

RLF PROFILE PAGE

CLARE CHAMBERS

Clare Chambers is offering **Medway students** one-to-one appointments online to help with written assignments. To book an appointment with Clare on Mondays and Tuesdays (term time) please email: clare.chambers@rlfeducation.org.uk



Clare Chambers was born in south east London in 1966. She studied English at Hertford College, Oxford and spent the year after graduating in New Zealand, where she wrote her first novel, *Uncertain Terms*, published when she was 25. She has since written eight further novels, including *Learning to Swim* which won the Romantic Novelists' Association best novel award and was adapted as a Radio 4 play, and *In a Good Light* which was longlisted for the Whitbread best novel prize.

Clare began her career as a secretary at the publisher André Deutsch, when Diana Athill was still at the helm. They not only published her first novel, but made her type her own contract. In due course she went on to become a fiction and non-fiction editor there herself, until leaving to raise a family and concentrate on her own writing. Some of the experiences of working for an eccentric, independent publisher in the pre-digital era found their way into her novel *The Editor's Wife* (Century, 2007). When her own children were teenagers, inspired by their reading habits, she produced two YA novels, *Bright Girls* and *Burning Secrets* published by HarperCollins.

As well as writing fiction, Clare has worked as a freelance copy-editor, creative writing teacher and part-time school administrator. Her most recent novel *Small Pleasures* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2020) is set in the London suburbs in 1957 and concerns a woman claiming to be a virgin mother.