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PRESS RELEASE: What the Dickens? Confidence Boost for Local Teenagers from Radio Play

Teenagers from across Surrey and Hampshire who came together to create a unique radio version of Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol*, say it has helped boost their confidence and skills.

The Radio Live initiative saw Eagle Radio join forces with G Live Creative Learning Department to record an original script, as well as the teenagers producing their own sound effects for the play, which will be broadcast on-air across Surrey and Hampshire. In addition they also gained a recognised Trinity Bronze Arts Award in recognition of their efforts.

The twenty-two participants ranged from eleven to seventeen and included children with cystic fibrosis, dyslexia and autism. They included pupils from Farnborough 6th Form, Godalming College and Woking High School, as well as schools across the south east.

Research undertaken by Eagle Radio has found that individuals who took part in the course increased their confidence in areas such as working with others, asking questions and having a go at new things by up to 22%. 72% also said that they wanted to read more of Dickens' work, with a big increase in the number saying that they wanted to work in a creative industry.

Teenagers who took part in the sessions remarked: "It got better every day, and every day I made new friends and bonded with the people around me" while one parent hailed the unique course as "Good for confidence and career aspirations."

Chris Howell from Eagle Radio said: "We spend a lot of time working closely with community groups to improve our local area and the future prospects within it, but we were still blown away by the talent and commitment that this group of young people displayed as they put together the production. Many remarked that it would stand them in good stead when writing a CV or applying to university, so it is





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heartening to see that in these tougher times many young people are taking responsibility to improve their own futures. We were immensely proud to broadcast the finished production and have already received all manner of positive feedback about it."

Jo Wright, Creative Learning Manager at G Live said: "Each young person is able to identify areas in which they would like to learn and grow and our practitioners work hard to tailor the experience to each of them; outcomes are as diverse as improved spoken English, better social skills, experience of working as a team in what essentially constitutes an arts job environment, or simply the ability to make new and better friends in a social environment that does not have the same pressures or confines of school."

A *Christmas Carol* will be broadcast on Eagle Extra on Thursday 20th December 6pm, Christmas Eve at 4pm and Christmas Day at 2pm..

The next Radio Live course, *Things that go BUMP in the night*, is running February half term, find out more at www.964eagle.co.uk/radiolive

Notes to Editors:

Children who attended the course came from the following schools: Collingwood College, Priors Field School, Heathside, Morehouse School, Woking High School, St Peters Guildford, Farnborough 6th Form, Samuel Cody School, Godalming College, Kings International, Winston Churchill, Christs College, Tormead School, Putney High School.

Attached are images from the course which are for your use. Please credit Eagle Radio.

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