

## **PUPILS CELEBRATE LAUNCH OF BOOK**

Eighteen budding authors from St John's Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre in Bishop Auckland will launch their first collaborative book - written in two languages and recorded by them onto a CD - at a Cultural Hubs celebration achievement day at the school on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30pm onwards.

The Year 8 pupils, who have been working together since October last year, had the thrill of watching final copies of their book, entitled *Troll and Frog's Undersea Adventure*, coming 'hot off the press' last week at Linton Printers in Crook.

The children, who all volunteered for the project, have been working with locally-based storyteller Pascale Konyn and Michal Malinowski, director of the story-telling museum in Warsaw as well as digital artist Rachel Clarke of Stanhope-based Twisted Digits as part of a Cultural Hubs Durham programme.

"The process of making this book has involved many exciting partnerships," said Rachel Clarke, who also managed the project. "The students began their book adventure with an inspiring visit to Seven Stories and from there they have worked with Pascale and Michal and other artists to create this magical story."

The idea to produce a book in two languages – English and Polish – came about as part of a tolerance and diversity project at the school. "We set about looking at other cultures and the difficulties people from other countries face when they come to live somewhere new," said Jacqui Holloway, teacher at the school. "We have seen an influx of Polish immigrants to our area and so we decided to produce a book that was bi-lingual to help welcome and integrate new children to our school."

The 48 page full colour book, which the children also designed themselves, will be available at County Durham Libraries and local feeder primary schools. "Throughout every stage of the process the students were encouraged to make group decisions on how the book would come together, so it is fitting that the story is a journey of friendship and collaboration," added Rachel Clarke.

### **The Forge**

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the **specialist** participatory arts organisation

**NOTE TO EDITOR:**

**Michal Malinowski, director of the story-telling museum in Warsaw will be a special guest at the school's open day along with Pascale Konyn, Rachel Clarke and the children involved. All will be available for photo/interview.**

Cultural Hub Durham is a government initiative managed by creative organisation The Forge, which aims to inspire young people through cultural and education partnerships.

Over the past three years, The Forge has been developing an innovative programme involving the education and cultural sectors and, most importantly, young people in schools. In practical terms this has led to a £1.3m investment enabling 10 schools across County Durham to work in partnership with high profile cultural organisations based in the region, including BALTIC, Beamish Museum, Dance City, Seven Stories and Durham County Council Libraries, Learning and Culture.

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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