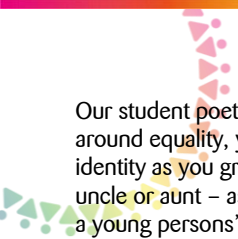




Poetry anthology competition

As part of our training programme, students considered the issues girls and boys face in a gender unequal society, where girls are often denied opportunities and boys are often expected to conform to stereotypical behaviour and images of men.

Performance poetry is a powerful tool for expressing your voice. Our students worked with a number of performance poets led by Dave Neita to create deeply moving poetry dealing with the issues they discussed in training. The poetry was inspired by one that was written by President Barack Obama for his daughters called Of thee I sing: A letter to My Daughters. The poem describes the contribution of great women to our world – not just the work they have done, but also the values they have shared. It is a letter of hope, love and care for them. It is a letter from a father who celebrates the fact that his children are girls and who commits to standing by them as they grow. It is a letter of confidence in all that they can become and the choices they will make as they take their place in life.



Our student poets decided to consider the challenges of the world around equality, your gender (and for some its fluidity) and your identity as you grow. As a parent, carer, teacher, grandparent, uncle or aunt – as a person with a responsibility for the shaping of a young persons' character or the gatekeeper of opportunity, how might you respond? This was the challenge to students – and the poetry they created is their response.

We decided to award prizes to the winner and two runners up for this competition. The winners were:

Winner Syed Hussain, Mulberry UTC

Joint 2nd Abbi Lightbourne, Wycombe High School
Maryam Naasar, Mulberry School for Girls

Joint 3rd Freya Walsh-Wells, Wycombe High School
Fiazah Ahmed, Mulberry School for Girls

Judges Jill Tuffee, Associate Headteacher,
Mulberry School for Girls (Chair)
Dave Neita, Poet and Lawyer
Jennie Montgomerie, Deputy Headteacher,
Mulberry Academy Shoreditch
Kate Pakenham, Film Producer
Maisha Zainab, student, Mulberry School for Girls
Suraiyah Uddin, student, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch