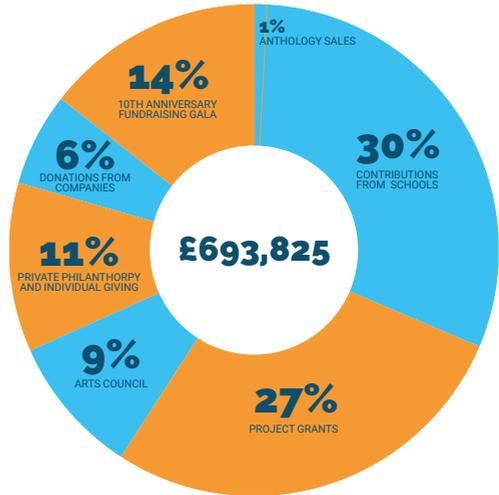
We were grateful during 2018–19 to be one of the partner charities of Letters Live, the hugely popular events series at which celebrated performers read remarkable letters from history. Letters Live generously supported our work by donating proceeds from ticket sales for two sell-out shows at the iconic Union Chapel in London, where performers included Juliet Stevenson, Noel Fielding, Thom Yorke and Benedict Cumberbatch.



HOW WE'RE FUNDED

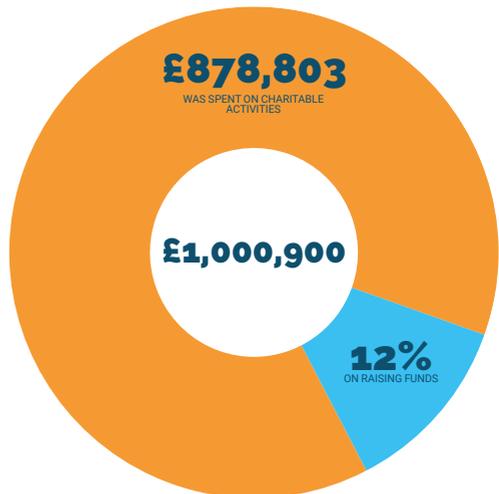
SOURCES OF INCOME

First Story ensures extra-curricular enrichment provision is available to young people in often under-resourced schools in low-income communities. Our partner schools contribute a fee towards the full cost of our intensive residencies and extended opportunities, but approximately 70 per cent of First Story's income is from grant funders and other voluntary sources. We could not continue to deliver our life-changing programmes each year without the ongoing support of generous individuals, companies, trusts and foundations.



HOW WE ALLOCATED FUNDS IN 2018-19

For every £1 donated, 88p directly funds intensive writing residencies; publishing anthologies; amplifying young people's voices; organising confidence-boosting competitions; staging horizon-expanding events; and creating progression routes to encourage aspirations and talent. 12p in every pound helps us to run the charity effectively and efficiently, and to raise money for the future.



First Story's board of trustees made the strategic decision to use some of the charity's reserves to deliver its activities and fulfil programme commitments in 2018–19. After this period of carefully managed run-down, First Story's unrestricted reserves at 30 June 2019 were £296,771.

THANK YOU

SCHOOLS

LONDON

Abbey Manor College
Addey and Stanhope School
Ark Putney Academy
Arts and Media School
Islington
Aylward Academy
Berkeley Primary School
Camden Connected Learning
Chelsea Academy
Cranford Community College
Fulham Cross Girls' School
George Green's School
Hampstead School
Highgate Wood School
Pimlico Academy
Platanos College
Raine's Foundation School
Saint Gabriel's College
St Martin-in-the-Fields high
School for Girls
St Paul's Way Trust
The Cumberland School
UCL Academy
Wembley High Technology
College
Whitefield School
Willowfield School
Woodside High School

EAST MIDLANDS

Babington Academy
Haven High Academy
Judgemeadow Community
College
Landau Forte College
Lincoln - A Priory Academy
Lincoln Castle Academy
Nottingham Academy,
Greenwood road
Nottingham Academy,
Ransom Road
The City of Leicester College
The Farnborough Academy
The Giles Academy
The Lancaster Academy
Witham - A Priory Academy

YORKSHIRE

Appleton Academy
Appleton Academy Primary
Archbishop Sentamu
Academy
Beckfoot Oakbank
Belle Vue Girls' Academy
Cockburn John Charles
Academy
Co-op Academy Grange
Dixons Allerton Academy
Dixons City Academy
Dixons Kings Academy
Feversham Academy
Hull College
Hull Trinity House Academy
John Leggott College
Leeds West Academy
Malet Lambert School
Melior Community Academy
Oasis Academy Lister Park
Sirius Academy North
Springwell Academy Leeds
East
St Mary's College
The Holy Family Catholic
School
The Marvell College
The Ruth Gorse Academy
Titus Salt School
University Academy Keighley

