



## **Famous Author Comes to Six Villages!**

On Wednesday the 22nd of September, we had the joy of welcoming amazing author Kathryn Evans to our academy. Kathryn came and gave a talk to us about her new book 'Beauty Sleep' – which is about a girl from the eighties who has been frozen in a coma after being diagnosed with cancer. But this is not the only topic Kathryn raised in her presentation: Kathryn also talked of body confidence, which according to statistics, is a feeling that few experience. She talked about how models (and other people who have had unnecessary plastic surgery) shape their bodies to perfection. She also mentioned how lots of the plastic surgery is unneeded and that we should feel proud about the way we express ourselves, whether that is in the way we look, dress or even the way we feel.

When Kathryn had finished her talk, she had brought along books that the students could purchase, in order to read and quiz on Accelerated Reader. She had also brought along free bookmarks that students could collect if they hadn't brought any money with them to buy a book. Not only had Kathryn brought along several items, but a few selected students were lucky enough to take part in a writing workshop that afternoon.

The workshop was for the whole hour, giving students enough time to let their creativity flow. The workshop was based upon characters and setting – which the selected students were able to choose from. Kathryn began by pulling a random object out of a bag, and the students were asked to create a story using the selected object. This activity was shortly followed by talking about different types of characters. These characters would have a certain personality type and that would create the foundations for the character. Then Kathryn followed this up by talking about setting, which can be very important in a story. She gave little tips and tricks to the students, telling them that the setting can make or break the story. She said, 'it has to be believable' but also, 'it has to be creative, otherwise, people wouldn't want to pick it up off the shelf: and what's the point in that?'





The following day, we asked a student from Year nine to tell us about the day in general. She replied simply, 'the author's visit made my day' and, 'this has really inspired me to pursue a writing career.' Overall, it was an absolute pleasure and a privilege in welcoming Kathryn Evans to Ormiston Six Villages Academy. And who knows, maybe we had a budding author or two among us?

By Arra Tales

