

Year Seven Catch Up (Literacy) 2014-2015

This year we decided to use part of the Year 7 Catch Up funding to add further enrichment to our curriculum and organised a 'Poet in Residence' project in Key Stage 3. We began our search for a poet in the autumn term. The students interviewed and chose the candidate they wanted to work with. They couldn't wait to begin their four week, poetry writing, and illustrating and performance extravaganza with Chris White, in the second half of the spring term. Chris is a published children's author, poet, performer and illustrator and his infectious enthusiasm and humour drew in even the most reluctant students. Five classes of key stage 3 students took part, had fun, and expressed themselves. They were entertained, whilst learning a lot of important skills; such as how to use rhyme and rhythm, use descriptive language, work together as a group and perform. In addition to all this they learned how to do brilliant cartoon illustrations. The project culminated in a presentation, in the summer term, by key stage 3, which was much enjoyed by parents and peers. This included live performances of the poetry they had written with their illustrations projected behind them. We feel that such opportunities are very important in engaging learners as well as improving self-esteem and making literacy an enjoyable and enriching experience for all. We hope that we will have many more such opportunities in the future.

By Yvonne Edwards

Whole School Coordinator (Literacy)