



Dear Parent /Carer

**The Link Academy**  
**Poetry Live. New Theatre, Oxford. Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Further to our message on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January, please be aware that we had to make a change to the GCSE Poetry Live trip which was originally scheduled for your child on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025. We have now made alternative arrangements and your child will now attend The New Theatre in Oxford on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to hear a range of poets from GCSE texts discuss their poems and respond to learners' questions. There will also be examiner sessions held at the event from chief examiners looking at two topics from learners' literature exams: *power and conflict poetry* and *unseen poetry*. This trip has already been fully funded by the Academy. Your child will travel to and from the venue by coach. We aim to depart The Link at 8:15am and arrive back at approximately 5pm depending on traffic, where you will need to arrange for the safe collection of your child from the Academy. Learners are required to wear school uniform for the trip. Your child will be provided with a packed lunch for this trip; however, they are also welcome to bring snacks/additional food for their own consumption.

Three poets presenting at the event are studied in learners GCSE exams. Hearing the poets themselves discuss the texts, in person, should be of great benefit. Please see below for details of the event outlined by Poetry Live:

- Each event includes the Poet Laureate, **Simon Armitage**. He is one of Britain's best poets, with a superb ear for language. This is a great opportunity to hear Simon read his work from the anthology.
- **Carol Ann Duffy** is one of the most read, studied and loved of today's poets. She was an inspiring and transformational Poet Laureate from 2009 to 2019. Her poems are sharp, funny and contemporary, and also full of a literary past, whether from mythology, or Shakespeare.
- **John Agard** gives one of the most exciting performances in contemporary poetry, not only in the way he delivers his poems, but also in how he talks about them, combining historical awareness, cultural insight and extraordinary humour.
- There will also be unmissable readings from award-winning poets **Imtiaz Dharker** and **Daljit Nagra** at every event
- **Owen Sheers** will also be there to give an absorbing reading of his work.
- Poets will respond to learner questions and discuss how poems connect to and influence other poems.
- In the examiner sessions our highly experienced Chief Examiners will deal with two skills vital for success in the GCSE English Literature examinations.
- The first session will look at how learners might deal with unseen poems in the exam, both how to think about them and how to write for the best possible results.
- The second session will look at comparing poems, whether they are studied poems or unseen, and how to write most effectively in either situation.

The Link Academy reserves the right to remove any learner from the trip if expected high standards of behaviour are not maintained. If you have already consented to the trip that was scheduled for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, we will transfer this consent to the new trip on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. If you have any concerns about this change of details, please contact us urgently.

Medical and contact information held by the Academy will accompany the trip. Can I remind parents and carers that it is their responsibility to inform the school of any changes. Please contact the Academy prior to the trip if your child's contact, photographic, or medical details have changed.

A risk assessment is available on request at The Link Academy. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Russon on 01384 986550.

Your faithfully

Mrs E Edwards-Morgan  
Principal

