



CATERHAM SCHOOL

3 November 2011

To all Senior School Parents and Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians

Author Visit by Melvin Burgess : Monday, 14 November 2011

General visit details and an invitation to all Parents and Guardians to attend an evening talk by Melvin Burgess, 7:00pm : Wilberforce Hall

Melvin Burgess, the award-winning Puffin author of many titles for young adults, will be visiting the School on Monday, 14 November. He will speak to the Fourth Year pupils about his work.

Melvin Burgess has been described as 'the godfather' of young adult fiction in Britain. During the last decade he has courted controversy with the subject matter of his books, which include teenage drug-taking and issues of a sexual nature. Burgess himself has said that he looks for imaginative and adventurous ways of writing about matters which are important to teenagers. He seeks to avoid patronising young people, but instead to help them to understand what they are experiencing and 'to cut a bit of slack' to people who are on a steep learning curve.

We are very fortunate that Melvin has agreed to speak about his work not only to the Fourth Year on the morning of 14 November, but also to speak at 7pm that evening to parents and guardians, staff and older pupils. You are warmly invited to attend this event which is entitled 'Teenagers – the Enemy Within', and which will include an opportunity to ask questions. Although some of Melvin's books have been controversial, they have also won acclaim for their honesty and their sensitive handling of issues which concern teenagers. I do urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to hear Melvin speak.

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We do not consider the evening talk to be suitable for pupils below the Fourth Year. Attendance for older pupils is, of course, entirely voluntary, although we do expect attendance from Sixth Formers who are intending to study English at university.

Book signing sessions will follow each of the talks. Fourth Year pupils may purchase books either with cash or by adding the cost to the end-of-term bill. The books range in price from £5.99 to £9.99. If you are not happy for your child to add the cost to the bill, please make them aware of this. Because of the controversial nature of the subject matter, only some of the books will be available for Fourth Year pupils to buy and some of the books will not be referred to in the morning talk. A full range of Melvin Burgess's books will be available in the evening, to be paid for either with cash or a cheque.

You do not need to reserve a place for the evening talk, but a rough idea of numbers would be useful. Please email me on jane.damesick@caterhamschool.co.uk if you will definitely be attending, or indeed if you have any questions about the visit.

We are very much looking forward to this author visit on 14 November and to welcoming you to share in it.

Yours sincerely

Jane Damesick
School Librarian

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