

22 June 2016

## Staffordshire teens to celebrate top reads at museum

**Date:** 5 July 2016

**Time:** 9.30am – 2.40pm

**Young readers from across Staffordshire will gather at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford next month for the grand finale of the annual 'Young Teen Fiction Award' Celebration Day. Taking place on Tuesday 5 July, over 200 students from across the county are expected to attend the event which is being hosted at the museum for a second consecutive year.**

The Young Teen Fiction Award, now in its twelfth year, is designed to encourage the county's young people to enjoy reading books and share their enthusiasm with others. Hundreds of 11-14 year olds, who either live or go to school in Staffordshire, or use Staffordshire Libraries, have been voting for their favourite reads since last September. The top six favourite books, as decided by the students, have been shortlisted and students are now voting for the book they think deserves to win the 'Young Teen Fiction Award'. The winner will be announced at the end of the event on 5 July.

Each year, as part of the day's activities, six schools are chosen to create and stage a special representation of one of the shortlisted books, before the final votes are cast by an invited audience of county schoolchildren.

### **Staffordshire's Library Chief, County Councillor Ben Adams says:**

*"RAF Museum Cosford is a world class venue and will provide a unique experience for our young bookworms' gathering to celebrate the best in teen fiction and cast their final votes. We're very grateful to the museum for welcoming us back for a second year, and I know the youngsters will be truly inspired by their illustrious surroundings.*

*As a county council, we've always recognised the importance of encouraging youngsters to read for pleasure and helping them to become effective, independent learners. There's still time to vote online before the Celebration Day in July, so why not check out the shortlist and vote for your favourite to get the gong!"*

The Young Teen Fiction Award Celebration Day will be held at the RAF Museum Cosford on Tuesday 5 July 2016. The closing date for online voting will be 12pm on Monday 4 July 2016.

### **The six shortlisted titles are:**

- Big Game - Dan Smith
- 13 hours - Narinder Dhani
- Mind Games - Teri Terry
- Grandpa's Great Escape - David Walliams
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid Old School - Jeff Kinney
- The Wolf Wilder - Katherine Rundell

Over 1,100 young people across the county took part in last year's competition, voting 'Girl Online' by Zoe Sugg their winning title and organisers are hoping that even more students will get involved and vote in this year's awards.

Special guest speakers attending this year's event will be top teen authors Virginia Bergin, author of 'The Rain' and 'H2O' series and Young Teen Fiction 2016 nominated author Dan Smith. Both authors will be meeting with students and inspiring them to continue into the world of reading and writing.

**RAF Museum Cosford Education Assistant Lily Dean said:**

*"We are really excited to welcome the 'Young Teen Fiction Award' Celebration Day back to the Royal Air Force Museum this year, and can't wait to find out the overall winner. We hope our young visitors are inspired by their visit to the museum, especially meeting the guest authors underneath the wings of our spectacular Vulcan bomber."*

For more information on the Staffordshire Young Teen Fiction Award, please visit:

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ytf](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ytf)

Ends...

**Notes to Editors:**

- **About the Young Teen Fiction Award:**

Celebration Day 2016 is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

This year's Young Teen Fiction Award process started back in September 2015 when young people from Staffordshire started to nominate the teen fiction titles published in 2015 that they wanted to see on the shortlist.

Nominated books must be a fiction novel aimed at children 11 – 14 years, written in English and published for the first time in the UK during 2014.

More information can be found at: [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ytf](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ytf)

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- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at: <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376212 or email [michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org](mailto:michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org)
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