



## 'No Place Like Home' Poetry Exhibition

### Built On Respect



'No place like home' - a beautiful prompt inspiring our KS3 students in connection with the Sanctuary Foundation. It was wonderful to see students' creativity as they produced artwork and poetry empathetically reflecting on the lives of 43.3 million children around the world who are displaced. Through their thoughtful and moving responses, our students demonstrated remarkable compassion, kindness and hope, reminding us all of the importance of empathy in a world too often shaped by division and negative discourse. Their work not only celebrated creativity but also highlighted the power young people have, to inspire understanding, connection and positive change within our community and beyond."

**Miss Kaur**  
Teacher of English

"Thank you for your beautiful exhibition, it is always a tonic to see and hear your Lyng Hall students, amazing work."

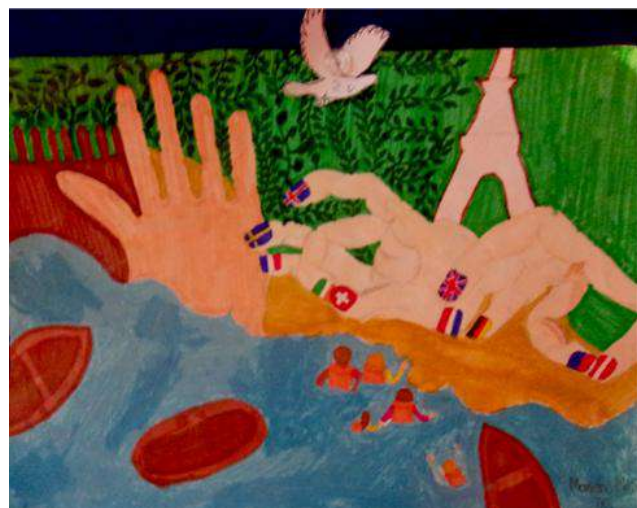
**Paul Maddocks**  
Lord Mayor's Peace Committee

"Thank you very much. It is events like this that make everything worthwhile. Many thanks to you and your staff."

**Manjit Kaur**  
Chair of SACRE

"'No place like home' taken for granted maybe but the thoughtful and sensitive work of the Lyng Hall students brought together personal experiences of displacement and the reactions to their stories made us all reassess the meaning of this saying. Quite emotional."

**Linda Hiron**  
Coventry Association of International Friendship





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A beautiful evening of performances – powerful, compassionate voices



**Performers:** Alfie Ward, Maher Alkail and Djaniro Ribeiro, 7LC.

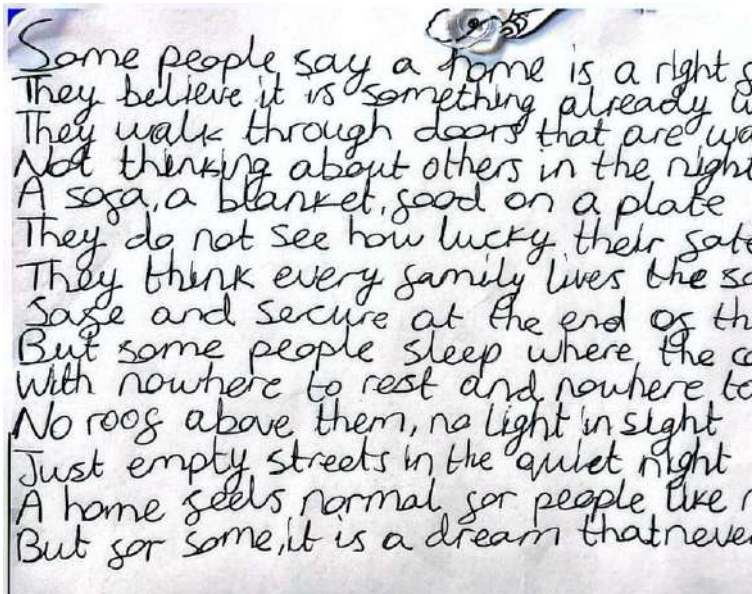
Nora, Hanna and Iris-Bianca Manole, 7RK.  
Belicia Arko, 8AF.  
Aaryan Rachan, 9VP.  
Elektra Erdmane-Hermene and Majka Wodyk, 9LH.



