



## **‘Great Expectations’**

*The Primary Curriculum with a particular focus on English and literacy.*

*Hosted by*

**The Portsmouth Grammar Junior School**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**To all Heads, Deputies, Directors of Studies,  
Co-ordinators of English and Class Teachers,**

I am delighted to send you this invitation to join us for a very special conference next year; *‘Great Expectations’: The Primary Curriculum with a particular focus on English and literacy.* We do hope that *‘Great Expectations’* will be both enlightening and stimulating for all who attend. The year 2010 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dickens’ great work and with the recent work of Sir Jim Rose on the Primary Curriculum, it seems entirely appropriate to link the two together under the banner of *‘Great Expectations’*.

We are enormously fortunate that Sir Jim Rose and Michael Rosen have accepted our invitations to be our keynote speakers for this Conference. Sir Jim Rose’s findings, conclusions and recommendations from his recent work on the New Primary Curriculum should provide us with a fascinating insight in to what lies ahead for all Primary and Junior Schools from September 2011 and Michael Rosen, as one of the country’s best-known authors of children’s books, will hopefully direct us as to how we can best inspire our pupils to have a love of reading and writing. In addition to our two keynote speakers, acclaimed writers of children’s books, Chris Powling, Ian Beck, and Pauline Stewart will be providing a variety of workshops for all delegates. The day is designed to inform and stimulate all with ideas for improving standards in literacy in line with the aims of the New Primary Curriculum within your schools in September 2011, having English and Literacy at its very core.

With so many talented speakers and presenters, my challenge has been to ensure that all delegates are offered the opportunity to hear from them all and I am therefore most

grateful to our guests for agreeing to a demanding but hopefully most rewarding programme for the day.

### **Provisional timetable for the day**

9.20 – 9.50	Registration and coffee
9.50 – 10.00	Welcome Mr James Priory, Headmaster PGS
10.00 – 11.00	Keynote Speaker Sir Jim Rose
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee
11.30 – 12.20	Workshops
12.30 – 13.20	Workshops
13.20 – 14.10	Lunch
14.20 – 15.10	Workshops
15.20 – 16.20	Keynote Speaker Michael Rosen
16.20 – 16.30	Close

**If you would like to join us please complete and return the enclosed booking form and a cheque for £60 per delegate made payable to PGS, as soon as possible. There is a limit on the number of places we can offer and with the price set at only £60 per delegate we are expecting demand to far exceed places available so places will be allocated as booking forms are received.**

Please contact me should you require any further information and we look forward to seeing many of you on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Yours sincerely,

APN Rowley  
Deputy Head

*A few details on our keynote speakers and workshop presenters for the day*

**Sir Jim Rose C.B.E., F.R.S.A.**

Since July 1999 Jim Rose has acted as a consultant to the Government, first to the Department for Education and Skills and then to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, on nursery and primary education, and work force training.

Concurrent with his review of the primary curriculum, at the Secretary of State's request, he is also developing recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia and reviewing two early learning goals relating to literacy.

Jim Rose was formerly Her Majesty's Inspector at HM Inspectorate of Education (HMI) and Director of Inspection for the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED). He retired from OFSTED in July 1999.

His senior posts within HMI include Chief Inspector of Primary Education (3 to 13), responsibilities for Special Educational Needs (SEN), the education of ethnic minority pupils, and initial teacher training (ITT). He has advised several overseas governments on school inspection, and has considerable international experience of school educational systems.

Sir Jim's recommendations are numerous but clearly demand a need for literacy, numeracy, ICT and personal development to form the new core of the primary curriculum.

Sir Jim Rose said:

"The touchstone of an excellent curriculum is that it instils in children a love of learning for its own sake.

"From what I have seen on my visits, the best schools demonstrate that these priorities – literacy, numeracy, ICT and personal development – are crucial for giving children their entitlement to a broad and balanced education.

**Michael Rosen**

Michael Rosen was born in 1946 in North London. One of the best-known figures in the children's book world, he is renowned for his work as a poet, performer, broadcaster and scriptwriter. As an author and by selecting other writers' works for anthologies he has been involved with over 140 books. He lectures and teaches in universities on children's literature, reading and writing.

His first collection, *Mind Your Own Business*, was published in 1974. Although it was not planned as a collection for children, it appeared on Andre Deutsch's children's

list. This, says Michael, was a turning point - "Suddenly it all fused: the writing, the performing, the popular audience. It was just incredibly exhilarating." He quickly made a name for himself with his collections of humorous verse for children, including *Wouldn't You Like to Know*, *You Tell Me* and *Quick, Let's Get Out of Here*. Poetry critic Morag Styles has no hesitation in identifying Rosen as "one of the most significant figures in contemporary children's poetry." He was, says Styles, one of the first poets "to draw closely on his own childhood experiences... and to 'tell it as it was' in the ordinary language children actually use.

## **Chris Powling**

Chris Powling has taught at all levels in the state school system, from infants to postgraduates, and for ten years was headteacher of a London primary school.

Throughout his career, Chris has had a rich and diverse involvement with children's books – as a critic for national journals and newspapers and as a broadcaster for the BBC and various independent radio stations. He was the editor of *BOOKS FOR KEEPS* from 1989 till 1996 when it won the Eleanor Farjeon Award for services to children's literature, and has served on numerous prize committees. Currently, he is adult-books editor for Classic FM where he presents a monthly review on the programme *Classic Newsnight*.

## **Pauline Stewart**

Pauline Stewart was born in Hackney, London in 1962, and her parents are Jamaican. She is a freelance writer, working on a huge variety of projects: fiction, theatre, short stories, poetry, and journalism, and she also runs poetry and theatre workshops. Pauline has extensive experience running poetry workshops in schools and theatres. Her publications include ***Singing Down the Breadfruit*** and ***Sunshine Showers and Four O'Clock Flowers*** (both Random House). Her adaptation of ***The Pied Piper*** toured schools with Openwide Theatre. She has judged poetry for the Roald Dahl Foundation and was a key poetry workshop leader at the English Speaking Union.

## **Ian Beck**

Born in Sussex in 1947, Ian spent much of his early career involved as a freelance illustrator, working for some of the most well-known mainstream UK magazines. In the early 1980s he was approached by the Oxford University Press who wanted his style of drawings to be part of a project for children they wished to publish. *Round and round the Garden* became Ian's first children's book and signalled the beginning of a very strong relationship with the editor and publisher David Fickling. Many more books have followed and most recently the highly successful Tom Truehart tales are referred to as stories with a timeless quality and great charm.