**Quotes from Pupils**

Pupils Graduating at Redcar Community College

We have fun; we enjoy ourselves; it’s a sense of accomplishment; make new friends

Taylor Young, aged 13

On the 19th of January 2011 a phenomenal evening took place at the University of Essex, hosted and presented by the Children’s University. The evening was a graduation for children around the Essex area. As one of the sixty participants’ of the event it was magnificent to be part of. My friend and I were the two oldest kids there. We are part of a reporting organisation called Supporter to Reporter; and I have certainly benefited greatly from it. I think the best thing about the evening was the presence of the Mayor. It was a great privilege to meet her and shake her hand. Personally, I felt quite proud that I was taller than the Mayor. Despite my slight smugness of being taller, it was still a privilege to meet her.

Megan Boyden, Essex

I went to Manchester and spoke at a conference about my experiences. It was a lot more personal than lessons in school and it was fun.

Harry, aged 9

“it was awesome tackular ! “

Ryan from Colchester CU, aged 11

“My mum is so proud of me!”

Dylan Burrows, Year 6 at Bishop David Sheppard Primary School, Southport

**C**ommitment in everything we do

**H** is for happiness and having fun

**I** is for inspiring others and ourselves

**L**earning lots of new skills

**D** is for determination and doing are best

**R** is for respecting our friends and teachers

**E** is for equality because everyone counts!

**N**ever give up in what we do

**S**aving as may credits as we can

**U**nderstanding all our new tasks

**N**ew skills, ideas and experience

**I**mproving the way we live our lives

**V** is for feeling very important

**E**veryone achieving their goals

**R**emembering to help others

**S**haping our lives for the future

**I**mportance of participation

**T**eammates, trust and terrific experiences

**Y** - well because we want to!

Marwa

I really enjoyed Glee Club. I like my character. I have learnt how to participate in lots of different clubs and think that Children’s University is really fun and I get entertained a lot.

Summer

I’ve really enjoyed Glee Club because it builds your confidence and kind of makes you act more and it’ll be your social life and make you more confident in the real world. I’ve really enjoyed Children’s University cos you get lots of awards and people keep on clapping you and it feels really good.

Pupil (Anonymous)

I was very proud of myself at the graduation and I would love to go again and receive a gold award. I am trying very hard at school and when I’m older I would love to go to university like the people I saw at the graduation

Pupil (aged 10-anonymous)

It is more interesting then the lessons at the school.

It is more fun because we do things that we wouldn't do in school.

It is longer, we can do more complicated things and it’s more fun!

Ava Allchurch, aged 8

I think the Children’s University is really good because it encourages children to go to exciting places and not just stay at home after school or at the weekends.

Pupil (Anonymous), Nottinghamshire CU

I have had an excellent time. I learnt a lot of things about the gaming industry and how to use gamemaker to create my own game. It has been wonderful. I’ve made a lot of new friends and I will never forget this experience.

**Quotes from Headteachers**

Danny Sullivan, Head of Primary

I think the work you have done with the Children’s University is stunning and a profound testimony to your skills and talents but above all your values.

Helen E Wardman, Deputy Headteacher Rushen Primary School

Thank you for an amazing day. I had a wonderful learning experience

Helen Bellinger, Headteacher, Townfield Primary November 2009

We were able to demonstrate how [Children’s University] enriched our curriculum and how it improved pupils’ attitudes to learning and raised their aspirations. It was considered to be an example of excellent practice and accepted as evidence under the category ‘The effectiveness of partnerships in promoting learning and well-being’, which was graded as outstanding. **We were delighted that Ofsted recognised the contribution that Children’s University makes and hope to continue strengthening our partnership even more!**

Andrew Smith, Headteacher, Lapworth Primary 2010

Our data shows us a direct correlation between success out of the classroom and performance in school, particularly for boys. The improvements in self-esteem seen as a result of completing Children's University modules directly translated into improved performance in the classroom."

I really want to take the attitude that - success out of school = success in school. With the high percentage of boys at Lapworth (70%) this has been invaluable in raising standards across the school.

N McFadden, Assistant Vice Principal, Clacton Coastal Academy

On behalf of all the students, families and staff from Clacton Coastal Academy I would like to express our sincere thanks and delight that we were a part of the Graduation ceremony last night.

The event was noisy and joyfully chaotic. It was refreshingly un-pompous and without adults celebrating adults, but being completely child centred and fun. Despite the huge numbers present you managed to maintain an atmosphere of family warmth.

Knowsley Headteacher

The Children’s University programme has been key in enhancing the pupils’ personal development, broadening their horizons and ensuring high expectation.

Knowsley Headteacher

The Children's University programme continues to enhance and develop our pupil's learning in a fun yet engaging way. Our pupil's aspirations continue to grow as the move along the Children's University pathway, whilst developing in them a sense of commitment that will go on to serve them well, both now and in the future.

**Quotes from Parents**

(Colchester) Anonymised (sent by Debbie Bird)

Can't begin to thank you for everything, (child) as you probably didn't know is a young carer and pre Childrens University had a terrible record of attendance at school, indeed the educational welfare officer was involved with us for a while as was social services, so if you need any commendations or reviews for this excellent program you know where we are!

Helen Boyden (Parent) Essex

It has given her immense confidence and opened a lot more doors for her.

Shelli Williams (Parent) October 2011

I would just like to say how fantastic the Children's University scheme is at recognizing and rewarding children in participating in activities outside of school hours. I think the scheme gives children in school who might not be high achievers the platform to improve confidence, a sense of achievement and boost their self worth. I have two children, year 4 and 5 who will be attending the ceremony on 9th Nov, one receiving the ‘high achiever’ award who relish in the fact that they are in this position. Congratulations on a job well done, the future of the scheme and I am happy to spout off to all and sundry the benefits it brings to not only yourselves but the children and wider community.

Debbie Bird Manager, Colchester Children's University

...just spoken to a parent....after another Passport (1st one is full.

...in chatting, she mentioned that on her daughter's Christmas list was a Graduation Cap & Gown - how cool is that!

...Santa couldn't get hold of one, so I'm going to sell Mum one through the office after the Graduation as a surprise birthday present for her daughter

...not many of those in the dressing up boxes of children (YET!!)

Just made me smile - hope it makes you all smile too!

Carolanne (Parent)

The CU has been a great learning experience for Robyn, she has been aiming for her graduation and would love to attend university when she is older. It has given her more confidence and she has found learning can be fun. Me and her dad have really enjoyed visiting the places with her!!!

Parent

Frankie has had an amazing time, he jumps for joy when he knows its Tuesday. He has made lots of friends and can't stop talking about it.

**Other Quotes**

Gymnastics Club - 2011

It’s great to have the opportunity for the work of our Club to be recognised through Children’s University and also for the children to be rewarded for their regular attendance.

Gareth Mitchell (Chancellor and Head of Strategic Policy and Regeneration, Colchester Borough Council)

I was reflecting on the last graduation later that same evening, and was thinking that we really can’t know the kind of foundations we’re helping children to lay in their lives for the period of time that they’re involved in the CCU, but I am absolutely sure that if we could see these children in the years to come and appreciate the impact of their CU learning, it would be a really humbling and motivating experience.