

THE CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

This past year, Mr Fussey and myself introduced The Children's University to Eton. What started as a courtesy introduction has blossomed into a meaningful ongoing concern for the school and the organization. The Children's University creates 'exciting and innovative learning activities and experiences outside normal school hours' for young kids aged 7 to 14. It works with schools and their staff to create a self-sustainable extracurricular program whereby the children accumulate hours of participation. The children are then rewarded for their attendance annually in the form of a Children's University

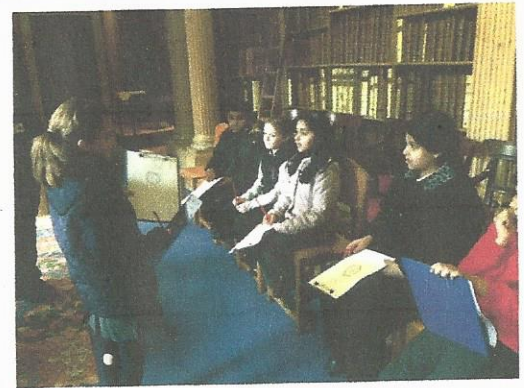


30 Easter Edition 2014

Graduation.

Our idea was to connect the infrastructure of my school to the Slough branch of the charity. We contacted the Chief Executive, Ger Graus, and the Headmistress of one of the key schools involved in the Slough branch, Jill Denham, to initiate a relationship. Mr Fussey and I believed we could run a beneficial program of sending students from Eton into Slough to run clubs of their own. It was our ambition to diversify the learning curricula of the participating children and to inform my peers of the lack of opportunities for students in the surrounding area.

I pitched my vision to my year and Mr Fussey to the Head Master. He was so enthusiastic about the program that he donated some



initial funding. With financial backing and a team of peers eager to get to work, we developed several clubs that would leverage the resources and strengths of Eton with the needs of the program in Slough. We researched the interests of the children and developed a series of clubs including 'The Eton Experience', Design and History.

The Eton experience club, which happened every Tuesday, involved a group of Marish students coming to Eton. They participated in different events and tours whilst using the facilities of Eton to discover the life of an average

Etonian. With the extensive help of Mrs Charlotte Villiers and a further team of boys, the club brought some of the most magnificent aspects of Eton to the kids.

However on Thursdays, a different set of helpers brought a different program to life over in the Marish school itself.

An account of the 'Design club' by the senior tutor, Ewan Harris:

For the past half, Dan Makharinsky, Guy Boscawen and I have been running an extra-curricular design club at Marish Primary School. Lasting an hour, we'd usually start with a little presentation

before helping the children design and make that week's activity. This varied from newspaper houses to catapults.

Whilst the products weren't necessarily the most advanced, the children really enjoyed getting stuck into something that may not have time to do inside class hours. It's been great to see how all the kids have really grown in confidence as the weeks have gone on.

The program has been a huge success and is looking to be incorporated into the Social Service scheme. Hopefully the facilities and man-power of Eton will

become increasingly available for the primary school students of Slough in the coming years.

Hordern Farr (AW)

