



Solent hosts Children's University graduation event

Last weekend, 94 pupils from 10 schools across the region donned caps and gowns to take part in the Hampshire Children's University graduation event - a collaboration between Southampton Solent University and local schools.

The Children's University (CU) is a nationwide programme that aims to engage, inspire, and motivate children aged from 7 to 14 years and 5 and 6 year olds with their families, to develop a passion for learning by offering them an exciting range of extra-curricular activities and events - from after-school activities on site, to visits to museums, businesses, exhibitions, sports activities and university lectures.

This innovative initiative aims to raise aspirations and inspire a love of learning for children from all backgrounds and abilities. It is also used to support children from disadvantaged backgrounds or those from families who might otherwise not think of further or higher education as an option.

Tracy Davis, Partnership Development Manager at Southampton Solent University said: "Southampton Solent University are delighted to host this event giving all young people the opportunity to aspire to reach their potential."

The schools that took part include:

- Bartley Junior School,
- Blackfield Primary School,
- Copythorne CofE Infant School,
- Foxhills Infant School,
- Hale Primary School,
- Hordle CofE Primary School,
- Netley March CofE Infant School,
- Oaklodge Specialist Art College,
- St. Michael and All Angels CofE Infant School,
- Toynbee School

The graduate's each received certificates from the local Children's University Chancellor and Paralympics 2012 wheelchair rugby star, Aaron Phipps, Anwen Foy, Senior Inspection for Inclusion and Michelle Nye, Lead for Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service from Hampshire County Council. After completing a set number of hours of activity the pupils achieved different awards. Since September, some pupils have completed more than 200 hours of learning.

Claire Lowe, Executive Head teacher at The Inspire Learning Federation said: "I was proud to be part of this fabulous event that brought together ten schools with a common goal; to raise aspirations, celebrate achievement and inspire learning beyond the classroom."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE MEDIA OFFICE ON 023 8201 3040 or press.office@solent.ac.uk

About Southampton Solent University

Southampton Solent University offers more than 19,000 students over 200 qualifications ranging from HND to PhD, in subjects such as maritime education and training, fashion and design, media and television, music, health, sport and leisure, business, IT and technology. The University was awarded the 2013 Quality Assurance kitemark for quality and standards of teaching and learning. Solent was voted one of the most creative universities

in the UK in a Which? University 2014 poll of students. Solent Business School has been awarded the Small Business Charter Award, which is supported by the Association of Business Schools and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and 'gold approval' by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).