



PRESS RELEASE

Critically Acclaimed Author Hosts Workshop

Lindsey Barraclough visits The Wellington Academy.

Acclaimed Author, Lindsey Barraclough invited students from The Wellington Academy to a once in a lifetime workshop. Lindsey's books draw your imagination into a world of monsters and witchcraft, with 'Long Lankin' her debut novel being shortlisted for multiple awards. Students were given the chance to win a signed copy of her book.

Lindsey began with a morning assembly for the schools Year 8 students, speaking to them about her back story and how she came upon her idea for 'Long Lankin' and 'Mark of Cain'. Students were then invited to the library for workshops, where they were tasked with creating their own beginning sentence, middle section and end sentence to create their own story. Their work was then collected in and marked by Lindsey herself, with the winning student receiving a signed copy of both books.

An old folklore song, family curse and ghostly creature create the chilling novel, that is 'Long Lankin'. Lindsey Barraclough later went on to release her second novel 'Mark of Cain', where the Long Lankin is helped by two outcast witches. As a child Lindsey lived in a village in Essex and regularly visited the marshes and played around the old church.



The creepy abandoned church along with the echoing of the eery funeral bell in the wind, helped set the scene for Lindsey and her books. Being such a small village everyone knew each other, Lindsey used these people as characters in her book with Auntie Hilda and her best friend Richard having big roles in the book, including using actual quotes from Richard in his memory.

Long Lankin was set back in the 1950s, Lindsey put many years of research into her work visiting many churches, learning about bell towers and Lych Gates. Bell towers were used in the 50s to lock away 'witches' until they were due to meet their fate.

Many people would use witch marks over their fireplace and doors as they were believed to warn them off, witch bottles were also buried under doors and fireplaces as they were used to lure in and trap witches if they attempted to enter their home. Witch bottles had enclosed hair, urine, blood and fingernails that would lure in the witches, then the iron nails and glass were there to kill the witches when they became entrapped. Iron nails in that day were considered magical and a witch's kryptonite.

Mrs Moorhouse Librarian at The Wellington Academy went on to say "It is always a pleasure to have Lindsey Barraclough in, the students are always in awe at her stories. Lindsey regularly visits the school and offers our students workshops, which ourselves and the students are very grateful for. Hearing from an Author the months and years of research that go into a book is inspiring and hopefully will inspire any budding authors we have within our midst."