

ELLESMERE EXCLUSIVE



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A Good Girls Guide to Murder Book Review:

The Young Adult (YA) murder mystery trilogy by Holly Jackson has captured many hearts over the last few years. *A Good Girls' Guide to Murder* (AGGGTM) has gathered much critical acclaim, including being named 'The British Children's Book of The Year' in 2020 and winning 'Waterstones' YA Book of The Year' in 2021. AGGGTM is the debut novel from the author, who has gone on to write many more engrossing books like, 'Five Survive' and the recently announced, 'The Reappearance of Rachel Price'.

An open-and-shut case. A small town. A murderer on the loose. Pippa is a high-school student intent on solving the murder of local Andi Bell. She is determined to find the real killer and solve this case once and for all. But what really happened that night? With the help of the accused murderers' brother, Ravi, we see them come closer and closer to finding the murderer. But someone in town doesn't like how close they are getting and will stop at nothing to bury the truth.

Readers see Pippa struggling to find a balance between her home life and her job as a detective, eventually realising how critical family are to her own happiness. Holly Jackson takes us on a roller coaster of themes, ranging from murder and mystery to the importance of support from friends and family. A truly once-in-a-lifetime read, *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* is guaranteed to take you on the journey of a lifetime.

In September 2023, it was announced that AGGGTM would be adapted into a BBC series, set to air in the summer of 2024.

WRITER'S NAME: MAE BAXTER

Throughout the last year, we've been given snippets of information about the production, including the casting. With Wednesday star Emma Myers confirmed to be playing the main role of Pippa, excitement has grown about this highly awaited and much anticipated series.

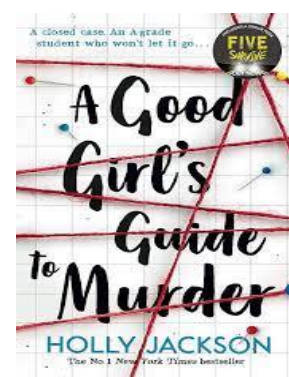
You don't have to be a fan of this trilogy to watch it, with the gripping twists and puzzling mysteries promising a good watch for all. Aimed at ages 10-16, this BBC adaptation will undoubtedly win an even bigger audience and fanbase. People will fall in love with Pippa, her family, and the friends she picks up along the way.

I would personally recommend this book to anyone with an interest in crime or mystery. The plot twists and cliff-hangers kept me turning the page until the very end, the clues unfolding in a way that kept me hooked until the last sentence. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* is a series which I would give anything to read again for the first time and is guaranteed to take you on a ride you'll never forget.

|Coming up...

- A GOOD GIRL'S GUIDE TO MURDER BOOK REVIEW
- FLOODING: WHY WE NEED TO WAKE UP
- MR GREEN INTERVIEW
- EPHS OPEN EVENING
- HALLOWEEN ACROSS THE GLOBE
- FRIDAY 13TH ISN'T ALWAYS SCARY!

Mae Baxter- Writer/ Designer
Abigail Ma- Writer/ Editor
Zoe Finnegan- Writer



A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

GLOBAL EVENTS

Flooding: Why we need to wake up

WRITER'S NAMES: MAE BAXTER

Our streets are filling up with more and more water every year.

As the globe warms, extreme weather is becoming increasingly common. People in the UK can no longer afford to think of it as someone else's problem; we cannot hide from the fact it is happening in our own cities. Flooding has become a major concern this year, causing widespread damage to our homes, the environment, and the economy. We have become accustomed to new stories announcing red and yellow weather warnings, and to headlines containing phrases such as "torrential downpours", "a month's worth of rain is expected" and "The UK's wettest month."

"The choices we make in our everyday life impact our future."

Flooding happens when water, generally from our rivers or reservoirs, overflows onto the surrounding land. Our environment is constantly changing as a result of this.

Submerged villages. Houses and cars damaged beyond repair. Transport becoming an impossibility. These are just a few examples of things we see on social media that we class as 'normal', whereas in reality, it is a problem that is unfolding in front of our very eyes, on our very own doorstep.

