

# CHELTENHAM

## Festivals

### Words That Burn

## Annual Report and Impact Summary 2018/19

Developed in partnership with Amnesty International



'It is important because it gives us an idea of the world's problems and how young voices can be heard all around the world. It doesn't matter what religion or race you are or what language you speak, everyone has a voice that should be heard.'

*Year 8 student, Severn Vale School*

## Words That Burn

Words That Burn, a resource allowing students to explore human rights through poetry, was developed in partnership with Amnesty International and seeks to develop the cultural capital of young people across Gloucestershire. The aims of the project are to raise awareness of human rights as well as providing opportunities for young people to engage with poetry. The project fits within the pillars of year-round outreach and talent development and the following strategic objectives:

- Extend and diversify our audiences
- Further enable a pathway for talent development
- Build collaborative partnerships locally, nationally and internationally

The project was piloted by Gloucestershire schools in 2016/17 and was launched at the Times and Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival in 2017.

"I know first-hand the empowering nature of creativity and language, as a writer, performer and educator. Giving young people the tools to express themselves, to connect with the wider world and its challenges, to write in solidarity with those whose voices are suppressed, and to amplify those voices – and find their own – is a vital and beautiful thing."

*- Keith Jarrett, poet*

This year, eight schools reaching around 700 students took part in the project supported by Cheltenham Festivals: Severn Vale School, Wyedean School, Sir William Romney School, Katherine Lady Berkeley School, Cleeve School, Bournside, Rednock School and Cirencester Kingshill School. Each school delivered a 10 lesson base unit to students in Key Stage 3 during which they engaged with a range of poets, and poetic forms and also with a variety of human rights issues and case studies. Students were encouraged to explore the human rights issues through poetry and also to explore how poetry could be used as a vehicle for protest and bringing about change.

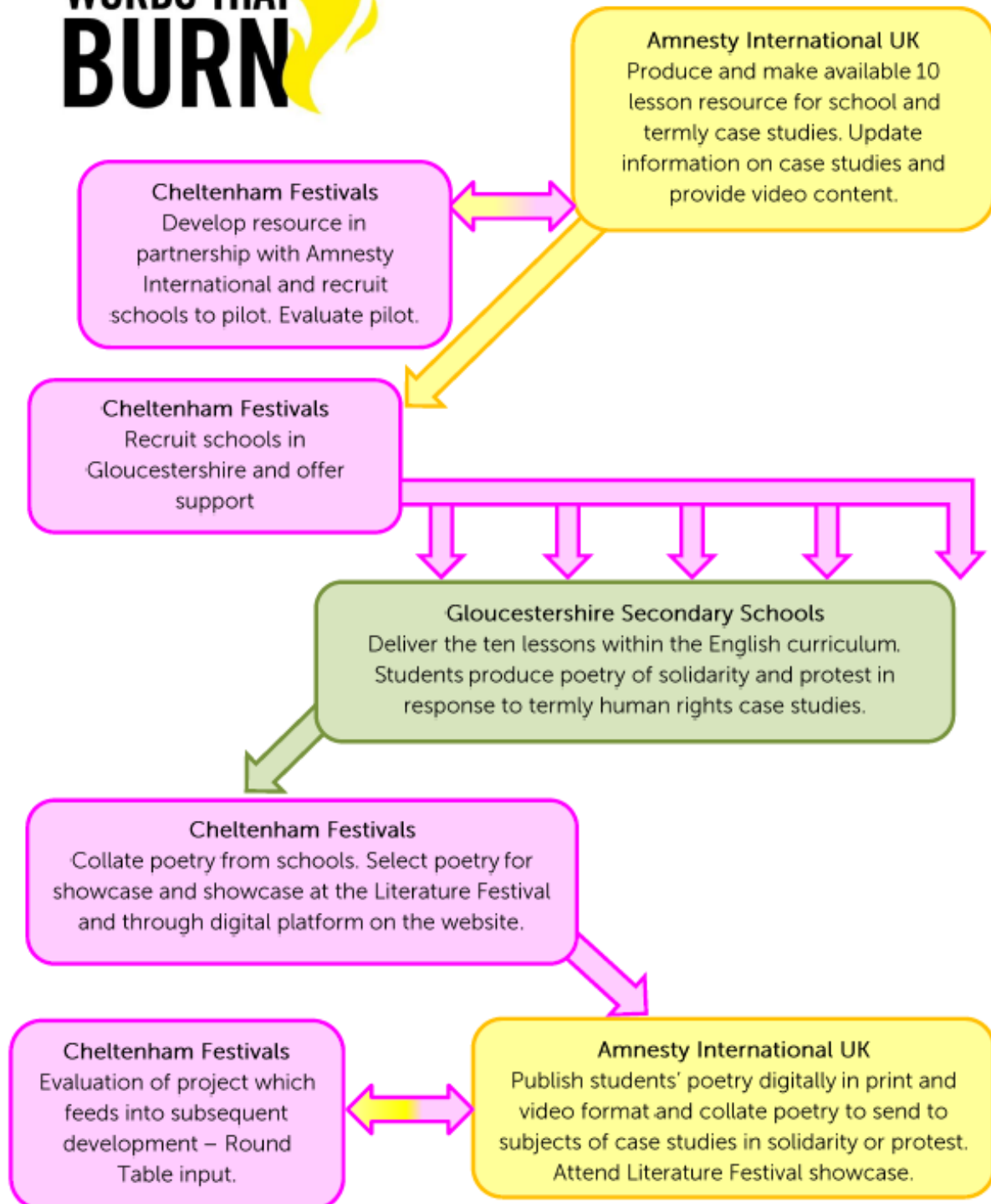
Following the delivery of the base unit, the schools ran extra-curricular sessions for students who wished to continue with the project. Amnesty International provided case studies linked to human rights for students to respond to. Students were encouraged to write and record their poems as part of the Make a Difference in a Minute challenge and these were submitted to Amnesty International.

The eight schools were invited to bring students to perform their poetry at the Young Writers Showcase at the Times and Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature

Festival in October 2019. Five schools – Severn Vale School, Cleeve, Sir William Romney, Katherine Lady Berkeley and Wyedean – brought 16 of their students, all of whom performed.



# Words That Burn in Gloucestershire: Partnership Model



## Outcomes

- Increased knowledge of national and global human rights issues
- Increased engagement with human rights and political activism
- Increased engagement with different forms of poetry
- Increased confidence and belief in young people that their voice matters

We loved having the opportunity to have our students engaged with the programme on offer and giving them the platform to perform and present their ideas. (Teacher)