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There were five awards given, we share with you their work and the reflections of the judges.



### Chair of Governors' Award: Esther Olulowo

"I took the time to explore all the responses on the board. Very touched. Very difficult decision to make. I made this choice because when I read the response it was very personal, very touching, and because it was handwritten it felt it was a real, genuine, intimate response. Congratulations to everyone who took part and I hope that you can take these messages further."

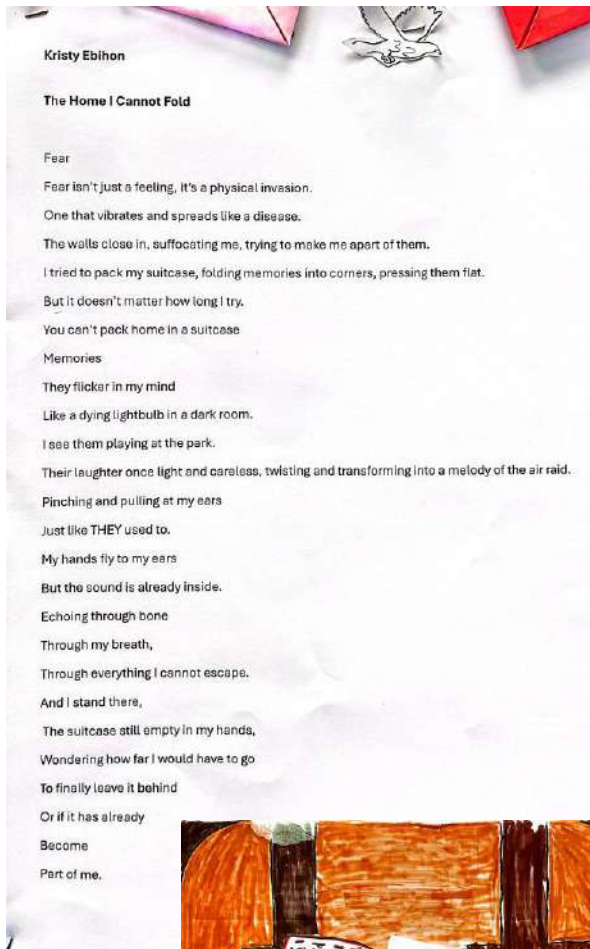
**Ghulam Vohra**

"I was really shocked and happy when I won the governor's award. I wasn't expecting to win. I didn't really know what was going to happen in the 'No Place Like Home' exhibition but I'm just glad I came. My family was also very happy and proud of me. Thank you to the governors for choosing me."

### Headteachers' Award: Kristy Ebihon

"We chose this piece because of its deep emotion and understanding of the fine line between one state of being and another. We felt it evoked a real sense of what is both right and wrong in the world, whilst also giving reason to feel hope for the future and faith in what we can achieve as a collective."

**Mrs Martindale and Ms Bell**



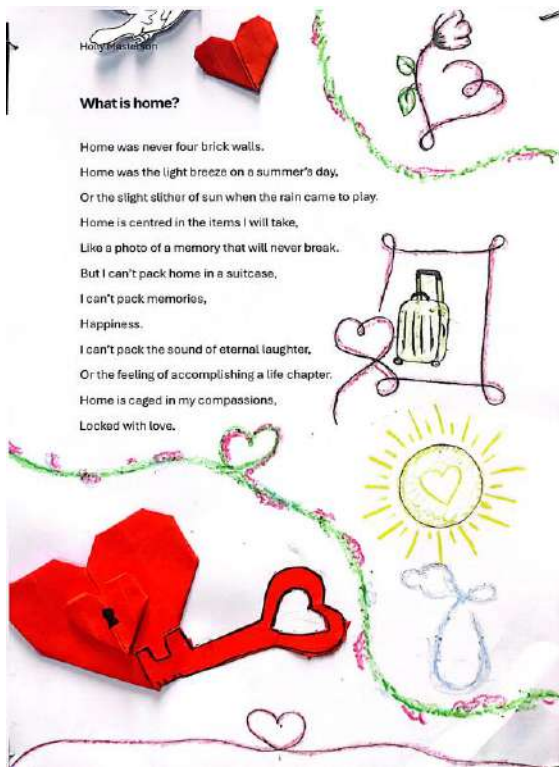
"I felt proud to receive an award. To get my poem recognised by my headteacher and for her to share it with my whole school fills me up with pride. In addition to this, the fact my family were there to witness this made me feel confident within my abilities. This makes me strive for more, to achieve more."



