

WRITING THEIR FIRST STORY

Three Bradford schools engage in literature project



Belle Vue Boy's School pupils at the Young Writer's Festival

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An interesting project that focuses on a child's creative writing has come to Bradford and managed to get on board three Bradford schools; Belle Vue boys school, Carlton Bolling College and

Feversham College.

First Story provides state school children with the opportunity to enhance their creative writing sides by paying for acclaimed writers to run workshops within the schools. The workshops focus on writing, reading and creating an anthology so

that the students work is published and catalogued in the British library. This allows the students to be able to take pride in seeing their work published and displayed.

Jess Summers, Regional Coordinator for First Story in Bradford, says that First Story allows children to "Gain a real value of literature" when participating in the workshops. First Story was launched in Bradford as it was noticed that the schools were not challenging their students enough, Summers realised that "Bradford really needed something like First Story." She picked the chosen schools in Bradford as these were the ones who had the proficiency to get on board. However, she said: "We've had a lot of interest from other schools who want to take part next year."

The workshops began in the schools in September and Summers says that the feedback has been great.

"The students are really engaged and very excited. The main focus of the workshop is to enjoy it and to play with literature."

First Story aims to make the students value their stories and lives as they talk and write about their own experiences

and communities, as well as being able to develop a love for literature.

The third annual Young Writer's Festival took place in September at the University of Oxford, in which Belle Vue Boy's School was able to take part. The boys were able to meet many acclaimed writers at the festival and one of them also managed to ask acclaimed British writer Mallory Blackman a question.

Summers added: "The festival was amazing, there were 900 people there, and the Belle Vue boys absolutely loved it. The boys were given some challenging writing tasks at the Writer's Festival and they came up with some phenomenal and original responses so I was really proud."

Summers is already selecting schools to take part in the First Story workshops next year and says "We would welcome anyone interested." First Story are also looking for an Asian entrepreneur or business person with particular high standing, who would be interested in being on the advisory board and a good role model for the Asian and white students. Summers emphasised that "It is important to represent Asians on the board."