



... **success is not defined by academic achievement** ...

To provide choices and opportunities that allow children to develop at their own pace and to follow their own interests. *Summerhill does not aim to produce specific types of young people, with specific, assessed skills or knowledge, but aims to provide an environment in which children can define who they are and what they want to be. Summerhill policy statement*

I have been relaxed, open minded and I have found my personality here so people can see who I am and not what grades I get. *Jake pupil*

Because of non-compulsory lessons I enjoy learning, I am not prejudiced against teachers, I am mature in my attitude towards learning.

Martine pupil

The friendships I have made are meaningful and will last forever.

I know that I don't need to have 10 GCSEs to be a worthy person.

They are not that important. *Camilla pupil*

Summerhill gave me the one precious, key condition for learning: if there is something I don't know, I am eager to learn about it. I have a strong desire to learn and improve myself. I see learning as a lifelong



process, in which the most important thing is motivation – the thirst – to go on and feed your mind. *Alex R. ex-pupil*

Most of the school work that adolescents do is simply a waste of time, of energy, of patience. It robs youth of its right to play and play and play, it puts old heads on young shoulders. *A.S. Neill*

I don't feel disadvantaged. In fact I feel advantaged because I know how to think for myself and work things out for myself. *Jessè pupil*

Look at who we, the Summerhillians, have become: we are artists, writers, professors, scientists, soldiers, administrators, theologians,

bankers, musicians, carpenters, landscape architects, small business owners. We hold BA's, MA's and PhD's. We vote. We are

precisely the 'useful' people their curricula is designed to produce! And we are happy and productive to boot. *Martha ex-pupil*

I would rather Summerhill produced a happy street sweeper than a neurotic Prime Minister. *A.S. Neill*

