

Newsletter

Term 2 - 2023





KCU Newsletter 2023

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Keep an eye out for competitions that could earn your children Learning Credits. There are lots of marvellous prizes to be won

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Kent Children's University Update

Find out what is going on and what is coming up!

A Message from the Manager of Kent Children's University

As 2023 comes to a conclusion, I think we all start to reminisce on the year that we will be soon saying goodbye to. What has been the highlight of your year with your family? We hope that KCU played a part in some of your memories this year and will continue to do so moving into 2024.

This will be a shorter than usual newsletter as we are aware of how busy schools, families and organisations are but we will bring you bumper editions in Terms 3 and 4. Do, however, look at the opportunities coming up for the rest of December as you might find something to help you entertain your children on these cold, grey and wet days.

[Should you wish to read this newsletter online, please click here.](#) We have also included .png images of the newsletter should you wish to share any content on Social Media. If you do that, don't forget to tag us in.

If you have any suggestions for future content or would like to supply material to be included, do email kcu@theeducationpeople.org

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Emma Jenkins

Manager of Kent Children's University
The Education People



What is Kent Children's University?

[Kent Children's University™ \(KCU\)](#) is part of an international charity that provides 5- to 14-year-olds with access to exciting and innovative CU Learning Activities and experiences outside the normal school day. They reward children's participation in voluntary learning activities that will develop their skills and raise aspirations for the future.

The Children's University (CU) is able to recognise and reward children for all the additional learning they participate in voluntarily outside normal school hours. Once registered through a school or direct through the local CU, children can earn Learning Credits in a variety of ways including participating in activities held at "[Learning Destinations](#)." Children are provided with a Passport to Learning for them to collect Credits as evidence of their learning.

Once children achieve a fixed number of Learning Credits, they will have the opportunity to have their successes celebrated at a very special Graduation Ceremony at either Canterbury Christ Church University, The University of Greenwich (Medway Campus) or The University of Kent.

Children's University graduation ceremonies are held at real 'grown-up' universities. Children wear real caps and gowns as they step onstage to receive their awards and certificates. It is a great evening out for the children, their families, friends, and teachers.

[You can find out more about Children's University here.](#)

Design a Christmas card for KCU

We are inviting children, teachers, parents/carers to design a Kent Children's University Christmas card that we can use to email to our partners in advance of the 25th.

Card designs could be drawn, painted, created with IT, a photograph or even animated. We just ask that you include the wording "Merry Christmas from Kent Children's University" and something related to Kent Children's University in there. This could be a Passport to Learning, Children's University logo, purple mortar board/gown, scroll or something else! The only limit to this is your imagination.

Please email entries to kcu@theeducationpeople.org by 5pm on Thursday 14th December. Don't forget to include the name and age of the artist in the email.

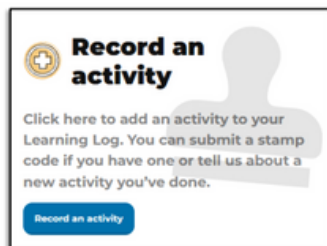
The winner will receive a £10 Love2Shop voucher. Each entry will earn a 1-hour CU stamp code too. This code will be emailed to you when you submit your entry. We can't wait to see all your fabulous designs.



Adding Non-Validated Learning Activities to CU Online

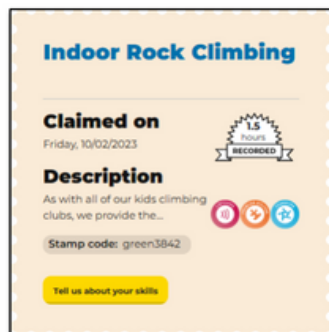
Record an activity

This is where you can add Children's University Stamps. You can quickly add activities to your learning log. You can also add more information about activities you've done and get hours recognised towards your next certificate!



Your Learning Log

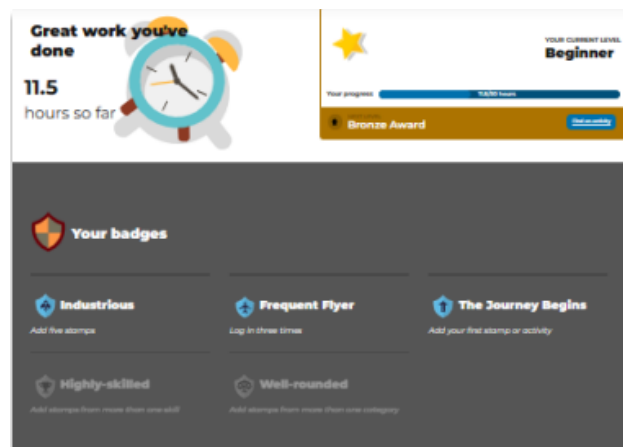
This is where you can see all the activities you've done. You can see Stamps you've added, as well as any activities you've done yourself. If you've quickly added some, you can go here and tell us more about the activities to get hours recognised towards your next certificate!



