



Croydon Children's University Graduation

Students from Croydon Children's University donned robes and mortarboards for their very own graduation ceremony on Wednesday 20th November 2013.

Filmed by Croydon TV, students aged 5 -15, participated in their graduation ceremony at The St Andrew's Community Hub, Southbridge Road, Croydon.

The Children's University aims to reward young people for the time they spend in out-of-school hours learning activities and each student was presented with certificates and awards to mark their participation. Older students were also rewarded for organising and participating in CU activities for the younger students through the CU Volunteering Scheme. They experienced all the academic traditions including wearing robes and mortarboards, as well as having photographs taken as a permanent reminder of their big day.

Croydon Children's University is delivered by The Hive Croydon, a local charity and is open to all young people in the borough. Hundreds of young students have taken part in a range of innovative activities designed to explore new ways of learning, including workshops in Forensic Science, musical composition, play writing, book making and film-making. We were delighted to present the first member of our 1K Club, Owadally & King with a certificate.

The Children's University aims to develop a culture of achievement and lifelong learning from an early age, while focusing on the transition stage between primary and secondary school and increasing motivation.

The highest achievements on the evening were awarded to Freya Young and Kirsty Peskett who received The Children's University Postgraduate Bronze Award for 430 hours on independent learning,

“The Children's University is an excellent way to make the prospect of University education accessible to more children and especially those from less advantaged backgrounds. The work being done in Croydon is proving really successful and is an important part of the work being done to raise aspiration. Congratulations to this year's crop of graduates, who have worked really hard, and I wish them every success in the future.” Cllr Tim Pollard, Deputy Leader (Regeneration & Economic Development) & Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learners

“This was a very proud day for me, the students, their friends and family and everyone involved in the Children's University. We have focused on having fun while creating opportunities for learning beyond normal school hours. We have introduced them to some new interests whilst getting the students excited about learning which helps to empower them

in making positive life choices. Their commitment to learning has been exemplary and it was great to see them rewarded for the great work they've done." Lesley Stout, Executive Director, The HIVE Croydon, delivering Croydon Children's University

The Master of Ceremonies was Croydon Children's University's Chancellor, Prof Trish Walker, The Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) who was joined by Mrs Sylvia McNamara, Director of Learning from Croydon LA and Suzanne Parker, London and Croydon TV Presenter for this very special occasion.

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For more information about Croydon Children's University please contact Lesley Stout, Executive Director, The HIVE-Croydon 07597635933 or lstout@thehive-croydon.org

