



RAINE'S FOUNDATION SCHOOL

A Voluntary Aided Church of England School

Approach Road, London, E2 9LY

Tel: 020 8981 1231 Fax: 020 8983 0153

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Website: www.rainesfoundation.org.uk

Interim Headteacher: Rob Hullelt BSc NPQH

19 January 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

I writing with information about the 'First Story' programme, which your child has been selected to take part in at Raine's this year. I wrote to you in November to tell you about our partnership with '**First Story**', an organisation which provides fun and interactive creative writing programmes, led by a professional writer, to improve students' writing skills and building their confidence in writing accurately and creatively. The programme is only available to seven students from each year, in Years 7, 8 and 9, who we believe would hugely benefit from this experience.

Students involved in the programme have already attended the First Story Regional Writing Event, at the Courtauld Gallery, on Wednesday 16th November 2016. This was a successful and enjoyable day, and our students were a credit to the school.

The next step in the First Story programme is a series of eight writing workshops which your child will attend, led by our writer in residence, Jarred McGinnis. The sessions will run from 3.15pm to 4.45pm on Tuesdays, starting next week, for eight weeks. The full list of workshop dates are as follows: 24th January, 31st January, 7th February, 21st February, 28th February, 7th March, 14th March, 21st March (and a 'backup' date of 28th March, in the event of any previous sessions being cancelled).

At the end of the programme, students will have a piece of their writing published in a professionally produced anthology. Finally, in the summer term we will be holding a celebratory book launch event later in the year, where the finished anthologies will be presented to students. Parents and carers will also be invited to attend on this evening. The date of this event will be confirmed soon, and I will write to you again with details.

Taking part in the First Story programme is entirely free to students. As places are very limited for this opportunity, students will need to be certain that they can commit to attending all eight of the writing workshops on Tuesdays after school.

Our writer in residence, Jarred McGinnis, is a published writer, and he has been shortlisted for a range of literary awards. His short fiction has been commissioned for the BBC and appeared in respected journals in the UK, Canada, USA and Ireland. Most recently he has had stories shortlisted for the 2016 Galley Beggar Story Prize and the 2016 Wasafiri New Writing Award.

He's also creating quite a buzz with literary events he's arranged. He co-founded The Special Relationship, which has been recently chosen for the British Council's International Literature Showcase. He was the creative director for 'Moby-Dick Unabridged', which was a multimedia reading of *Moby-Dick* at the Southbank Centre. If you would like to read more about Jarred, or to see some of his work, you can visit his website, at: <http://jarredmcginnis.com>.





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If you have any questions about the workshops, please feel free to email me at the following address:
s.atkinson@rainsfoundation.org.uk.

I look forward to seeing your child take part in these exciting workshops.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs S. Atkinson

Whole School Literacy Coordinator