Your children can claim extra Learning Credits for some of the non-registered CU Learning Destinations' activities, such as swimming badges, music lessons and water sport sessions. This is very new to us so please bear with us.

On the children's CU Online dashboard National CU has added the functionality which allows children to add their own activities up to 3 hours at a time, this is to support children and young people to gain hours for all the wonderful and varied activities they do, that aren't validated on Children's University Online.

This has taken the place of the paper reflection sheet and is designed to be more in depth than the stamp appeal process enabling children to take ownership of their activity and reflect on the skills they are developing etc.



National CU has capped the number of hours children can claim to 3 to limit the temptation to claim more hours than they might have completed.

CU Managers can see these additions so please note that they can revoke credits should the activity not be something Children's University would Validate.

Please email kcu@theeducationpeople.org if you need any support with this or have any questions

Missing Learning Credits

There will be times when a Learning Destination does not issue the code you need for the Passport to Learning or you leave the Passport at home, not realising a site is a CU Destination. This is not a problem. There are two ways to earn Learning Credits missed out on:

- 1) Email evidence of the experience to kcu@theeducationpeople.org
 - Evidence could be photographs or a receipt.
- 2) Log into your [CU Online account](#) and log the activity there
 - A pop-up video should appear when your child logs in so they can learn how to do this.

Kent Children's University Certificates

Do you have children that have reached their next Children's University milestone and need a certificate?

If you work in a school and would like certificates before a 2024 Graduation do let us know that your CU Online accounts are up-to-date and we will print and post certificates to you so you can present them in an assembly next term. This will not stop your children receiving invitations to future Graduations as we will simply present them with their highest award at that point.

If you have Family Membership and would like to receive certificates before the next Graduation, do ensure your child's CU Online account is up-to-date as that is where we will look to see which certificates we need to print and post. You can email us to let us know you would like the certificates sent to you. Please ensure you give us a correct postal address, as this might have changed since you joined KCU.

Learners of the Term

It is very hard to pick just one Learner of the Term as we have the privilege of meeting and seeing the CU work of so many children but we have chosen **Emily and Ryan Marks**.

Emily and Ryan, with the support and encouragement of their Mum Georgina, are huge advocates of learning outside normal school time. They have a vast range of talents, interests and hobbies that take them on adventures all over Kent, Medway and beyond.

As well as the clubs and activities they participate in at various locations, Emily and Ryan take part in lots of at-home activities. It is always exciting to see where they have been and what they have been enjoying together as a family, as well as individually.

Well done, Emily, Ryan and Georgina! You are real ambassadors for learning outside school time.

To suggest any KCU Learners that you would like recognised please email KCU via: kcu@theeducationpeople.org



Kent Children's University Attends the HSJ Awards 2023

Last year Emma Jenkins, on behalf of Kent Children's University, was invited to be part of the Kent and Medway Cancer Alliance's (KMCA) Help Us to Help You strategy group to work on a campaign entitled [#BeSkinSmart](#). Emma worked with the group to develop ideas/resources for children, schools, families and communities in coastal areas of Kent to encourage staying sun safe.

It was a real honour to work with such a great team to produce and share the [#BeSkinSmart](#) materials with our schools and families. A Kent Children's University child even won the KMCA's colouring competition!

Earlier this year the strategy group discovered that the campaign had been a huge success in August 2022 and had a quantifiable impact on the communities worked with. On top of this, the [#BeSkinSmart](#) campaign was nominated for an HSJ (Health Service Journal) Award and we are thrilled to say that project was selected as a Finalist for the NHS Communications Initiative of the Year category. KMCA invited KCU's Emma to attend with the team representing the campaign.

The HSJ Awards took place at Evolution London in Battersea Park on Thursday 16th November. Matt Lucas was the compere for the evening. His humour was punctuated by poignant messages regarding the importance and value of the jewel in our country's crown... the NHS.

Sadly the KMCA campaign did not win the award but that does not detract from the success and impact of the [#BeSkinSmart](#) work.

KMCA has been able to identify people who have presented to healthcare with melanoma on the basis of the postcards and wallet cards we designed and produced. For KCU's Emma, hearing that another person walked into their GP practice in the last few weeks saying they wanted an appointment due to what they had read on a [#BeSkinSmart](#) postcard shows that the campaign is long-lasting and wide reaching, well beyond when the Summer sun has gone.

The impact of this joint partnership campaign means more people have been having conversations with healthcare professionals and going for early diagnosis. Taking our campaign message, postcard or z-card with them to a GP shows the value of that message and how it is with them potentially saving lives.

That's the real win here. The KMCA campaign reached thousands of children, young people, adults, families, schools and communities through a partnership approach. .

