

FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO RAISING ATTAINMENT

REDESIGNING AND REPURPOSING
ESTABLISHED TARGETED ACTIVITY TO
INCREASE CONFIDENCE IN LITERACY
WITHIN SCHOOLS

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OVERVIEW



Surrey STARS

- Attainment raising
- Surrey context

Speak Up! Speak Out!

- Community work
- What we changed
- What we learnt

Creativity Unbound

- Community work
- What we changed
- What we learnt

Summary

- Q&A



WHAT IS SURREY STARS?



- School-based activity
- Exclusive campus visits
- Attainment raising
- Eligibility criteria
- Complement school curriculum



THE SURREY CONTEXT



- Disadvantaged gap (months)
 - End of Reception = **5.1** (4.8 nationally)
 - End of Y6 = **11.2** (10.3 nationally)
 - End of Y11 = **21** (18.8 nationally)

*Educational Policy Institute (<https://epi.org.uk/local-authority-gaps/>)

- Surrey, East & West Sussex - % achieving Grade 5 or above in English & Maths by end of KS4

- 62.5% (non-FSM) Vs 29.2% (FSM eligible)
- **33.3% gap**

*Department of Education ([https://social-mobility.data.gov.uk/intermediate_outcomes/compulsory_school_age_\(5_to_16_years\)/attainment_at_age_16](https://social-mobility.data.gov.uk/intermediate_outcomes/compulsory_school_age_(5_to_16_years)/attainment_at_age_16))

- Surrey Attainment Gap

- **20.3 points** (15.3 nationally)
- Widened by 2.8 points since the pandemic
- 22.7% FSM eligible children (aged 15) in Surrey were in HE at 19 years of age (compared to 53.1% non-FSM)

*Department for Education cited in Woking News and Mail:
<https://www.wokingnewsandmail.co.uk/news/poorest-children-in-surrey-far-less-likely-to-progress-to-higher-education-631146>



SPEAK UP!
SPEAK OUT!

SPOKEN WORD ACTIVITY
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



COMMUNITY WORK



Speak Up! Speak Out!

- Spoken word workshop
- Exploring identity and discrimination
- Developing literacy and oracy

Holocaust Memorial Day

- Annual collaboration with Kings College Guildford
- Focus on learning about and contributing to discussion of the Holocaust
- Contribution to University of Surrey's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations
- Recorded spoken-word poems (Department of Music and Media)
- Bringing local community into the conversation



EXAMPLES



- Spoken word performances alongside Holocaust survivors and religious leaders (**UoS HMD**)
- Project with Guildford Grove Primary School (**Celebrating Differences**)
- Collaboration with Godalming Museum (**Godalming's Day of Peace**)
- Cultural identity day for refugee and asylum-seeking young people (**Big Leaf Summer School**)

School poems - Speak Up! Speak Out!

As part of its Surrey Stars schools initiative, the University of Surrey's Widening Participation and Outreach (WPO) Team deliver *Speak Up! Speak Out!* – a sustained-engagement spoken word programme – to support literacy and oracy development for under-represented learners.

Twenty Year 9 students from one of our partner schools, Kings College Guildford, recently joined us for our annual edition of *Speak Up! Speak Out!* with a focus on Holocaust Memorial Day.

We began the programme with a visit to Godalming Museum to celebrate Godalming's Day of Peace, including an informative tour by the Museum's curator and a special exhibition on 'peace', with the students writing their own poems on the theme, which were performed for attendees at the Day of Peace evening event in the Museum.

To close the programme, students visited the Surrey campus for a one-day workshop delivered by WPO staff. Students discussed the topic of discrimination, learnt more about the Holocaust and created original spoken word pieces on the 'Fragility of Freedom' theme.



With wonderful support from Film Production and Broadcast Engineering staff, some of the students performed their inspiring and thought-provoking pieces to camera in the department's state-of-the-art sound stage – the results of which can be seen in the accompanying video.



