

## PRESS RELEASE

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Introducing your new Plymouth Laureate of Words 2025-27, **R.C. Thomas**, and Plymouth Young City Laureate 2025-26, **Issy Powell**!

With nearly 2000 votes cast, the public have spoken, and we are delighted to share that R.C. Thomas has been chosen as the next Plymouth Laureate of Words.

Speaking about his appointment, R.C. said:

*“It’s a pleasure and an honour to have been voted in as Plymouth Laureate of Words 2025-27. I was shortlisted with some very talented writers, and I’ve been bowled over by the public’s response, for which I am very grateful. I’m excited to work with Literature Works, who are doing a great thing in organising the Laureateship each term, and continuing to expand upon the city’s diverse and flourishing literary scene.”*

Plymouth Laureate of Words is a creative partnership between [Literature Works](#), [Plymouth Culture](#) and [The Box](#). The Laureate represents their city in words, illuminating its life, culture and stories through a combination of creative writing commissions and public events. The locally based Laureate meets the Plymouth community to inspire and encourage the sharing of stories; reflecting the voices at the heart of the city.

Alongside R.C., we are thrilled to also announce that **Issy Powell** has been selected as Plymouth’s new Young City Laureate for 2025-26. On her laureateship, Issy said:

*“I am thrilled to have such an opportunity to revive a love for literature. Growing up, I was the child who loved writing but never had the confidence to share this skill outside my family living room; this led to my poems expressing my feelings or issues that I would never say out loud but I would share with my notebook, even in my teenage years. My main aim is to help bring back our love and confidence towards literature again, especially to those with different backgrounds or abilities. I cannot wait to see where this chapter will take me!”*

Young writers aged between 14 and 19 at the time of entry, who live, work or study in Plymouth were invited to send in samples of their creative writing on the topic of ‘Plymouth’s Beacons’ and what lights up the city for them, as well as a piece of writing that best represented them as a writer. They all told us what they’d do with the role if they became Plymouth Young City Laureate.

The Young City Laureateship is a partnership between Literature Works and Plymouth Culture. Alongside the Laureate of Words, it gives a young writer the opportunity to represent their city in words, while also developing their creative practice through public writing commissions and events in the community.

Congratulations to R.C and Issy, and a massive thank you to all our wonderful candidates