



Pegasus  
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## Press Release

### Successful project continues to improve literacy rates in Oxfordshire schools

Now in its second year, the **Learning Through Stories** partnership project is showing considerable improvements in the literacy levels amongst pupils involved.

**Pegasus** has worked with 8 Oxford based primary and secondary schools in the last academic year and at least 80% improvement has been recorded overall due to the impact of the project beyond normal curriculum achievements. Most pupils recorded at least one level of improvement, 31% of the group achieving an improvement of two levels or more.

This year Pegasus will be working with years 3-5 in seven primary schools and year 8 pupils in one secondary school, following up the work of the previous year. A number of professional tutors with a variety of creative skills are working with the pupils at special sessions in schools. Illustrators, creative writers, directors and arts specialists are helping the young people to make a class book of their work. Pupils are also creating short performances that they will present at Pegasus before classmates and family members. **Tale Trail**, which explores cultural heritage, will be performed on **Thursday 29 and Friday 30 January**.

The performance is an important element of the project giving the pupils a sense of achievement and a celebratory moment to share with their peers and families.

Last year's performance drew these comments from families and teachers:

*"I feel this is fantastic and more schools should be encouraged to be involved."* (parent)

*"I feel really confident about reading now because Tale Trail really helped me."* (pupil)

**Georgia Carpenter (Teacher – East Oxford Primary):**

*"I loved the project. It was great to see what the class were capable of. The first few sessions allowed them to be openly creative, which was really lovely to see. I feel more confident now I know their ability level to use drama in the classroom. The project has an impact on their writing too. Their creative writing is stronger, they can visualise a story better and their understanding of structure is much stronger."*

A conference looking at the benefits of creativity in the classroom to raise literacy levels will take place at Pegasus before the first performance. It is delivered by Pegasus and The Story Museum and specifically designed for head teachers, academics, local authorities, cultural organisations and anyone involved in working to raise levels on literacy in schools.

The conference is for invited guests and anyone wanting more information should contact [Yasmin.sidhwa@pegasustheatre.org.uk](mailto:Yasmin.sidhwa@pegasustheatre.org.uk) or [Jacqui.lbbotson7@gmail.com](mailto:Jacqui.lbbotson7@gmail.com) or call 01865 812 164.

For photographs, interviews or review tickets contact Gill Jagers.

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Becky Hall

Artistic Director:  
Jonathan Lloyd

## Tale Trail

At Pegasus, Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RE  
On Thursday 29 and Friday 30 January 4pm & 6.30pm  
Tickets £6, £3  
Box Office 01865 812 150  
<http://www.pegasustheatre.org.uk/shows/tale-trail/>

Learning Through Stories Conference  
At Pegasus, Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RE  
On Thursday 29 January 1pm – 3.45pm  
Attendance by invitation via [Yasmin.sidhwa@pegasustheatre.org.uk](mailto:Yasmin.sidhwa@pegasustheatre.org.uk)

### Editors' Notes

The *Learning Through Stories* project is presented in partnership with **The Story Museum, Artswork, Arts Award, Experience Oxfordshire** and **Oxford City Council**.

Schools involved in the Pegasus 2013/14 literacy project were: **Cheney Academy, Oxford Academy, Our Lady's Catholic Primary, Sandhills Primary, East Oxford Primary, Wood Farm Primary, John Henry Newman Academy** and **St. John Fisher's Catholic Primary**.

175 pupils took part in the 2013/14 project.