It is the longer-term impacts of flooding that are truly shocking. Do we want the next generation to walk on empty highstreets? Do we really want to constantly relocate homes to live a safe life? On the other hand, the immediate impacts, such as bankrupt businesses, people becoming injured, and homes being wrecked show us the consequences we see both online and in real life. This is even more problematic in the depths of a cost-of-living crisis, when businesses have already been severely impacted by factors outside their control, such as COVID-19 and the war between Russia and Ukraine. Astonishingly, around 40% of businesses do not reopen after suffering catastrophic losses, like those caused by flooding. To put it simply, the consequences of flooding are detrimental for a city's economy.

Startlingly, statistics tells us that around 5 million people now live in 'flood risk' areas in England and Wales; that's one in 6 homes. From this data, it is now proved that people are more likely to get flooded than burgled in some areas of our country. Aside from that, one thing is certain: this statistic will only increase, if nothing is done to stop it. Flood damage costs are increasing annually, with 2023 costs estimated to be 1.1 billion across England. This money delivers essential funding to help families, businesses, and communities get back on their feet, but this money has to come from somewhere. Consequently, this impacts other good causes, including improving infrastructure, investing in schools and teaching, and directing funds towards charities and local projects.



UK households submerged underwater (May 2023)



What is the solution to flooding?

So what can we, as individuals and as a school community, do about it? How can we move towards a more positive future?

To make the biggest change, the government and people of high power need to use their platform to make a difference. However, there are smaller steps we, as individuals can take which could include:

- Turning off switches when you go out of the room to reduce the amount of carbon emissions going into the atmosphere.
- Recycling instead of putting rubbish in the general waste decreases the greenhouse gases in our environment and saves energy.
- Making better decisions transport wise.

Transportation is a huge factor in the amount of harmful gases and pollution we see in our world. There are several ways you can travel smarter and more eco-friendly, and these include:

- Taking the bus or tram will immediately reduce the amount of fossil fuels we're burning.
- For shorter journeys, riding a bike.
- If you can afford it, electric cars are extremely eco-friendly because it emits less greenhouse gases than an engine car.

Although you may think this won't make a difference, the choices we make in our everyday life are the ones that impact the future for us and the next generations. By doing the things above, we are making a stand against climate change (no matter how small), which ultimately leads to less flooding. I truly believe, if we do our part and the government do theirs, extreme flooding will one day become a thing of the past.



INTERVIEW

Mr Green Interview

WRITER'S NAME: ABIGAIL MA

Mr Green joined our school as a drama teacher at the beginning of this school year. Already, he has encouraged students when they are in drama, growing their confidence when performing - even when they are nervous to do so.

In our interview with Mr Green earlier this school year, we asked him if he could tell us why he thinks drama is an important part of the curriculum and why Year nines should think about picking drama as an option this year.

“Drama is important because it’s a space where you can be different from when you are in every other subject in school. You’re not sat behind a desk in this lesson, you are on your feet and working practically, you’re also working as part of a team. It just gives you the opportunity to be a different version of yourself and that’s an extremely powerful thing because it’s all well and good if you are amazing at academics. However, if you do not know how to talk to others or stand up for yourself and be proud of who you are, you’re not really going to get anywhere. Also, actors are idolised and we need those storytellers in the world because without them we wouldn’t have anywhere to escape into.”

In drama you learn an abundance of skills such as: acting, devising, directing and critiquing, to name only a few things. We asked Mr Green: what is his favourite thing to teach in his lessons? He replied: “I really like to teach naturalism. I got trained as an actor in naturalism so I went to a drama school called ‘East 15’. The whole approach is that if you’re playing a character, you need to know how that character feels. For example, if I were playing a teacher, I would need to know what subject they teach, their birthday, favourite food; you need to be able to build a truthful character in order to present it. That’s why I like to teach that.”

Every student up until at least Year 10 is taught drama and it equips us with a multitude of important life skills and that’s why we wanted to find out how he perceived drama when he was in school and how it helped him. “I did have drama as a subject when I was in school, but I did a lot of sport in school and I actually wanted to be a PE teacher - however I wasn’t good enough at biology which is important for sports science. I did always really enjoy doing drama, then I took it at A level and my teacher told me I should take this seriously and audition for drama school. At first, I wasn’t sure, but then I went for an open evening at Birmingham drama school and thought this is actually for me. So, I couldn’t really be more of an advocate for drama because I’ve literally studied it, I’ve worked as an actor and I teach drama. It has really guided my life.”