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### Teachers' Award: Holly Masterson

Holly's work demonstrated the change we wish to see in this world. There was a power, and a beauty, in her response that captured our hearts, and inspired us with hope for the generations to come. We are incredibly proud of all students who presented their work – they made it very challenging to choose between them.

**Miss. Hagan  
Director of English**

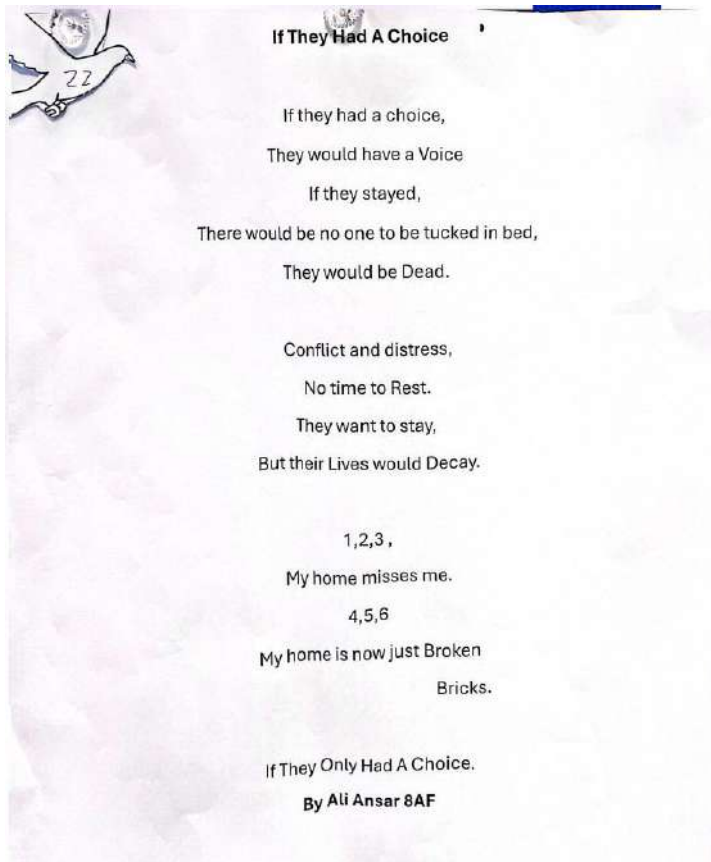
"Receiving the award for best poem made me feel extremely proud and grateful because writing poetry allows me to express my thoughts and emotions in a creative way. I felt honoured that my teachers recognised the effort, imagination and meaning behind my work. It granted me with more confidence in my writing abilities and motivated me to continue improving. Winning the award also portrayed to me that poetry can have a strong influence on others, and it made the achievement feel even more special and memorable."

### Community Award: Ali Ansar

Ali's poem particularly resonated with a number of the audience and myself, the poem 'If They Had a Choice' reflected on people's choice of making decisions. These choices are hard to make and often are not in their control as one is trying to survive. The freedom to make choices has been taken away and this is so true of many who flee from war and conflict in order to live.

**Balbir Sohal  
Lord Mayor's Peace Committee**

"I am very proud of being able to win a trophy, given from the decision of community members. My family was very proud of the fact that my writing got me an award. I am very glad that my writing got me something that I can use along the next steps of my education. To the community members, I am very happy that you chose my writing to be awarded."



