

International Women's Day 2024: Professor Carolyn Oulton



On Friday 8 March **Professor Carolyn Oulton** came to speak to Year 10 and A-level English students about Victorian women writers that astounded and shocked Victorian society. As the Director of the International Centre for Victorian Women Writers (ICVWW,) Professor Oulton chose Sarah Grand and Mary Braddon to discuss in these sessions, both two leading ladies in their time. Oulton explored with our Year 10s the significance that Braddon had on her friends and her own personal views which leak through her writing, in particular *Lady Audley's Secret*

through which Oulton discussed and work-shopped with the students, prompting them to write their own creative lines based on what they found in Braddon's writings.

Professor Oulton engaged with A-level English students, offering the students a sample lecture where they discussed Sarah Grand and her work with the suffrages. Exploring *The Tenor and the Boy*, Professor Oulton discussed the representation of women in Victorian writing and the idea of the 'new woman,' which Grand herself embodied. Oulton related this back to *Dorian Grey*, which the students are studying, and discussed with them the power that female representation had in the Victorian era alongside the influence that literature had on this.

