

## PRESS RELEASE

'Press Release – Double Carnegie Award-winning author Geraldine McCaughrean visits St Catherine's School'



**DATE: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019**



Girls and staff from both the Prep and Senior School of St Catherine's were very privileged to have Double Carnegie winner, Geraldine McCaughrean, come and speak to them on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Geraldine is arguably the finest children's author of her generation. Each of her many novels explores radically different themes and scenarios; every plot unfolds with that overall sense of 'Yes! This is exactly what should have happened!' however unexpected such turns of events may have seemed immediately beforehand.

Speaking of some of the key points that Geraldine raised, Kathryn Bainbridge, Senior School Librarian said, 'Geraldine McCaughrean's lecture inspired St Catherine's girls with all the benefits that writing and reading gives them; keeping their imaginations sharp, developing empathy, transporting them to new worlds and stepping inside someone else's shoes and thereby possessing them'.

Younger girls from the Prep School were impressed by Geraldine's honesty. As Alice, aged 9, observed, 'I found this morning's talk inspirational because Geraldine said that she often found school quite hard; academic subjects didn't come easily to her. She didn't find speaking out loud very easy but when she wrote things down, she could express herself, and this was particularly helpful to her in her teenage years when she wanted to express her emotions'.

Geraldine was generous with sharing with the girls some of the top tips about writing that she has gleaned through the years. Anna, aged 10, commented, 'I found Geraldine's writing tips helpful. She said that in children's books it is important to put something exciting on every page, as this will keep children engaged and interested in the story. She also said that if you name your characters with different starting letters, it will help the reader visually memorise their names. I am looking forward to putting these tips into practice'.

Geraldine also encouraged the girls to make their writing as vivid as possible. Ellie, aged 10, said, 'I found the talk exciting and helpful because we were learning how to write descriptively. She encouraged us to use multiple words when describing different characters to help our readers get fully engaged in the story'.

Geraldine concluded her talk by observing that it is a battle in modern life to keep human imagination alive. She commented that imagination was given to us by God to compensate us for not having wings, and urged the girls at St Catherine's to use theirs to 'take flight'!

For more information, please contact Mrs Sally Manhire, Marketing at St Catherine's Prep School on 01483 899665 or [sally.manhire@stcatherines.info](mailto:sally.manhire@stcatherines.info)