

Our Ref: DF

October 2018

All Year 7, 8, & 9 Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent and Pupil Reading Group - 'The Darkest Minds' by Alexandra Bracken

Following the success of last years' Parent and Pupil Reading Group, we are again excited to invite parents and pupils to take part in the scheme – this year reading the excellent novel 'The Darkest Minds' by Alexandra Bracken.

The importance of Reading

At Dormston School we believe that reading is the key to success at school, and later in life. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day;

- perform better in reading tests;
- develop a broader vocabulary;
- have increased general knowledge;
- develop a better understanding of other cultures;
- leads to lifelong learning;
- increased social mobility.

With this in mind we think that reading 'The Darkest Minds' will be a fantastic, and enjoyable opportunity – it is an amazing read! Just 20 minutes reading per day can have a massive impact on your child's progress, understanding and vocabulary. Equally important is having a discussion about what your child has just read, the plot, theme and characters, and discussing and learning new vocabulary.

Young People's Reading: The importance of family support

"Young people who get a lot of encouragement to read from their mother or father are more likely to enjoy reading, to read frequently, to have positive attitudes towards reading and to believe that reading is important to succeed in life than young people who do not get any encouragement to read from their mother or father."

Statistics from The National Reading Agency show that 9 in 10 young people said they get at least some encouragement to read from their mother. By contrast, only 6 in 10 said that their father encourages them to read to some degree.

We think this is an exciting opportunity to read this book alongside your child and would love all parents and carers to be reading role models and sign up to the reading group. We think 'The Darkest Minds' will be enjoyed by both parents and pupils – we will also be encouraging staff to take part, read the novel, and join in the discussions and events as well.

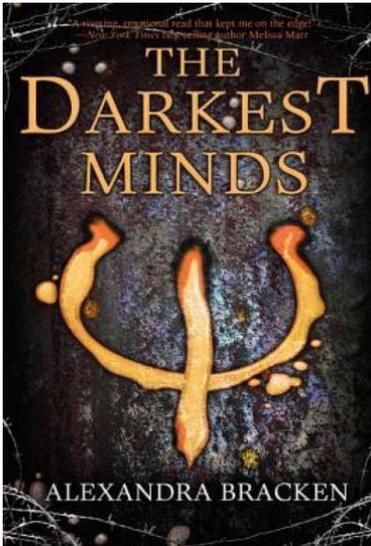
We hope you would like to join us on this exciting reading journey!

Yours sincerely

D Fox

Mr D Fox

Teacher of English and Literacy Co-Ordinator



'The Darkest Minds' by Alexandra Bracken

The first book in the heart-stopping The Darkest Minds trilogy, by New York Times bestselling author of Passenger, for fans of Divergent and The Hunger Games. Now a major motion picture from the producers of Stranger Things and Arrival.

When Ruby woke up on her tenth birthday, something about her had changed. Something frightening enough to make her parents lock her in the garage and call the police. Something that got her sent to Thurmond, a brutal government "rehabilitation camp". She might have survived the mysterious disease that had killed most of America's children, but she and the others emerged with something far worse: frightening abilities they could not control.

Now sixteen, Ruby is one of the dangerous ones. When the truth comes out, Ruby barely escapes Thurmond with her life. She is on the run, desperate to find the only safe haven left for kids like her - East River. She joins a group of kids who have escaped their own camp. Liam, their brave leader, is falling hard for Ruby. But no matter how much she aches for him, Ruby can't risk getting close. Not after what happened to her parents. When they arrive at East River, nothing is as it seems, least of all its mysterious leader. But there are other forces at work, people who will stop at nothing to use Ruby in their fight against the government. Ruby will be faced with a terrible choice, one that may mean giving up her only chance at having a life worth living.

PRAISE FOR DARKEST MINDS SERIES

- "The story's quick-paced action leads to a heart-breaking cliff-hanger that will have readers eager for the next book." *Publishers Weekly*
- "Haunting. . . Bracken creates a gripping and terrifying dystopian world ". *Kirkus Reviews*

Planned Events:

Parent/Pupil Reading Group discussion questions – we would love you to read this book with your child, and discuss some of the characters, events, and ideas in the story. Discussion questions will be available to all those who sign up to the scheme.

Parent/Pupil Reading Group Event in PLC – talking about books is a great way to encourage enjoyment of reading. We would like to invite parents to a special event in our PLC to discuss this fantastic book and share our opinions! Date to be confirmed.

Cinema Event – in August 2018 the film of 'The Darkest Minds' was released in cinemas. We thought it would be a great opportunity to watch the film together in our theatre once we have read the book! Parents/carers are more than welcome to join us. Date to be confirmed.

Further P.L.C. events organised by Mrs Ellsmore to be confirmed.

How to take part:

Please email Mr Fox to register your interest and receive a copy of the reading group questions. We will keep in touch with details of future events.

dfox@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

Get the book! Copies of the book are available in the PLC for pupils and parents to read, however you may wish to purchase your own copy from Waterstones, W.H.Smith, or Amazon. An Audiobook version (read by Amy McFadden) is available on CD and download from Audible.

Happy Reading!