### If They Had A Choice

If they had a choice,  
They would have a Voice  
If they stayed,  
There would be no one to be tucked in bed,  
They would be Dead.  
  
Conflict and distress,  
No time to Rest.  
They want to stay,  
But their Lives would Decay.

1,2,3,  
My home misses me.  
4,5,6  
My home is now just Broken  
Bricks.

If They Only Had A Choice.

By Ali Ansar 8AF

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### Family Award: Kezia Oduro

Almost a hundred members of our family, and wider, community attended our exhibition. All those who came had a voting slip to nominate a response that moved them. We are proud of the work Kezia presented and how it impacted those who read it.

"Receiving my award was a great thing because my family was up there cheering for me and everyone who was there were so helpful. The votes really helped me understand the fact that my poem was good. I feel honoured, because it made me realise that the effort I put into my work really paid off. Achieving an award and a certificate has really given me high standards and confidence."

"It was a pleasure to attend the 'No Place like Home' exhibition, the theme really resonates with the Community Award that the school promotes. The students art work and poetry really captured experiences and the nuances that new arrivals, refugees and those seeking safety and security have to deal with. Exhibitions such as these promote understanding, community spirit, belonging, worth and inclusion, all which are needed to live peacefully in this world. On behalf of the LMPC thank you."

**Balbir Sohal**  
Lord Mayor's Peace Committee

"It was my sincere privilege to coordinate, and host, this event. It was an opportunity to share with our community the powerful, compassionate, and empathetic voices our young people have. I believe fully in their capacity to shape, and change, our world for the better. This exhibition illuminated the gift through poetry and art. I look forward to developing future exhibitions – celebrating the voices of our young people."

**Miss. Hagan**  
Director of English and UNESCO School Ambassador

## CCFC: Community Participation

### Driven by Resilience

After 25 years of heartbreak, around a quarter of a million Sky Blues fans lined the streets of Coventry to celebrate the club's return to the Premier League.

Both staff, and students, attended to celebrate with our community this historic moment. The city, like our school, is the Phoenix that continues to rise against all odds.

#### **Blaze Moore, 8KM, shares with us what it was like to be there:**

After 25 years Coventry city are in the premier league. This is such a historic moment for Coventry.

The city celebrated the win with a parade around the city finished at the War memorial park, where bands performed on stage and crowds gathered to welcome the players on their arrival.

The parade was very entertaining. The streets were full of people as far as the eye could see. The 3 buses drove the players and staff around the city whilst fans cheered from the side lines.

There was a lot of blue smoke from the flares, and the people of Coventry were very excited to see the players in such good spirits.

My favourite part of the day was when we followed the bus singing chants. The atmosphere was amazing and I can't wait to see Coventry City in the premier league playing top teams like Man City.



#### **Coventry celebrations from the air**



# University of Warwick: Writing Wrongs

## Defined by Excellence



Are you eager to enhance your writing abilities?

Contemplating a future as a professional writer?

Are you passionate about tackling human rights and injustice?

Photo right; Sabjuna with the guest speaker who is a journalist named Aina J. Khan.



On 29<sup>th</sup> April, I had the pleasure of attending a celebration evening at Warwick University for a project called Writing Wrongs.

There were several students from Lyng Hall Sixth Form that attended: Olveen, Charlotte, Lenas and Sabjuna. They had all worked incredibly hard to produce fantastic pieces of work that they were proud of, after attending various writing sessions at the university.

Sabjuna in year 12 won a paid summer internship at University of Warwick Lacuna magazine.

This is an incredible achievement for Sabjuna who showed fantastic skills in resilience after being told initially that her story ideas needed to be re-worked, she kept working and taking the advice of her mentor from the university to produce a winning piece.

Special thanks to Hardeep Punni who informed us about this great opportunity which provided all students who attended great writing advice and a chance to network with various people in the industry.

"I didn't really expect to win; I only did this thinking that it would be a good opportunity to showcase my skills and take part in something that could showcase my passion for writing.

When I did win, I was really shocked and taken aback because when reading other people's work, it amazed me that people could conjure up this simple from their head.