SOUTH WEST

Fairfield High School
John Cabot Academy
John Mason School
Lawn Manor Academy
Nova Hreod Academy
St Bede's Catholic College
Swindon Academy
The City Academy Bristol
The Dean Academy

WRITERS

Adam Kammerling
Adam Robinson
Alan Buckley
Amanda Whittington
Andy Craven-Griffiths
Andy Testament
Andy Graves
Anthony Cartwright
Anthony Cropper
Ben Mellor
Caleb Parkin
Cecilia Knapp
Chris Redmond
Christina Lewis
Dan Ingram-Brown
Dan Powell
Danielle Jawando
Darragh Martin
Dean Atta
Francesca Beard
Hannah Silva
Ioney Smallhorne
Irene Lofthouse
Irfan Master
James Varney
Jarred McGinnis
Jasmine Cooray
Joe Hakim
Joe Marsh
John Berkavitch
Jon Seagrave
Kerry Drewery
Khadijah Ibrahiim
Lee Harrison
Lewis Buxton
Mark Gwynne Jones
Michelle Madsen
Michelle Scally Clarke
Nick Toczec
Nik Perring
Rachel Seiffert
Rebecca Tantony
Ross Raisin
Russ Litten
Sai Murray
Saju Ahmed
Sanjida O'Connell
Sonya Hundal
Stephanie Cross
Steve Cawte
Steven Camden
Sue Wilsea
Tanaka Mhishi
Vicky Foster

PARTNERS

#Merky Books
Absolutely Cultured
Arvon Foundation
Back to Ours
BBC Contains Strong
Language Festival
BBC National Short Story
Award/Young Writers Award
BBC Radio Humberside
Blackwell's
British Library
Bromley House Library
Fair Education Alliance
Hull Chamber of Commerce
Humber Outreach Programme
Leeds Beckett University
Leeds County Council
Leeds Trinity University
Lincoln Book Festival
Loughborough University
Rathbones
Royal Society of Literature
Teach First, East Midlands
The Big Malarkey Festival
The Courtauld Institute of Art
The Priory Federation of
Academies
The University of Nottingham
The Y Theatre, Leicester
Unislam
University College London
University of Bristol
University of Huddersfield
University of Hull
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Nottingham
Waterstones Nottingham
Women of Words

NATIONAL WRITING DAY PARTNERS

Absolutely Cultured
Apples and Snakes
Arts University Bournemouth
Arvon
Authorfy
Back to Ours
BBC Writersroom
Bishop Grosseteste University
Bradford Literature Festival
Bristol Culture
Cast Theatre

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education
 Dramatic Impact
 English and Media Centre
 Forward Arts Foundation
 Freedom Festival
 Goldsmiths, University of London
 Hachette
 Hull Culture and Leisure Library Service
 Koestler Arts
 Leeds Beckett University
 Literature Wales
 Literature Works
 Ministry of Stories
 National Association of Writers in Education
 NLT
 New Writing North
 New Writing South
 Nottingham Libraries
 Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature
 Nottingham Writers Studio
 Novel Nights
 Poetry School
 Rathbones Folio Prize
 Royal Society of Literature
 Women of Words
 Wrecking Ball Press
 WriteClub
 Writing East Midlands
 Writing West Midlands

FUNDERS AND DONORS

STATUTORY BODIES

Arts Council England

COMPANIES

Clifford Chance
 Boots Charitable Trust
 TD Securities
 Man Charitable Trust
 Letters Live

TRUSTS AND INDIVIDUALS

Archie Lloyd Charitable Foundation
 BBC Children In Need
 Danego Charitable Trust
 Dulverton Trust
 Edith Murphy Foundation
 John Thaw Foundation
 John Lyon's Charity
 Mercers Charity
 Miles Trust
 Ofenheim Charitable Trust
 Old Possum's Practical Trust
 Open Gate Trust
 Peter and Jane Aitken
 Sigrid Rausing Trust
 St Giles in the Fields William Shelton Education Grants
 StoneGarth Fund
 Walcot Foundation
 Whitaker Charitable Trust
 Thank you to our group of regular donors and all those donors who choose to remain anonymous.

GALA ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Beth Colocci (Chair)
 Jennifer Moross
 Charlotte Artus
 Katy Golding
 KB Foushee
 Kitt George
 Katherine Ireland

And with thanks to: Joanna Trollope; Tom Austin and Sotherby's; all of those who generously hosted a table; auction lot donors and bidders; raffle players and pledgers; and dinner guests.

