

Dear Year 7 Parent/ Carer,

All Year 7 students at Finham Park are members of the Children's University™ (CU), or as the Times newspaper calls it "The University of Fun". This is an international organisation that provides 7 – 14 year olds with access to exciting and innovative learning activities and experiences outside of the normal school day. These learning activities are being provided by Finham Park, as well as other organisations, at 'Learning Destinations'. In partnership with the Children's University™, as a CU Learning Destination, we aim to raise aspirations, celebrate and boost achievement and foster a love of learning, so that children can make the most of their abilities and interests and also challenge themselves to experience something new, exciting and fun. Research shows that a student's involvement in out of hours school learning can also help boost their exam results.

We expect all Year 7s to be involved in at least one activity each term. Their mentor will support them in finding an activity in which to participate. You can view the extensive range of over 120 activities we offer, from art, sport, dance, drama, music, Tai Chi, trips and visits to certain College activities, on the school website in the Parents and Students section under Extra Curricular.

We will cover the cost of your child's CU membership. Through the school's Children's University online 'E-Passport' secure website, students will record their participation in school activities, be able to give feedback on activities and look for activities in other Learning Destinations. You can purchase through the school an individually numbered paper 'Passport to Learning', for £5, in which your child can collect stamps and stickers to demonstrate the number of hours of learning they have achieved in activities at other CU Learning Destinations such as The Coventry Transport Museum. (See below). The time they spend in activities will count towards nationally recognised certificates celebrating their hours of learning. Once they reach a certain level, they will be given the opportunity to attend the annual Children's University Graduation ceremony at a local University together with their family.

#### **The official national Children's University Trust™ Awards**

The first level is called the Undergraduate level - e.g. Award level

30 hours =	Bronze
65 hours =	Silver
100 hours =	Gold

There are progressive steps leading all the way up to 1000 hours of learning at the top Doctorate level. We ask children to participate in at least 10 hours of 'something new' for each award level above Bronze/Award level.

Students from Finham Primary have already experienced the Children's University and may have a paper 'Passports to Learning'. Other Partner Primary schools are joining in so when their students come to Finham Park they will be able to continue to gain recognition for their involvement in out of hours learning.

To find out where other Learning Destinations are visit [www.childreuniversity.co.uk](http://www.childreuniversity.co.uk) and click on the Learning Destination section on the front page. Further information will also be listed on the school website and the 'E-Passport'. For more information about the Children's University either access the Children's University website or contact the local Children's University office on 0121 333 3132.

I do hope you will support your child in this exciting and enjoyable venture and to help them to gain recognition for their involvement in extracurricular activities, achieve their Children's University™ awards and to have fun.

Yours sincerely,

W. Webster  
Assistant Headteacher

**Children's University Paper Passport Order Form**

**Please return this form in a sealed envelope marked Children's University Passport to the Finance Office in C Block before Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014.**

I would like to order a Children's University Paper Passport for my child to record participation in activities at Learning Destinations other than Finham Park.

I have enclosed a cheque (made payable to **Finham Park School**) for £5 in a sealed envelope marked Children's University Passport, for each Passport required

Child's Name..... Mentor Group..... Year 7

**The deadline for orders is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014.**

After this date we will order the Passports from the Children's University and distribute them to students on their arrival.