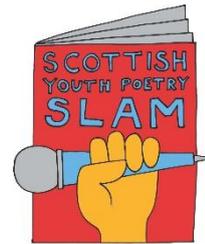


## PRESS RELEASE

### **Pupils from Port Glasgow High Wow Prince Harry & Meghan Markle with their Slam Poetry performance at a Special Celebration for the Year of Young People at Holyrood Palace**



A group of seven pupils from Port Glasgow High, current holders of the title of 'Scottish Youth Poetry Slam Masters 2016' performed at a special reception attended by 50 young people at Holyrood Palace yesterday (Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018) to mark the first trip to Scotland for Prince Harry and his fiancée Meghan Markle.

Port Glasgow High pupils performed the winning poem of the Scottish Youth Poetry Slam (SYPS) "*Young Life Crisis*" written by them in 2016. The poem is all about being yourself and making the most of the present and the future. The children were trained at special workshops hosted by conFAB as part of the SYPS 2016. Following on from the SYPS the young people have continued the legacy by encouraging younger pupils at their school to take part in lunch time poetry clubs, teaching them the art of slam poetry.

Teacher, Pauline Barclay said: "The pupils were thrilled to be invited along to perform their winning poem and meet Prince Harry & Meghan. We are so proud of them."

The Scottish Youth Poetry Slam is now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year and young people from across Scotland will take part in music, poetry and performance workshops leading up to the Scottish Youth Poetry Slam 2018 where they will compete for the title of Scottish Youth Poetry Slam Master 2018. Regional heats take place in Stirling and Inverness with the grand final at The Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018. This year, conFAB are offering a unique take on the competition by collaborating with Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) to create music to go along with the poetry. This year the Scottish Youth Poetry Slam is supported by the Year of Young People 2018 event fund.

Rachel Jury, Artistic Director, conFAB, commented: "Port Glasgow High will be defending their title this year, so their Royal performance has given them the opportunity to perform in front of some very special guests but we're really keen to spread the word and encourage more young people from across the country to compete and learn new skills. The winners receive a bespoke trophy designed by Project Ability, the title of 'Scottish Youth Poetry Slam Masters 2018' and everyone has a fabulous adventure."

If you know groups of young people or a local school who would like to take part, contact [admin@confab.org.uk](mailto:admin@confab.org.uk) to express your interest. ENDS

### **Notes for Editors**

1. SYPS 2018 is funded by: Big Lottery, Young Start and Year of Young People 2018.
2. For more information and videos of last year's performances:  
<http://www.confab.org.uk/projects/syps16>  
<https://www.facebook.com/syps16/>
3. The project deliberately targets educational and social disadvantage, crossing traditional barriers by using fun, youth culture elements to nurture language and literacy and to engage young people in literature and culture and upskill them with creative ways to manage mental health. The slam is a fast paced, good natured, highly inclusive competition and, with audience participation, the whole country is involved in representing their area and young people
4. Project partners:



### **Year of Young People**

- The Scottish Government's themed year for 2018 is the Year of Young People, following the Year of Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017.
- A global first, YoYP 2018 is a platform for young people aged eight to 26 years old to have their voices heard on social issues and their talents celebrated.
- A year-long programme of events and festivals are taking place across the whole of the country for all ages to enjoy, led by EventScotland part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate. More information at [www.visitscotland.com/yoyp2018](http://www.visitscotland.com/yoyp2018)
- Local authorities, schools, youth groups and organisations are running their own YoYP 2018 activity. Search #YOYP2018 on Twitter for the latest news.
- Young people co-designed the Year. A group of young leaders, Communic18, lead on all key decision making. More than 500 Ambassadors based across every local authority are championing activity.
- The Year is delivered in partnership between the Scottish Government, EventScotland, Young Scot, Scottish Youth Parliament, Children in Scotland, YouthLink Scotland and Creative Scotland.