SUPPORTERS

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ADVISORY PANEL

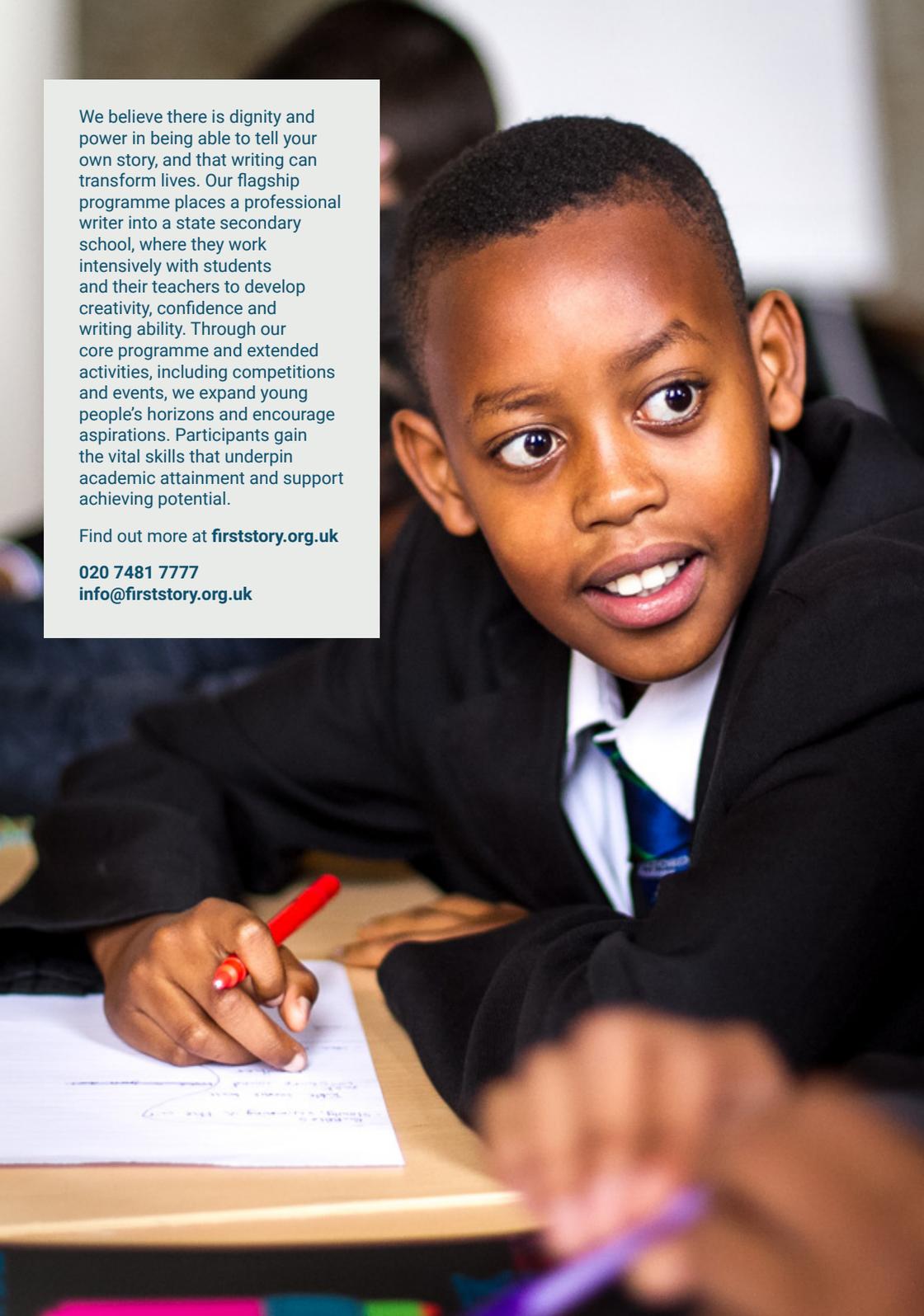
Nicki Shore (Chair)
 Sandeep Mahal
 Sue Dymoke
 Jon McGregor
 Tom Preston
 Emily Landsborough
 Jane Dodge

LINCOLNSHIRE FRIENDS

Kristen Sutton Nelthorpe
 Jill Hughes
 Claudia Capancioni
 Caroline Kenyon

IN KIND SUPPORTERS

Avon DataSet
 Frazer Jones
 Give a Book
 Oxford University Press
 Penguin Random House
 Psyche Interactive
 Simkins LLP
 University of Cambridge
 And all the individuals who volunteered their time and talents.



We believe there is dignity and power in being able to tell your own story, and that writing can transform lives. Our flagship programme places a professional writer into a state secondary school, where they work intensively with students and their teachers to develop creativity, confidence and writing ability. Through our core programme and extended activities, including competitions and events, we expand young people's horizons and encourage aspirations. Participants gain the vital skills that underpin academic attainment and support achieving potential.

Find out more at firststory.org.uk

020 7481 7777

info@firststory.org.uk