Nevertheless, when I did win, I was really proud that I could bring to light something that wasn't spoken about and something that was really close to home."

**Sabjuna Mayurathan**



## University of Warwick: Writing Wrongs

### Defined by Excellence – transcript of winning entry

**Sabjuna Mayurathan**

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**Who decides whose lives are worth recording?**

**Transcript: Interview at a Care Home**

**Location: Care Home**

**Participants: Author – Journalist**

**REDACTED – Resident, aged 87**

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**Author:** Is it okay if I record?

**REDACTED:** (smiles faintly) Record it, love. Before it disappears.

(The room is small but stubbornly alive. A brass oil lamp on the windowsill. The faint smell of cardamom and Vicks. Outside, the sky is dull and British and grey. Inside, colour insists — a maroon sari with worn gold thread folded at the end of her bed. A photograph of a girl standing by a swollen river.)

**Author:** Good evening, my name is Santiago and I'm here to interview a resident at Haven Care Home.

(A beat passes. The gentle hum of the oil heater. [REDACTED] stays silent; no words forming at her pressed lips.)

**Author:** You said history forgot you?

**REDACTED:** History forgets many women. I am not special.

**Author:** But you were crucial to the civil war in your country.

(She looks at me carefully.)

**REDACTED:** "Crucial" is a big word.

**Author:** Is it wrong?

(A pause.)

**Author:** Tell me about it...

**REDACTED:** I was nineteen. Nineteen and angry. That is dangerous.

The war did not start with guns. It started with humiliation. Our language banned. Our newspapers censored. Men taken in the night. We learned to lower our voices when we said certain words. We learned to swallow rage with our tea.

My mother would press dough into my hands and say, "Keep your head down." She was afraid. All mothers are afraid of war.

But I listened. That was enough to get you in trouble.

**Author:** What did you do?

**REDACTED:** I became invisible.

Soldiers searched men. They beat them. They interrogated them. They did not search girls walking to the market with rice sacks. They did not think we carried anything more than spices and shame.

I stitched maps into my sari hem. I folded messages thin enough to hide beneath bangles. Once, I carried bullets under lentils.



## University of Warwick: Writing Wrongs

### Defined by Excellence

**Author:** Were you scared?

**REDACTED:** Every second. My heart would pound so loud I thought they could hear it. But I lowered my eyes. Good girls lower their eyes.

They saw what they expected to see.

**Author:** And the monsoon night?

(She inhales slowly.)

**REDACTED:** The river was swollen, brown and furious. The men planned to cross at dawn. But I overheard officers laughing at a tea stall. They said they would wait until the rebels were waist-deep before firing.

They were laughing.

I ran. Through mud. Through rain that hit so hard I couldn't see. My braid came loose. My feet were cut on stones. I couldn't tell if the sound behind me was thunder or boots.

If I fall, they die.

I reached them before midnight. We changed the route. Crossed through reeds further down. The army waited at the wrong bend.

By morning, the town was ours.

**Author:** You... saved them.

**REDACTED:** I saved boys who used to chase kites in the street.

And when the history was written, they said, "The troops advanced strategically." Strategically.

(Silence.)

**Author:** Your name isn't recorded anywhere.

Does that hurt?

(She reaches for the photograph of the girl by the river.)

**REDACTED:** It used to. Not because I wanted praise. But because erasure feels like being buried alive.

They wrote about generals. About speeches. About treaties signed by men in pressed suits. Women were mentioned once — "The women supported bravely."

Supported.

As if we were furniture.

**Author:** Why are women left out?

**REDACTED:** Because we disrupt the story. A revolution led by men is heroic. A revolution carried by women is inconvenient.

And because we are South Asian.

When Britain speaks of us, it speaks of spices and weddings. It does not speak of strategy. Of blood. Of the way women negotiated ceasefires in kitchens while stirring dal. Of the way we memorised codes between prayers.

Our suffering is not syllabus material. You won't find us in your textbooks.

History is written by those with power — governments, generals, men who survived long enough to speak. The rest of us are edited out.



