

Press Release

*** Tickets go on sale 8am on Tuesday 11 June 2019***

The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival Announces ‘Literature for Schools’ 2019 Programme

4 – 13 October 2019

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature | #cheltlitfest

**ROBIN STEVENS | CRESSIDA COWELL | JOSHUA SEIGAL | FRANCESCA SIMON
CANDY GOURLAY | CHRIS RIDDELL | ATINUKE | HILARY MCKAY | STEVEN BUTLER
STEVEN LENTON | ZANIB MIAN | KATIE & KEVIN TSANG | PATRICE LAWRENCE
WILLIAM SUTCLIFFE | ANTHONY ANAXGOROU | KIT DE WAAL | AND MANY MORE!**

The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival is delighted to invite teachers and pupils to join its 70th anniversary celebrations with a 2019 ‘Literature for Schools’ [programme](#) that will open minds and unlock creativity. The beautiful spa town will host over 9000 students for six inspirational days of live events, workshops, storytelling and professional development when the world’s oldest literature festival returns in October 2019.

The Primary Schools [programme](#) is set to uncover bookish mysteries with a raft of extraordinary authors and illustrators including **Cressida Cowell, Francesca Simon, Chris Riddell, Hilary McKay, Candy Gourlay, Zanib Mian, Tim Hopgood** and **Katie & Kevin Tsang**, alongside performance poets **Joshua Seigal** and **Roger Stevens**, plus enthralling storytelling from **Atinuke**.

Robin Stevens, author of the bestselling *Murder Most Unladylike* series, returns to Cheltenham as Guest Curator for the Family and Schools programme and will be revealing crime writing secrets as part of a series of mystery events which features detective capers from **Tracey Corderoy** and **Steven Lenton** and unlikely heroes with **Lisa Thompson**.

Authors taking part in [Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils](#) – the Festival’s flagship education project supporting teachers with a national network of free reading groups – will also be igniting creativity with writing workshops from **Vashti Hardy, Joe Todd-Stanton** and **Emma Carroll**. The first of the five new books selected for the 2019/20 programme will be revealed during the Festival in October.

The Secondary Schools [programme](#) will empower students to explore the written and spoken word, with events and workshops from the very best writers, poets and industry professionals discussing everything from Shakespeare to fake news.

Leading authors and poets **Patrice Lawrence, Kit De Waal, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Chris Powers, Anthony Anaxagorou** and **Alice Oseman** will be taking to the stage to share their industry insight and writing tips. **William Sutcliffe** and **Sarah Govett, Lisa Heathfield** will be celebrating 70 years since the publication of George Orwell’s classic *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by diving into the fascinating and thrilling world of dystopias, and spoken word artist **Sophia Thakur** will be performing with students from the Festivals’ year-round outreach programmes – Beyond Words, Write Now and Amnesty’s Words that Burn – in the Young Writers’ Showcase.

The Festival Village and The Woodland Trust Wild Wood will also be packed with free activities including storytellers, character meet and greets, arts and crafts, as well as the **Secret Seven Mystery Trail** celebrating 70 years of the world's favourite detective club, and an **Elmer and Friends Trail** across Cheltenham.

Loraine Evans, Family and Schools Programme Manager and **Sarah Forbes**, Education Manager said:

“We’re proud to showcase the work of a more diverse range of authors and illustrators than ever before; to offer unique content, provide a platform for both new and established voices and empower young readers and writers through a love of books.”

ENDS

Press Contact

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About The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival

For ten days in October several hundred of the world's finest writers, thinkers, performers and leading opinion-formers descend on Cheltenham to celebrate the joy of the written and spoken word. The world's oldest literature festival (est. 1949) with over 500 events spanning history, art, current affairs, sport, food and fashion, it brings together the best new voices in fiction and poetry alongside literary greats, political debates fresh from the party conference season, a vibrant family and schools programme, and late nights with cutting-edge spoken word performances.

Cheltenham Literature Festival delivers a pioneering year-round educational programme to over 9,000 pupils a year including its flagship [Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils](#) outreach project, enabling teachers and their pupils to rediscover the joy of reading and the award-winning [Beyond Words](#), a creative writing project working with vulnerable young people unable to access mainstream education in Gloucestershire.

- The 2019 Festival will run from 3 – 14 October
- Early names will be announced on 29 June and the full programme on 16 August
- Press images can be found [here](#)
- Follow [@cheltlitfest](#) on Twitter and #cheltlitfest for further updates
- Press contact: Bairbre.lloyd@cheltenhamfestivals.com
- Sign up for e-news alerts at www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature

About Cheltenham Festivals

The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival is part of Cheltenham Festivals.

Our Mission

Cheltenham Festivals is a charity which feeds the human spirit.

Its participation programmes reach out year-round and culminate at the town's internationally-acclaimed Jazz, Science, Music and Literature Festivals.

Our Vision

We are committed to working collaboratively and with integrity to:

1. Produce innovative, world-class content across science and the arts.

Developing, showcasing and advocating for diversity are synonymous with this pledge

2. Engage everyone in science and the arts.

Reaching out to people in relevant ways, demonstrating inclusion and co-production are core to our approach.

Our Four Pillars

There are four pillars which support all the activity we undertake.

