

On 7th February, Miss Groves took 42 Year 11 students to Poetry Live, Leeds. Students found the trip invaluable in terms of their English Literature exam; they were given the chance to see poets from the Power and Conflict Anthology, perform live on stage and discuss their motives behind their writing. Some even managed a selfie with the man himself: John Agard!

Simon Armitage was one of the poets the students met. He is one of Britain's best poets, with a superb ear for language. This was a great opportunity to hear, the Oxford Professor of Poetry, read his work from the anthology.

Carol Ann Duffy and Gillian Clarke gave an exhilarating joint reading. Their session was one of the most illuminating parts of the day for students. Carol Ann Duffy is one of the most read, studied and loved of today's poets and such an inspired choice for the role of Poet Laureate. Her poems are sharp, funny and contemporary, and also full of a literary past, whether from mythology, or Shakespeare.

John Agard gave one of the most exciting performances in contemporary poetry, not only in the way he delivered his poems, but also in how he talked about them, combining historical awareness, cultural insight and extraordinary humour.

In the examiner sessions, the highly experienced Chief Examiners dealt with two skills vital for success in the GCSE English Literature examinations. The first session looked at how students 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 looked at comparing poems, whether they were studied poems or unseen, and how to write most effectively in either situation. These sessions proved invaluable to students' thinking and were an outstandingly successful aspect of the GCSE Poetry Live trip!

