



CATERHAM SCHOOL

Bestselling Author Darren Shan Visits Caterham School

Successful author Darren Shan met pupils from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years at Caterham School to tell them how his dream of becoming an author became a very successful reality.

Darren read an extract from 'Lord Loss' and then also read an extract from a yet to be published manuscript. Pupils were able to interview him and Darren signed copies of his books.

Darren Shan's real name is Darren O'Shaughnessy. He began writing in his spare time having bought his first typewriter when he was 14 years old. His first taste of literary success came the next year when he was runner-up in a TV script-writing competition for RTE in Ireland.

Darren's initial breakthrough was with an adult book, under his real name of Darren O'Shaughnessy. Entitled "Ayuamarca" it was published in February 1999. and earned some very favourable reviews. A sequel, "Hell's Horizon", followed in February 2000.

However, in between these two books he published his first children's book about Vampires – "Cirque Du Freak". It was the first book in a series of twelve entitled "The Saga of Darren Shan". It attracted rave reviews and much media attention — especially when the movie rights to the first two books were optioned.

In 2005 he started writing "The Demonata", a series about demons, which will run to ten books in total. By 2006, Darren's books were on sale in 30 countries in over 20 languages and had been children's bestsellers in America, Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and many other countries. Sales are in excess of 10 million copies.

Death's Shadow, the latest in the Demonata series, is published this month.

Headmaster Julian Thomas said: "We believe that a truly excellent education is about more than academic achievement alone. Encouraging the enjoyment of reading is very much a part of that. We believe in books and all they have to offer. The pupils really enjoyed hearing Darren speak and being able to ask him about his work."



Darren Shan presenting a prize for creative work to Olivia Bailey (3rd Year)