

NEW WRITING
NORTH

New Writing North

About the project

Annually, we have partnered with New Writing North to offer a group of young people (aged seventeen to twenty-three) from the North East who might be interested in a career in publishing the opportunity to see behind the scenes at Faber.

Participants were given an exclusive copy of one of Faber's soon-to-be-released titles. Staff members led sessions on their particular area, offering insights and practical workshops to explain the publishing process and how the book came together. The day ended with a Q&A session with the book's author.

We wanted to provide an insight into every area of publishing whether production and design or marketing and publicity and the different skills needed. Where possible we wanted the sessions to be practical and set a task and gave tips for interviews and CVs. We love collaborating and communicating our own very distinctive areas of the business and have found the young people so engaged and inspiring.

Rachel Alexander
Communications Director, Faber & Faber

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What they said

‘The sector can seem quite daunting from the outside and many of our young people struggle to access work experience and other schemes due to where they are based . . .’

Ruth Dewhirst, Senior Programme Manager (Participation and Young People) at New Writing North:

‘It’s been fantastic partnering with Faber to open up the publishing industry to young people in the North East. The sector can seem quite daunting from the outside, and many of our young people struggle to access work experience and other schemes due to where they are based, so the opportunity to see behind-the-scenes of one of the world’s top publishing houses is amazing! The staff at Faber are always so friendly and knowledgeable, providing real-world insight as well as plenty of practical exercises for our young people to try things out for themselves.

The format of exploring the process through an upcoming title works particularly well, as it means learning about everything from production to publicity, as well as getting to speak to fantastic authors like Ingrid Persaud and Louise Doughty. New Writing North are delighted to work with Faber, and we look forward to running more events like this in the future.’

‘I really enjoyed getting to know everyone and learning so much . . .’

What participants in the project had to say:

‘I thoroughly enjoyed today and just wanted to say a special thank you to New Writing North and Faber & Faber for putting on such an insightful event which allowed us to gain a real insight into the publishing industry. The chatty nature of the sessions made me feel very much at ease and able to ask any questions I wanted answers to! This was especially brilliant in such an uncertain job market as a graduate and being from the North of England, sometimes it can be difficult to gain a real insight into the London publishing industry. All the staff from Faber were so enthusiastic and inspiring – I absolutely loved it.’

‘Thank you again for organising today, it was so interesting and insightful to learn about the different departments in Faber and all the staff were so lovely! I really enjoyed getting to know everyone and learning so much . . . I feel so lucky to have been accepted to experience today, and I’m even more excited about a possible career in publishing now!’

'Thank you so much for still running this session in lockdown! It was such an enlightening experience, and I feel so much more informed about the world of publishing since I was able to attend. Please pass my thanks on to everyone at Faber & Faber!'

'I just wanted to email and say thank you for the session with Faber – I really enjoyed it and found the insights into the industry really helpful! It was also great to have the opportunity to speak with Ingrid – she was a great speaker, and I'm really looking forward to finishing Love After Love, and reading more of her work in the future.'



Open Day with Ingrid Persaud during Lockdown 2020



Open Day in the Faber offices with Louise Doughty



Open Day with Ingrid Persaud during Lockdown 2020