When he isn’t teaching the students here at Ellesmere Mr Green shared with us what he likes to do, “I like to exercise, and I love watching football, I’m a big Nottingham Forest fan so I spend a lot of my time being emotional about that. I like to go out with my mates, go to concerts and watching movies, however I don’t see as much theatre as I should as a drama teacher.” When we followed up by asking him what kind of music he listens to he responded with, “All kind of music really, but growing up I was into kind of Indie Rock, like The Strokes. Now as I’ve got older, I like some hip-hop, I like Kendrick Lamar, Freddie Gibbs, all kinds of music. Even in Lockdown I was listening to heavy metal, like Slipknot, and lots of reggae too.”

“...Drama gives you the opportunity to be a different version of yourself.”

Since Mr Green recently joined our school as a member of staff, we wanted to know why he first wanted to be a part of our school community here at Ellesmere. “Well, I lived in Salford for around four years when I first moved here in 2016 from London so I kind of felt like I knew Salford and I liked it here. I liked that in the area I was living in that people used to sit on a bench in their front garden and say hello. I guess I just felt a connection to the area and when I saw there was a drama job available here, I thought I wanted to be a part of the area’s community like I was before.”

As we sat there in the drama studio, Mr Green had been working at our school for around two weeks so we wondered what he has thought of our school so far, “I really like it; the staff are really friendly and even though I’m an adult - which has happened all of a sudden - it was still nerve racking and I still get nervous meeting people for the first time but everyone has made me feel really welcome! And as a set of pupils there is so much personality, in lots of different ways which is never boring. It’s only been two weeks but last night I sent a text to my dad saying I’m really starting to love being here.”

Finally, Mr Green shared his message to the students here at Ellesmere, “My message to students is that I am going to do my absolute best and work so hard to get you all feeling confident when performing in front of each other in drama and realising that if anyone is judging you whilst you are on stage, that says so much more about them as a person than it does you. I want drama to be a space where people are like “I do want to give this a go and explore this character.” Even if you don’t want to do acting in the future, I want you to say I’ll give this a go and not feel any sense of embarrassment or shame. So, I am going to work really hard to build an environment where you feel supported and less self-consciousness.”



SCHOOL EVENTS

EPHS Open Evening

WRITER'S NAME: ZOE FINNEGAN

Open evening is a night for parents to come to our school and see all the opportunities offered here and look at the variety of subjects for their children to choose from. Work is put on display, showcasing the incredible quality of student's education here at Ellesmere, and fun workshops, such as science experiments, musical performances and fun photography displays complete the experience. This evening shows parents our schools' methods of teaching, and how they're effective, and creates a fun night for the children too.

Throughout the night, we interviewed parents, children and teachers alike, gathering their opinions on the night and finding out how this night is viewed by everyone involved. The parents that attended were all extremely enthusiastic about our school, and frequently mentioned how happy students and teachers seem at our school, and how fun and encouraging the learning environment appears. We asked multiple parents what they made of the evening, and the responses were entirely positive, for example, "I thought the headteachers welcome was really informative, and the teachers are all welcoming.", and "I am amazed at the sense of community and the bonds between students and teachers here."

When we asked the Year 5s and 6s about the event, their first impressions were that, "It's much bigger, and I'm excited about new subjects.", along with "I had so much fun! I really liked making stuff in art." We believe the evening thoroughly represented every form of learning at our school, from creative subjects like art and drama, to our maths and science departments, and the children showed a lot of interest in subjects such as food tech, music and PE, and were all extremely excited to learn more about those over the years to come.

Teachers explained that the evening holds a lot of importance as it not only prepares students for a new school, it can also give them less anxieties and more excitement, showing them the fun side of subjects they may be worried about being difficult or boring, and it also helps for students and parents to be able to ask questions and find out more about what life at high school will be like.

Overall, we believe that the evening was a huge success, and that many parents and children will be extremely interested in going to Ellesmere when the time comes, because of the staff, because of the opportunities, and because of the outstanding presentation of the school on our open evening.

GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS

Halloween Across the Globe

WRITER'S NAME: ZOE FINNEGAN

Halloween, a holiday deeply rooted in ancient traditions, has evolved into a global phenomenon celebrated with diverse practices, each reflecting the unique cultures. From Mexico's colourful Día de los Muertos to Ireland's Samhain, Halloween is represented in a plethora of forms.

Mexico

In Mexico, vivid and heartfelt Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a time to honour and remember loved ones who have passed away. Rather than a night of terror, it's a commemoration with elaborate altars, vibrant marigolds, and intricately decorated sugar skulls. Families gather to share stories, eat traditional foods like pan de muerto, and pay respect to the spirits of their ancestors.

