



## THOMAS CHATTERTON, BRISTOL'S BOY POET

In the New Year, we will be bringing together writers, activists, poets, historians, academics and people who feel passionately about this subject to explore how Thomas Chatterton can be remembered and would love for you to be a part of this.



*Chatterton* by Henry Wallis (painted 1856) Photo credit: © Tate Image released under [Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND \(3.0 Unported\)](#)

**Do you want to get more involved in what happens in your city and who and what we celebrate?**

**Do you enjoy exploring ideas with other people to develop creative responses?**

**Would you like to be a part of the conversation to consider how Bristol's boy-poet Thomas Chatterton is remembered?**

If you are interested in taking part in this conversation and associated activities, helping to shape what will be celebrated by future generations then please speak with your form tutor or school enrichment officer, Josie Murphy.

There is more information about this project at [www.locallearning.org.uk/thomas-chattertons-poetic-city](http://www.locallearning.org.uk/thomas-chattertons-poetic-city) or contact [ruth@locallearning.org.uk](mailto:ruth@locallearning.org.uk) for further details.



**Myers-Insole Local Learning CIC**  
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250 years ago, a bright, ambitious teenage lad from Redcliffe fooled the country and inspired generations of writers, artists and poets, defying what would normally be expected of someone growing up in impoverished circumstances.



*Chatterton, 1765 by Henrietta Mary Ada Ward* Photo credit: Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives

Before Thomas Chatterton was 8 years old he was expelled from his primary school because he was "dull" in learning and forced to enrol into Colston's Hospital; a charity school and one of the few alternatives at the time for boys whose parents could not afford to pay for an education. Thomas was more interested in what he could learn at home in Redcliffe and was probably bored by the restricted curriculum offered to poor boys such as him, and at 15 he secretly produced a series of medieval style poems that he pretended had been written by a 15<sup>th</sup> century monk, Thomas Rowley some 300 years earlier.

Amongst these poems that he claimed to have 'discovered' were works addressing the enslavement of African people, the very 'trade' that helped to make Edward Colston (the founder of the charitable school he had attended, merchant and high official of the Royal African Company) so wealthy. Following the recent Black Lives Matter events when Colston's statue was toppled into the harbour, St Mary Redcliffe Church have removed a stained glass window depicting Colston.

**We would very much like St Mary Redcliffe 6<sup>th</sup> form students to be involved in the conversation around replacing the stained glass window and remembering Bristol's boy-poet, Thomas Chatterton.**

