



Teesside High School

Everything is possible

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News Release

Title: Children's Literature Festival a first for the north east

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Over 100 local primary school children enjoyed a fun packed week of poetry and prose this month, thanks to Teesside High School organising and hosting the first ever North East Primary School Literature Festival.

The school invited authors into the school for the festival, which ran from 1 to 8 October, to provide exciting, interactive workshops for its preparatory (prep) school children. Pupils from South Bank Community Primary School also joined in the fun for one of the workshops.

Author and poet James Nash, who kicked off the festival by writing imaginative poems with pupils, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed my day at Teesside High School. The young people were engaged and engaging and wrote some lovely and creative pieces.

"It was also a delight to see that so many enjoyed reading. All in all it was a terrific experience with a great bunch of budding poets."

Other festival activities included:

- Poet Ian Horn introducing a football theme for his day at the school.
- Author Barry Stone helping children write monologues and newspaper articles.
- Up and coming writer Stevie Ronnie taking groups of pupils into the school grounds as part of his creative writing workshops.

Head of the Prep School, Mike Abraham, said: "We organised this festival to inspire our young pupils. The overall aim was to encourage the children - and their families - to get as much enjoyment as possible from different types of literature such as stories, novels and poems.

"The school had a real buzz about it during the festival and the whole week was a resounding success. We are now planning for next year and would like to extend the festival to involve more local schools."

Head of South Bank Community Primary School, Brenda Urwin said: "Our pupils have worked on several occasions with pupils from Teesside High School and each time, they have been made very welcome and really enjoyed themselves. The activity with Stevie Ronnie was a memorable experience that they will take with them throughout their school life."

Ends



James Nash at the festival