



News release

Wednesday 24th June 2015

Children take part in graduation

A graduation ceremony with a difference took place at St German's Cathedral in Peel last night.

All those wearing gowns and mortarboards and proudly celebrating their achievements were aged five to 14.

The 71 children attending were among the latest cohort to graduate from the Children's University, which was launched in the Isle of Man three years ago.

They celebrated clocking up thousands of hours of Children's University learning.

Children's University rewards young people's participation in activities that take place outside the school day. Children purchase passports and gain stamps by visiting validated 'public learning destinations'. Certificates charting their progress are awarded at graduation ceremonies.

Children also gain stamps by attending their own schools' lunchtime and after-school activities, provided their school is a Children's University partner.

Membership of Children's University gives passport-holders access to accredited learning destinations and events across the UK and beyond.

Children's learning accrues, their first award being for 30+ hours and the highest for 730+ hours.

[Tim Crookall MHK](#), Minister for Education and Children, presented the awards and certificates to children. Also taking part in the graduation ceremony were Debbie Bird, Head of Local Support and Development from the Children's University nationally; artist Dr Jeremy Paul, chancellor of the Isle of Man Children's University, and John Gill, a local trustee.

Businesses that have kindly supported Children's University in the Island also attended. They included: Scottish Widows, which sponsored the children's caps and gowns, provided volunteer helpers at the ceremony and purchased cakes for



the reception that followed the ceremony; Shoprite and Finishing Touches, which also supported the reception.

A choir from Michael Primary School performed at the graduation.

Ends

Note for newsdesks:

Attached is a photo of last night's graduation (Morrison Photos)

Background:

The Isle of Man Children's University is a charitable trust funded by a Henry Bloom Noble education endowment and sponsorship. Celebrated wildlife artist Dr Jeremy Paul, from Colby, is its Chancellor.

Children's University has been running nationally since 2007 and has more than 90 local CU centres in the UK, works closely with Service Children's Education and with the introduction of Children's University Australia, Malaysia and China is set to expand into New Zealand and Tasmania, too.

In the UK, there are more than 1,000 participating schools, with 100,000 passport holders who have access to 5,800 public learning destinations, including those on the Isle of Man.

Public learning destinations display the black and gold Children's University 'Learning Destination' logo and are advertised on both the IOM CU and the CU UK Trust's websites.

Useful links:

<http://www.iomcu.im/>

<http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/>

Word count: 266