REPURPOSING FOR SCHOOLS



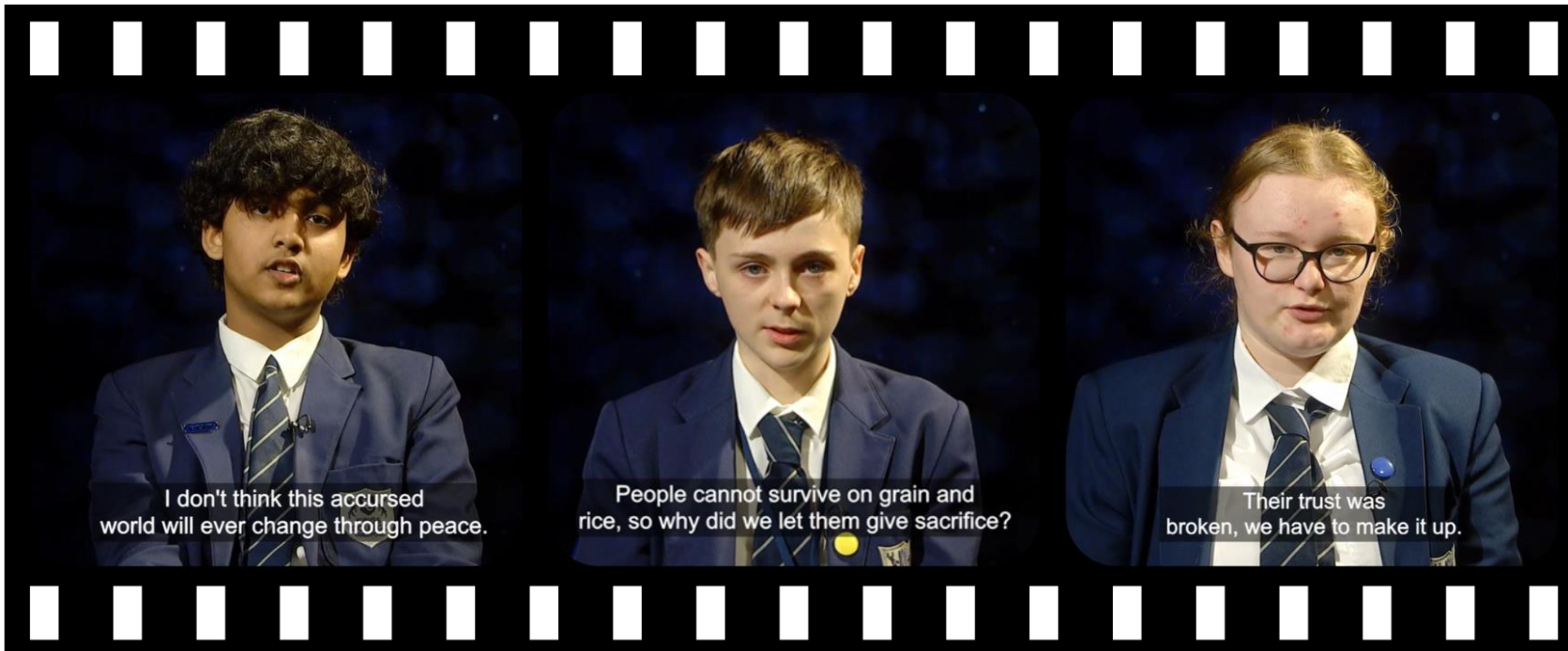
2024/25

One-day in-school workshop

- Introduction to spoken word
- Theme selected by school
- Spoken word writing

One-day on-campus visit

- Film Production and Broadcast Engineering studios
- Recording of poems
- Development of literacy and oracy



CREATIVITY UNBOUND

CREATIVE WRITING INITIATIVE

HMP DOWNVIEW



COMMUNITY WORK



HMP Downview

- Women's prison and young offender institute in Sutton, Surrey
- Six-week creative writing programme
- 43 participants across four six-week runs
- Inside-out model of delivery

Collaboration

“ It was not just about learning how to put words onto a paper in a poem style, it was more than that – it was something much deeper and meaningful that could help people with their confidence, and self-esteem. ”

Creativity Unbound participant



“ They made us, the invisible, forgotten and divided members of society, visible. ”

