

Creative Writing



Since 2001, the Arts Development team have been working in partnership with Aberdeenshire Library and Information Service (ALIS) in developing writing workshops for schools.

The focus was to offer pupils a participatory experience with published authors, to explore creativity, to inspire, to develop a variety of writing techniques and to instil a life-long desire to read and write.

The academy writing workshops take place in September and are usually a 2 or 3 day out-of-school event. Higher pupils attend small group workshops with 5 local and national authors. Writing remits are discussed with the English CSG and the Network Librarians. The development from 2006 to 2007 is for all Aberdeenshire Advanced Higher pupils to attend the writing workshops.

A small number of primary schools receive creative writing workshops from Scottish based authors during March.

In 2004 the team was successful in a bid for Scottish Arts Council funding for a programme for creative writing events:

- 2004 creative writers workshops for primaries and academies, with 5 writers of international repute.
- Aberdeenshire schools' writer and illustrator residencies delivered workshops to the pupils in English and Art & Design at seven academies in 2005.
- The *Write On!* book was published from the pupils' work.

'I learned a lot about different writing techniques, and was introduced to the work of authors that I hadn't previously heard of. Also, Fyvie castle was a wonderful place to host the event - plenty to inspire the writing we were asked to do in the workshops.'

Pupil evaluation Writing Higher Still Workshops 2006

'They are inspirational and give pupils an enrichment of the normal curriculum... they undoubtedly encourage creative writing. Long may they continue.'

Teacher evaluation Writing Higher Still Workshops 2006