

# Pupils get chance to meet Stormbreaker author



**A WRITER'S WAY** Above and below, author Anthony Horowitz during his visit to Swindon Academy

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## WRITER TELLS HIS LIFE STORY

by **Jeremy Grimaldi**

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**A WORLD-FAMOUS** author visited a Swindon school to talk to children about imagination, writing and his series of a teenage secret agent books called Stormbreaker.

Anthony Horowitz, who hails from London, spoke to almost 100 children aged from 10 to 18 from all three of Swindon Academy's sites at Headlands Grove.

Many pupils were avid readers of his books and were able to ask him questions about his most famous character, Alex Rider.

Anthony said: "I think my books help kids read because they are a very easy read."

"This is a golden age of literature, if it takes me to introduce kids to this world then I think it is important to do."

"I knew I wanted to be a writer at the age of eight."

"I was the stupidest kid in school, I was hopeless at everything. But I loved writing and I still do."

"I wrote my first book at the age of 20."

"The way I see it is that a book is like a door, it opens the same



way and when you open a book you can go inside.

"Look at it outside, it is rainy and dreary, meanwhile a book is exciting and interesting."

"I was inspired to create Alex Rider because when I was a kid I loved James Bond, my favourite was Sean Connery, but I always wished that Bond was a teenager."

He added that his favourite authors included Stephen King, Thomas Hardy, George Orwell and Charles Dickens.

Organiser Lorna Dickson, the assistant curriculum leader for literacy at the school, said she was pleased to have such a prestigious author at the school.



She said: "A lot of the kids have read his books and are very interested in his books, they can associate with him."

"I have read his books too and like them very much. My favourite is Stormbreaker."

During one exchange one student asked Mr Horowitz how much money he made.

He replied with a complicated mathematical equation based on the fact that he earned 43p for each copy of his book sold, which is priced £6.99.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the Stormbreaker series is asked to visit [www.alexrider.com/missions/stormbreaker](http://www.alexrider.com/missions/stormbreaker).