It was a true honour for KCU's Emma to be invited and to mark the achievements of all NHS projects, quite rightly, celebrated.



[You can find out more about the #BeSkinSmart campaign here.](#)





Learning Destinations

Learning Destinations are places that provide activities that have been Validated by Children's University locally or nationally

Children's University works closely with all kinds of learning providers and activity leaders to offer children the widest variety of opportunities. In order to offer a consistent quality of activities we undertake a quality assurance process to validate these opportunities to confirm they meet certain standards.

New Activities From Existing Learning Destinations

We have new Learning Destinations joining Kent Children's University in Term 3 but many existing Partners across the country have created activities specifically for this season including:

Kent Libraries, Registrations and Archives has just launched their Winter Mini Reading Challenge. CU learners can earn 3 Learning Credits for participating in this Challenge. Your local library should issue the Credits but if they are unable to, please email KCU via kcu@theeducationpeople.org, with evidence of completion, and we will issue the credits.



Leeds Castle has four ways for children to earn Learning Credits (visit the National CU website www.childrensuniversity.co.uk to find out more) but you could earn a stamp code this Winter for visiting their very special enchanting festive experience.

Leeds Castle has transformed the beloved story of The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe to life. The whole family will embark on a magical journey through the wardrobe as soon as they take in the wonder of Christmas in Narnia.

Be transported into C.S. Lewis's magical kingdom of Narnia and get ready to:

- Firstly, push through the magical wardrobe full of furs as you begin your walk through adventure.
- Interact with beloved characters as they come to life over the weekends and school holidays.
- Be wonderstruck as soon as you're transported into Narnia's snowy woodlands inside the Castle.
- Then sneak a seat on the White Witch's sleigh.
- Furthermore, catch a glimpse of Father Christmas as he and Mrs Beaver teach you combat skills ahead of the battle for Narnia.
- While admiring the beautifully decorated Castle with festive trees and displays.



Leeds Castle should issue the Credits for your visit but please bear in mind that this is a very busy time of for them so if they are unable to, please email kcu@theeducationpeople.org with evidence of your visit and we will issue the relevant stamp code.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis © copyright 1950 [CS Lewis Pte Ltd](http://www.cslewis.com). Narnia® and The Chronicles of Narnia® are registered trademarks of [CS Lewis Pte Ltd](http://www.cslewis.com).



Spotlight on... Wheels of Time



It's time to visit some museum & heritage sites in Kent

[Wheels of Time](#) is a partnership of museums and heritage sites in Kent developed to promote education in history and heritage among young children.

This purpose is achieved by running a scheme to encourage children, between the ages of 5 and 11, to visit museums and heritage sites in Kent and Medway.

Children participating in Wheels of Time have fun exploring Kent and Medway's museums and heritage sites, following Roamin' Rex's map.



Children collect a pin badge individual to each site and can claim Roamin' Rex's Award Badge badges at certain points:

- 10 different Wheels of Time site badges equals the Roamin' Rex Bronze Award badge,
- 20 site badges equals the Roamin' Rex Silver Award badge,
- 30 site badges equals the Roamin' Rex Gold Award badge,
- 40 site badges equals the Roamin' Rex Platinum Award
- All 56 site badges equals a Wheels of Time 2023 Award.

Badges collected during previous years count toward awards presented during 2023. Badges collected from Wheels of Time Dorset also count toward Roamin' Rex Awards. However, E-badges do not count toward Roamin' Rex or Wheels of Time Awards. To earn the 2023 Award a child must have visited all sites on the 2023 Roamin' Rex Map of Kent before 31st March 2024.

There is no charge to children participating in Wheels of Time, but the normal entry fees at the sites are payable. Some sites are free entry but ask that visitors make a donation. See site information by selecting the site from the 'Museums' menu or clicking the site name on the '[Planner](#)' page. This Planner also shows which sites are Kent Children's University Learning Destinations. Validated sites will earn children 2 Learning Credits. Non-Validated sites will earn 0.5 Credits when a Wheels of Time visit log is emailed to kcu@theeducationpeople.org



At-Home Activities

Children's University offers a wide range of free and low cost activities which can be completed at any time in the home

You can find a wide range of activities for children, young people and families to participate in at home via the [Kent Children's University](#) and [National Children's University Trust](#) websites. The activities cover a variety of themes and subjects, as well as skills, and are the perfect way to engage children in learning when at home.

Each term we will share new activities for children and families to enjoy together. Please note that some activities are only available for a fixed period of time but the majority are available all-year round.

KCU Challenge Update

Our Winter #KCUChallenge will launch on Wednesday 6th December. It contains 24 activities covering a variety of seasonal activities for families to enjoy together. You can find out more via the [KCU Challenges](#) section of our website and on our Social Media Pages.

