

Students have a lesson with Lesson

SLAM poet and hip hop artist Luka 'Lesson' Haralampou was back at Chatham High School recently building on the literacy, confidence and performance skills of students.

After a hugely successful visit last year, he has run workshops with students from the CHASE (Chatham High curriculum extension) class, a junior group and a senior group, with even more students putting up their hands to take part.

Teacher Kylee Owen said his visits have been great for the school, and the students have now created a community around poetry, and are really supporting each other.

The students wrote their slam poems after the first half day of workshops and spent the rest of the week rehearsing performance aspects of that poem.

"Luka really encouraged the students to write things from the heart and put their stories and their experiences on paper, then it will be easier to write and memorise," said Kylee.

When it comes to performance Luka said practice and memorising is important.

"When you know it you have total control to make it fast, slow, quiet or loud," he said.

"Until you really know it, it's hard to have that control."

Luka performed at the school's expo as did one of the students.

The following afternoon they had a slam poetry competition, which Luka said wasn't really about seeing who wins, but gave an atmosphere for their performances.

Luka is the current Australian



Luka 'Lesson' Haralampou enjoys a laugh with senior Chatham High students taking part in his workshop.

Poetry Slam Champion, conscious hip-hop artist and co-director of The Centre for Poetics and Justice based in Melbourne.

He has been active in community development work utilising hip-hop and poetry as a form of self-determination and raising awareness for marginalised young people for many years.



Cecilia Sendah (right) and Mikhaela Cunningham.