At **The East Manchester Academy**, we believe reading is one of the most powerful tools young people can use to understand the world around them. Whether it's a novel, a news article, a biography, a podcast or an audiobook, engaging with ideas and stories helps students build knowledge, develop a richer vocabulary and deepen their understanding of the issues that shape modern life.

Reading is also good for wellbeing. Research shows that regular reading can reduce stress, improve concentration, strengthen empathy and support positive mental health. Similarly, listening to high-quality podcasts exposes young people to new perspectives, expert voices and thought-provoking discussions, helping them become more informed, reflective and confident communicators.

This term, we're excited to launch **Future Voices**, a competition that celebrates both the power of reading and the importance of student voice. Students are challenged to read a non-fiction text and create a written or performance piece inspired by an issue they care about. Whether exploring social justice, the environment, sport, science, technology or community issues, we want to hear what matters to our young people and how reading has helped shape their thinking.

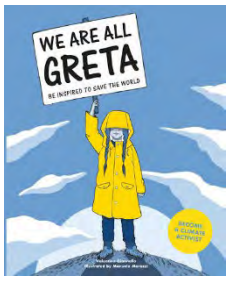
The competition closes on **18th December**, so there is still time to get involved. Pick up a non-fiction book, explore a podcast on a topic that interests you and let your voice be heard.

Please see the links and covers below for inspiration:

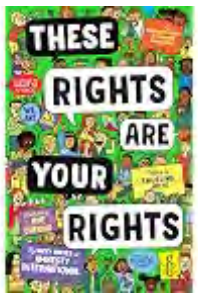
https://www.funkidslive.com/?podcast=the-week-junior-show

Students can access The Day newspaper website using the link here. The student code: **SDEFLAU2**

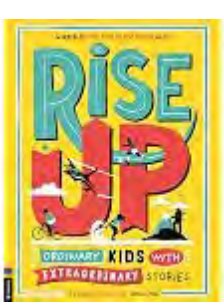
Students can also speak to Mrs Bamber to borrow one of the non-fiction texts available:

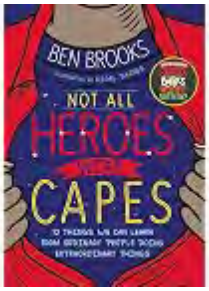












Read widely. Think deeply. Speak confidently. Your voice matters.