## University of Warwick: Writing Wrongs

### Defined by Excellence

**Author:** Do your children know?

**REDACTED:** Fragments. I wanted them to grow up light. Not heavy with ghosts. But now I worry.

**Author:** About what?

**REDACTED:** That when I die, she dies too.  
(She taps the photograph.)

That nineteen-year-old girl in the rain. If no one writes her down, she vanishes. And then our girls will think we were always quiet. Always obedient.

We were not.

**Author:** Did you ever confront the men who were credited?

**REDACTED:** Once. One commander was like a brother. Years later, he stood at a podium and spoke of bravery. I told him, "You forgot us."

He smiled and said, "Sister, the public is not ready."

**Author:** Not ready for what?

**REDACTED:** For women who did not wait.  
(Her hands tremble slightly now.)

**Author:** Do you want me to print your name?

(She studies me.)

**REDACTED:** No.

**Author:** Why?

**REDACTED:** Because it was not only me. If you make me singular, you make me exceptional. I was ordinary.

Ordinary girls carried revolutions.

Write that.

(A nurse peeks in. She waves her away gently.)

**Author:** How would you like to be remembered?

**REDACTED:** As proof.

Proof that South Asian women were never just background noise. That we were thinking, deciding, acting. That culture is not only about colour and cuisine. It is resistance. It is survival. It is sacrifice.

If history refuses to hold us, then you must force it open.

**Author:** Is there anything you want to say to the history books?

(A long pause.)

**REDACTED:** Write us in.

Not as footnotes. Not as wives. Not as background music.

Write that a nineteen-year-old girl ran through monsoon rain and changed the direction of a war.

Write that she existed.

Because if you don't—

she dies twice.

The Sri Lankan Civil War (1983–2009) was a long and violent conflict that led to the deaths of tens of thousands of people, many of them civilians. While official histories focus on military strategy and political leaders, the experiences of ordinary people—especially women—are often left out. Stories like this are rarely recorded, not because they did not exist, but because they were never given space in the first place.



## College Values

Mr. Hill shares an invite with our community



# Lyng Hall Pop-up



## MAY 21ST (2PM-4PM)

### Prices

- Blazer- £5
- Trousers-£1
- Shirts-£0.50
- Hoodies- £2

### Extra info.

Free tea ,coffee  
and cakes  
available!!



### Location

Sixth form  
centre



Dola Al





## DID YOU KNOW?

<b>SCHOOL MEALS</b>	<p>Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive certain benefits such as income support. Queries can be directed to Coventry City Council. Tel: 024768337733 or Email: <a href="mailto:freeschoolmeals@coventry.gov.uk">freeschoolmeals@coventry.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Applications can be made through: <a href="http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals">http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals</a></p>		<p>To purchase food in the school dining room, money must be paid onto ParentPay as we are a cashless school. Login through: <a href="https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/">https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/</a></p> <p>If you experience any problems with this, please contact your child's pastoral year coordinator.</p>
<b>TRAVEL PASS</b>	<p>If you live more than 2 miles from the school, your child may be eligible for a free bus pass. For information on how a student would qualify for a pass. please visit: <a href="http://www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolbuspasses">http://www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolbuspasses</a></p> <p>Applications: <a href="http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforatravelpass">www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforatravelpass</a></p> <p>Queries: Tel: 02476975445 or Email: <a href="mailto:schooltransport@coventry.gov.uk">schooltransport@coventry.gov.uk</a></p>		
<b>UNIFORM</b>	<p>If your child out-grows their blazer but it is still in very good condition, they may be able to swap their blazer for a bigger size, if our stock allows.</p>	<p>If you are struggling with the cost of items of the uniform, we will do our best to try and help you. Contact your child's pastoral year coordinator in the first instance</p>	<p>We accept uniform donations. Please drop any items that you no longer need or require into school reception.</p>

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

w/b Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May to w/b Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – GCSE Exams  
 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Year 7 Parent Evening  
 w/b Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 Mock Exams  
 w/b Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Year 10 & 12 Mock Exams



- Built on **Respect**
- Driven by **Resilience**
- Defined by **Excellence**