



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## Author of Long Lankin Visits Secondary School in Ludgershall

**Lindsey Barraclough Author of Long Lankin and sequel Mark of Cain visited The Wellington Academy on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Lindsey hosted a workshop with the year 8 students at the school.**

Author Lindsey Barraclough came into The Wellington Academy to host an assembly with the students, she went into depth with the motive behind her books. Her stories are based around witchcraft and her own childhood experiences. The day then ended with a creative writing session, writing a short story using a catchy beginning and end sentence.

Long Lankin Lindsey's first published book is based around historic witchcraft beliefs or around research that Lindsey has done. Using an old folk song that is over 100s of years old, Lindsey created a story with two sisters who re-awaken an evil. As a child Lindsey would explore churches, marsh lands and graveyards which set her atmosphere and all led to creating the spooky yet gripping story.



The assembly focused around witchcraft, Lindsey spoke about the churches in her village, their lychgates and the historic meaning behind it. She had also spoken about symbols she had personally been to visit in houses above fireplaces, as well as seeing for herself the witch bottles that were rumoured to draw in witches using human hair, nail clippings, blood or urine and kill them using nails or sharp shards of glasses.

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As part of the workshop students were asked to think of a captivating first sentence, a second student was then asked to create an ending sentence without knowing the first line. The student was then tasked to link the two sentences and create a short story. Lindsey read through all the stories at the end of the day and presented a signed copy of her two books to one student from each group with her favourite storyline.

Carol Moorhouse Librarian at The Wellington Academy commented “I feel it’s important for children to read and imagine their own characters, instead of allowing films to create that picture for them. I think it’s a great experience for students to meet authors and hear the background story of their books and where their inspirations came from. Every author/visitor has a different story to tell and can be a great learning curve and opportunity for our students. Some of our students are aspiring authors and it is great seeing their creativity coming out onto their paper.”

