



A community of transformation founded on love, hope & trust

St Mark's Church of England Academy

Acacia Road, Mitcham, CR4 1SF

020 8648 6627

school@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk

www.stmarksacademy.com

Headteacher: Aimee Gallagher

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Dear Parent / Carer

Merton Big Read 2026: Lord of the Flies – Graphic Novel Event with Aimée de Jongh New Wimbledon Theatre, Thursday 24 September 2026, 1.30-3pm Includes Young Writers Competition Senior Prizegiving

A unique opportunity has arisen for a selection of our students to join 'an audience with' acclaimed graphic novelist **Aimée de Jongh**, who will be travelling all the way from The Netherlands, for a special live Wimbledon BookFest event exploring her award-winning graphic novel illustration and adaption of *Lord of the Flies*.

William Golding's 1954 *Lord of the Flies* is one of the **most loved classics of all time**. It tells the story of a group of boys on a deserted island, exploring themes of power, loyalty, masculinity, loss of innocence, & the fragility of democracy, which have new relevance today.

Aimée's graphic novel has won both the **Carnegie Shadow Award**, the most renowned children's book award in the UK, and the **US Eisner Award**, the 'Oscars' of graphic/comic books awards. Aimée started out creating manga-inspired drawing and at age 17, published her first comic book. She has produced 7 graphic novels, been published in eleven languages & nominated for three Eisner awards.

Marking **Wimbledon BookFest's first Schools Big Read**, this special event will discuss the books' themes, placing them both in the context of today and the time it was written. It will also cover the art of storytelling through different forms – books, art/graphic form and screen. Students will also hear about Aimée's creative journey. There will be plenty of opportunity to discover how an illustrator interprets and reimagines this **GCSE text** for a new generation.

Students will be selected for their interest in this event by the English Department, following which parental consent to attend the event will be sought.

Once selections have been made, we will contact relevant parents with requests for consent.

Yours faithfully

Ms M Taylor
Learning and Resources Manager, Library

Maria Taylor (St Marks)

Learning and Resources Manager

e: mtaylor@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk

t: 020 8685 6685(DD)

