

CHELTENHAM

Festivals

Award-winning *Beyond Words* project launches new anthology

Cheltenham Festivals is delighted to announce that its ground-breaking [Beyond Words](#) project run in collaboration with the Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES) has been awarded a Pearson Teaching Awards Certificate of Excellence, within the category for Outstanding School Team of the Year, which recognises the quality of collaboration/partnership in achieving demonstrable impact on the lives of young people.

Cheltenham Festivals will launch an anthology of writing from pupils with the [Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service](#) (GHES) who participated in the **Beyond Words** project at a special event on Tuesday 27th June at Waterstones in Cheltenham. The young people involved suffer from severe mental or physical illnesses and are unable to attend mainstream school. The anthology, titled “Once Upon A Place” is edited by the Festivals’ writer in residence, author and scriptwriter [Miranda Walker](#).

In any given year, over 600 children in Gloucestershire are unable to access mainstream schooling due to conditions like cancer, eating disorders, epilepsy, and orthopaedic, neurological and respiratory disorders. The majority of these young people are aged between 14 and 16. Education is provided for these young people by Gloucestershire County Council’s own Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service. GHES was again found to be an outstanding provider of education in a very recent Ofsted inspection on 28th March 2017.

This is the second year of a three year project, supported by The St James’s Place Foundation and Gloucestershire County Council. It gives every KS4 student unable to attend mainstream school the opportunity to work with a writer-in-residence, either in person or via a digital learning platform. The workshops are taking place in inspirational venues including Sudeley Castle, Manor by the Lake and The Everyman Theatre. Some of the young people will read their work to a public audience at The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival in October.

Annalise Price-Thomas, Head of Service at GHES, said: “The benefits of this project have been immense, and in some cases life-changing”

Cheltenham Festivals Director of Education Ali Mawle said: “Beyond Words gives voice to young people whose lives are not going according to plan. Working closely with local partners, we are able to offer inspirational experiences and opportunities to these students.”

The students said: “We have been coming together in inspirational spaces to write short stories or parts of stories. We have used different spaces as inspiration for our settings. We have made friends through the group and have laughed a lot.”

The *Beyond Words* project is part of Cheltenham Festivals’ education outreach, which also incorporates [a collaboration with First Story](#).

The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival returns **6 – 15 October 2017**. The full Festival line-up will be announced in mid August. For more information, or to sign up to hear the latest festival announcements, visit: www.cheltenhamfestivals.com.

A photo opportunity with the participants and interviews with Cheltenham Festivals Education Director Ali Mawle; writer-in-residence Miranda Walker; and Head of Service at GHES. Annalise Price-Thomas, are available on request.

[Pearson Teaching Awards](#)

On Friday 16th June, Thank a Teacher Day 2017, the Pearson Teaching Awards will announce Silver Winners in schools across the UK. The awards were founded in 1998 by Lord Puttnam to recognise the significant impact of inspirational teachers on the lives of the young people they teach.

Following thousands of nominations, tens of celebrations will take place in schools and colleges across England, Ireland and Wales as the as Silver Winner status is presented to outstanding local heroes of education.