Creativity Unbound participant

COMMUNITY WORK

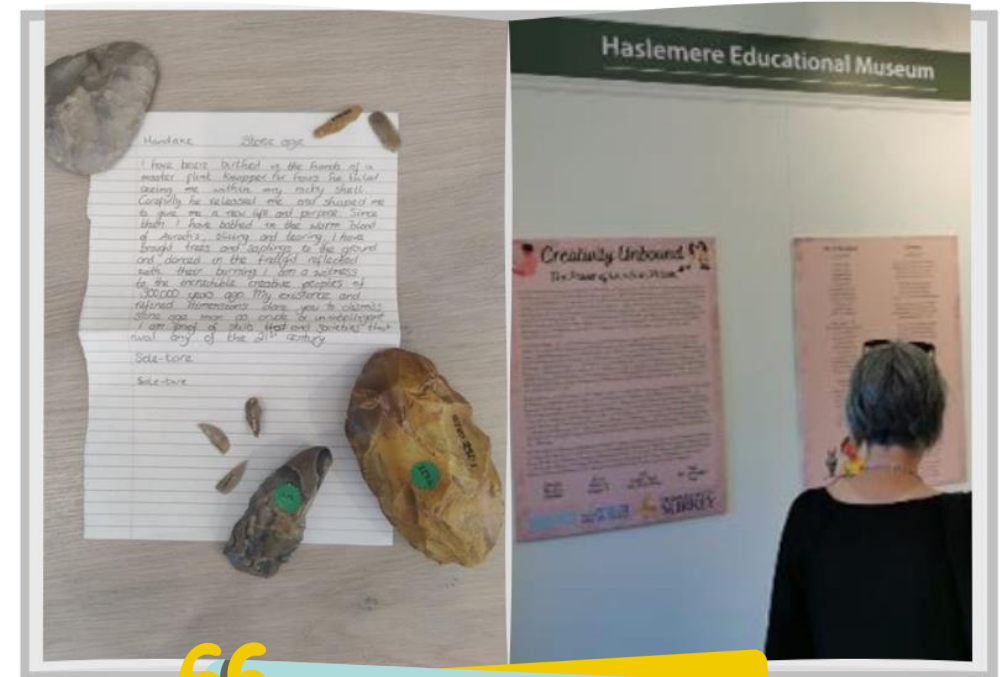


Outcomes

- Increased subject-specific confidence (improved writing abilities)
- Increased commitment to learning
- Increased sense of community belonging

Impact

- Connections with education
- Improved skills
- Mental health / wellbeing
- Increased confidence
- Breaking barriers
- Social change



“

See, express, accept, understand! Very helpful emotionally, people to come from outside, inside and help prisoners – I feel more normal!

”

Creativity Unbound participant

COMMUNITY WORK



“

I think actually, even now I do enjoy English and writing, I think doing the course, when it came up ‘oh, creative writing, I did this with Joe and Alicia, it just gave me that whole other sort of confidence, like, I know how to do this’ and I think that came through in my essay and yes, I got the highest score so far and I think if I had not done this course... I wouldn’t had that motivation behind me, that sort of pushing me like ‘I can do this, I know what I am talking about’

”

REPURPOSING FOR SCHOOLS

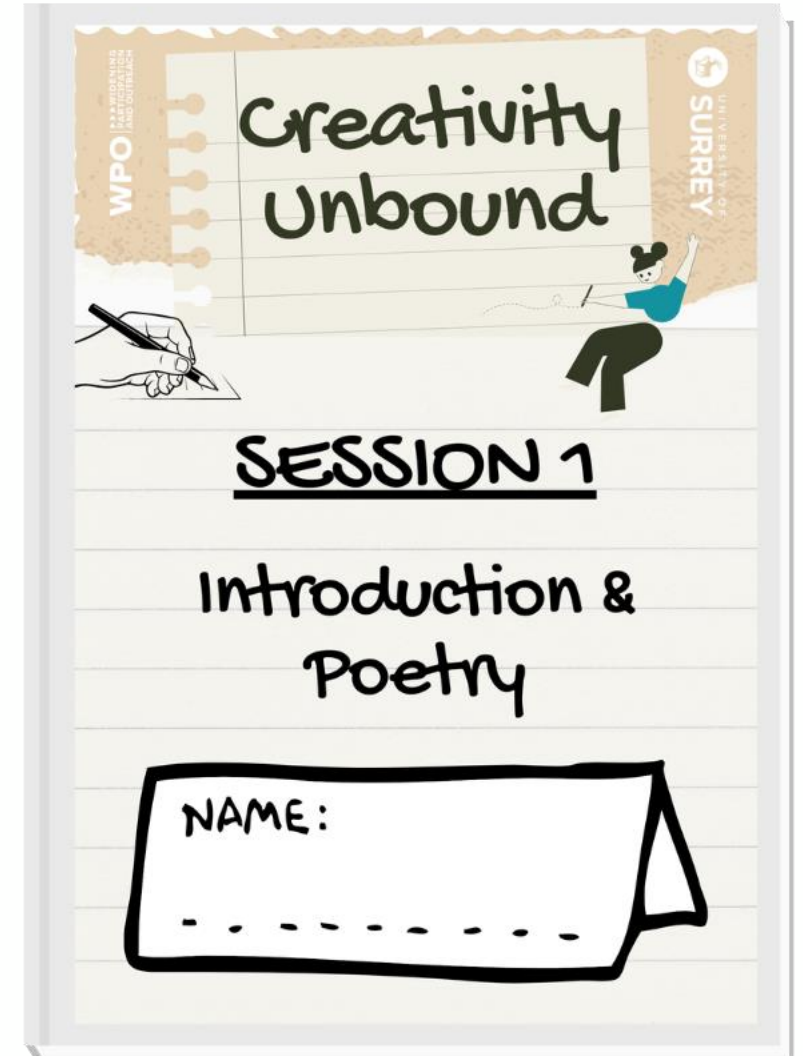


Creativity Unbound

- Part of our Surrey Stars offer
- Sustained engagement programme for Year 8
- Six weeks of in-school delivery
- Focus on range of literary forms and creative expression