Ireland

Meanwhile, in Ireland, the birthplace of Halloween, the ancient festival of Samhain is still celebrated. This Gaelic tradition marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the darker half of the year. Bonfires are lit to ward off evil spirits, and costumes are worn to confuse the souls believed to roam the earth on this spooky night. It's a celebration rich in folklore and mythology, showcasing Ireland's deep connection to its mystical past.

USA

Across the Atlantic, in the United States, Halloween shows a more modern approach. Pumpkins are carved into jack-o'-lanterns, and children in costumes go trick-o'-treating, similar to here in Britain.

Haunted houses, corn mazes, and costume parties are common features of the American Halloween experience, embracing the spirit of fun, imagination, and light-hearted scares.

Japan

In Japan, Halloween has gained popularity in recent years, with a unique twist. Cosplay enthusiasts wear elaborate costumes inspired by anime characters, superheroes, and creatures from Japanese folklore. Theme parks and shopping districts are adorned with festive decorations, and a growing number of Halloween-themed events have begun to emerge, blending Japanese pop culture with the traditional elements of the holiday.

In conclusion, Halloween is a universally loved celebration, uniting people from various corners of the world in a shared celebration of the mysterious and the macabre. However, no matter the country, Halloween remains consistent: a time for communities to come together, embrace the thrill of the unknown, and take in the magic of the autumn season. As this beloved holiday continues to grow and adapt to different cultural contexts, it serves as a reminder of the universal human desire to commemorate the cycle of life and death, while indulging in fun and festivities along the way.



SCHOOL EVENTS

Friday the 13th isn't always scary!

WRITER'S NAME: ABIGAIL MA

On Friday the 13th of October the annual Consilium awards took place in Leeds, celebrating students and teachers alike from across the nine Consilium schools that are located all over the country. The occasion started at 6pm and ended at 11pm, during that period many awards were handed out for categories such as equity, people centred and excellence; the night was also filled with incredible students showcasing their talent. Each award handed to either a student or teacher symbolised the Trust's acknowledgement of their hard work throughout the school year.

“Even if they won or not, we are still celebrating them.”

As people started to arrive at the Queen's Hotel in Leeds, the excitement in the atmosphere was palpable. The decadent space was dressed in balloons and lights, which left people awe-struck as soon as they entered. As all the attendees started to arrive, they were greeted with performances from some of our very own singers and bands at Ellesmere, including Bleech and Vermillion. There was also an amazing singer and guitar player from Thornhill Academy, located in Sunderland, called Caleb who performed five songs throughout the night. When asked how they felt when on the stage, one of the singers stated “It was quite scary to begin with but then I loved it and it was amazing to see everyone watching me”.

Drinks were then handed out and people both started to reacquaint with old friends and form new bonds. After some opening remarks from Ross Hogarth-Willis, the host of the event, people made their way to a mouth-watering buffet. With British, Asian, European and Turkish dishes there really was a great variety of food, making it very hard to choose what to put on your plate. In addition, there was a tower of delectable and vibrant donuts and waffles.



Tracy Greenough, CEO of Consilium Academies, then gave a speech which really summed up for essence of the evening: everyone was there because they had worked hard and even if they won or not, we are still celebrating them. Afterwards, the main event, the award ceremony, could then commence. For each nominee there was a video which displayed a sincere, and quite moving message, sharing some remarks about the person and why they deserve the award. Throughout the ceremony we watched videos of many people from Ellesmere including: Mrs St John, Mr Cassidy, Arifa Choudhury and Alex Smith, just to name a few. Two nominees from Ellesmere also brought home an award: Eilidh Stewart in Year nine and Mrs Barton. Both of them were fully deserving of their achievement and everyone at Ellesmere is very grateful to have them in our community.

Even after the awards had all been given out, there was still tangible jubilation. Students joined teachers in dressing up in comedic props and posing in a photo booth and a Dj played music that got everyone dancing and erupting in laughter. The evening winding down gave people a chance to realise just how excellent the event really was and left many of the performers looking forward to next year. One student who attends Moorside high school, “It was fantastic, I've had so much fun and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to come”. In conclusion, the 2023 Consilium Awards succeeded in not only recognising many outstanding people but also in giving people joyous memories that will last forever.

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