CREST Awards for STEM Activities

Whether learning at home or in the classroom, there has never been a more important time for students to learn about STEM.

CREST is a scheme that inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers and the CREST Awards are Validated with CU:

- One completed resource at Star or SuperStar level = 1 Credit
- One completed project or resource at Discovery level = 5 Credits
- One completed Bronze, Silver or Gold Award = 10 Credits

[You can access those resources here.](#) You can then email kcu@theeducationpeople.org to receive the Learning Credits.



Bewl Water Outdoor Centre Advent Calendar



The opportunity to learn, play and have fun outdoors is a key component to improving children's wellbeing, resilience as well as their mental and physical health. This is particularly pertinent at this current time when we are all being asked to spend so much time indoors.

Our Learning Partners, The Outdoor Learning Team at Bewl Water Outdoor Centre has released an advent calendar packed with ideas for outdoor activities for the month of December. Children will earn 0.5 Credits for each activity. Email KCU with evidence to receive the codes.

[You can find the advent calendar here](#) You can use the information as an advent calendar or pick ideas you enjoy for this festive season.

If you return to this Facebook Page every day, you will find more detailed information for each activity listed on the advent calendar.



Events and Opportunities

Many of our Learning Destinations and Partners provide and offer additional events and opportunities, where children can earn Credits

As well as activities at home or out and about at one of the Learning Destinations around the country, many providers offer additional opportunities for children to earn Children's University Learning Credits. Here is a small sample of upcoming events.

Outdoor Fun with Kent Country Parks

[Kent Country Park sites](#) are Learning Destinations so children can earn Learning Credits for participating in activities on their sites. You can keep up-to-date with all the available opportunities [here](#). If you are unable to receive a Learning Credit code on site, do email evidence from the completed activity, such as photographs or a copy of the booking confirmation, to kcu@theeducationpeople.org and we will issue the code you need. Examples of activities include:



#DrawWithRob Online Art Lessons

We are big fans of illustrator Rob Biddulph's online sessions and hope to Validate his activities in the New Year. For now, we are sharing information about his activities in case your family fancy some festive art fun.

[You can find all of Rob Biddulph's #DrawWithRob lessons here.](#)



Go Sketch Art Club on Zoom

[Go Sketch](#) is a Learning Partner for Children's University and they offer magnificent free art workshops via Zoom to children across the country. You can click on each of the graphics below to book free places. Don't forget to email Go Sketch to claim the Learning Credit code after the session.



This is a free online tutorial which can be accessed at any time.



This Zoom session will take place on Monday 18th December at either 10am, 1pm or 5pm.



Competitions

Keep an eye out for competitions that could earn your children Learning Credits. There are lots of marvellous prizes to be won

Many of our Learning Partners offer competitions to all children, young people and their families. They are usually open to all, not just Children's University members but should your child have a Passport to Learning, it is worth checking whether the entry is eligible for a code. Here are two current competitions which do offer Learning Credits. Don't forget to check the closing date for each competition as these will vary.

ootiboo's All Star 2023 (Closing date: 22nd December 2023)



All Star is a fun, creative competition designed to support mental health organisation [Spark UK](#) with their annual star-studded advent calendar.

Behind each door of the calendar will be some famous faces sharing their mental health tips and encouragement, giving us all some positivity in what can sometimes be a difficult time, as we count down to Christmas.



It's so easy to share your All Star entry with ootiboo! All you have to do is take a photo or scan your creation and upload it via their [Share tab](#). ootiboo will process your entry and if you have included your email, they will let you know when it is up on the Gallery and ready to view.

ootiboo will issue your child's Learning Credits. To receive your stamp code, you will need to submit your entries direct to the ootiboo All Star page here. Just let ootiboo know that you are part of Children's University in the "How did you hear about the project?" box, and ootiboo will email your child's stamp code for taking part once they have processed the entry and added it to the Gallery.

Don't Forget the KCU Christmas Card Competition!

Design a KCU Digital Christmas Card

We have used the same graphic for our digital Christmas card for the last few years so we are encouraging children and parents/carers to get creative and design a card we can use this year!

Closing date: 5pm on Thursday 14th December 2023

Design a KCU Digital Christmas Card

Don't forget to include the wording "Merry Christmas from Kent Children's University" and some imagery that links to Children's University such as...

children's UNIVERSITY
LEARNING DESTINATION
PASSPORT TO LEARNING

Kent Children's University Postal Address

We have received requests asking us to share our postal address as some children wish to make and/or send KCU a Christmas card. This is incredibly kind of you. Should you wish to do so, our address is **Kent Children's University, The Education People at Bewl Water Outdoor Centre, Bewlbridge Lane, Lamberhurst, Kent, TN3 8JH.**



THE EDUCATION
PEOPLE

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www.theeducationpeople.org/kent-childrens-university



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