

Children's University Chief Executive receives Honorary OBE



Ger Graus, the founding Chief Executive of the Children's University has been appointed as an honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE). The honour is in recognition of his services to children and young people.

Ger Graus - born in Echt, near Maastricht, in the Netherlands - officially took up his position as Chief Executive of the Children's University (CU) Trust on 16th April 2007.

Described by the Sunday Times as "The University of Fun", Children's University (CU) is an award winning, critically acclaimed, extra-curricular and informal learning programme which takes education outside the normal school day and environment: CU encourages 5-14 year olds to challenge themselves, to try new experiences, to develop new interests and acquire new skills. Delivered at a local level by local partners, Children's University operates across the British Isles with 125 centres as well as internationally in Australia, China, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Service Children's Schools worldwide. Interest has also been noted from organisations in Egypt, Estonia, Israel, Kenya, the Netherlands, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Ireland, Republic of South Africa, Spain and the USA.



Ger Graus at the inaugural Children's University Graduation in Adelaide Australia, November 2013

Ger moved to the United Kingdom in 1983 when he began his teaching career at Taverham High School in Norwich. He next moved on to a management position at Winifred Holtby School in Hull. Between 1991 and 1996, Ger was an Adviser for Manchester City Council, responsible for the introduction of Modern Foreign Languages into primary schools. In 1996, he became Senior Inspector

for Salford City Council. Between 2000 and 2007, Ger was the Director of the two Wythenshawe Education Action Zones based at Manchester Airport.

Ger was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Staffordshire University in 2011 and was made an Adjunct Fellow by the University of Adelaide in 2013.

Of his OBE award Ger said: "I shall treasure this honour with those dearest to me and I share the award with all my friends and colleagues who have helped to make the Children's University into the wonder it is today ... Children can only aspire to what they know exists and it is our duty to enable them to write their own narrative of the possible!"

Ger Graus lives in Bollington, Cheshire and has two children, Tom aged 16 and Anna aged 18.



Ger Graus joins in the celebrations at one of the hundreds of annual Children's University Graduation Ceremonies worldwide

For further information about the Children's University please visit www.childrensuniversity.co.uk or contact +44 (0)161 907 5389 / contactus@childrensuniversity.co.uk – you can also follow the Children's University   @CU_Trust and on 