



Welsh wordsmith extraordinaire

Dylan Thomas was a Welsh poet and writer. His works included *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night, And Death Shall Have No Dominion* and *Under Milk Wood*.

SEE BELOW

Pupils inspired by replica of Dylan Thomas' favourite writing haven



Sir John Cass pupils with head teacher Hadyn Evans, Thomas' granddaughter Hannah Ellis and poet Martin Daws

Visit sheds light on the work of a genius

BY NINA WARHURST

A LITTLE piece of south Wales arrived in Stepney to celebrate Dylan Thomas day.

The Sir John Cass Foundation and Red Coat School in Stepney Way was selected by Literature Wales to host the Dylan Thomas Shed, a replica of the one the Swansea-born Thomas wrote many of his poems.

Dylan Thomas' granddaughter, Hannah Ellis also visited and shared stories about the poet who died aged 39.

Pupil Maiesha said: "Today was really inspiring I learnt that you need courage and strength to write a poem, and today's performance got everyone involved."

The group from years seven and eight were also treated to a workshop with Martin Daws, who is Young People's Laureate of Wales.

Together they wrote a verse for Dylan's Great Poem; a 100-line work created by young people aged 7-25, which will be



Martin Daws with Mohamed, Canday, Shanaz and Anthony

published in English and Welsh, and performed at the Hay Festival.

Head teacher Hadyn Evans said: "We are privileged to receive a representation from such an important literary figure such as Dylan Thomas. Literature and the promotion of literacy is such an important priority for the students here."

Sir John Cass is a specialist language school, and staff said pupils enjoy learning about Thomas because much of his work is printed in both English and Welsh.

Pupils regularly visit Wales as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and, next time they go, there might be an additional stop-off in Swansea.



The replica of Thomas' shed



Mohamed in the shed with Hannah Ellis