Raising attainment

- Increase confidence in literacy skills
- Increase sense of belonging (school community)
- Increase engagement in education
- Build resilience



REPURPOSING FOR SCHOOLS

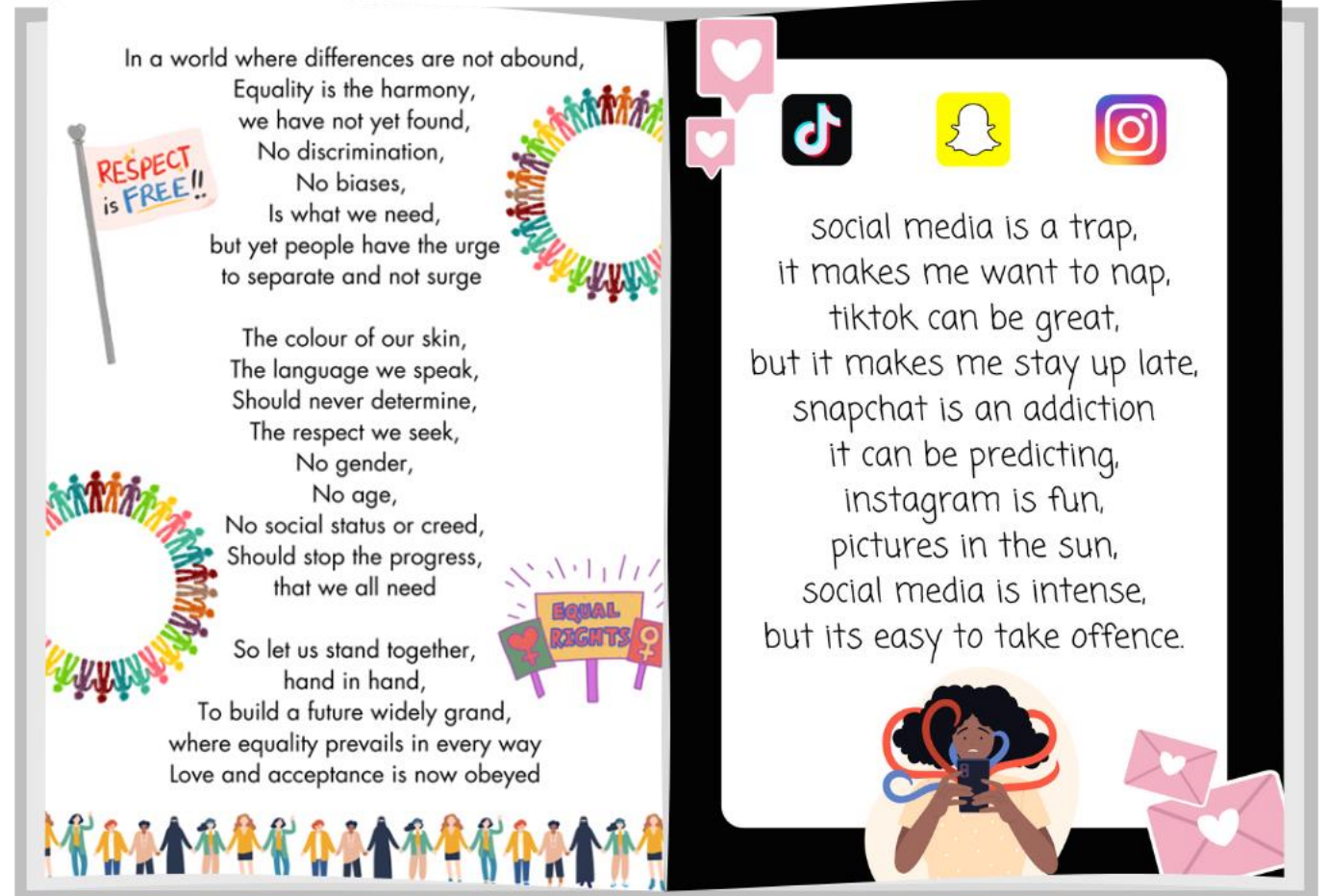


Discussion

- Adapting delivery style
- Writing for freedom vs. writing as a burden
- Does what works in prison work in schools (and vice versa)?

Future potential

- Inside-out delivery to bring schools and prisons together
- Aligning programme with Citizenship
- Any ideas?



TO SUMMARISE...

CHALLENGES

ADAPTATION

OUTCOMES

DELIVERY

SUGGESTIONS?





UNIVERSITY OF
SURREY

WPO | ▶▶▶ WIDENING
PARTICIPATION
AND OUTREACH

