



**Would you enjoy being a child actor?  
(Primary, Secondary & College)  
24<sup>th</sup> Apr 2020 – 01<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

**Question Primary:**

“Would you like to be a child actor?”

**Question Secondary:**

“Would you enjoy being a child actor?”

**Question Secondary 16+:**

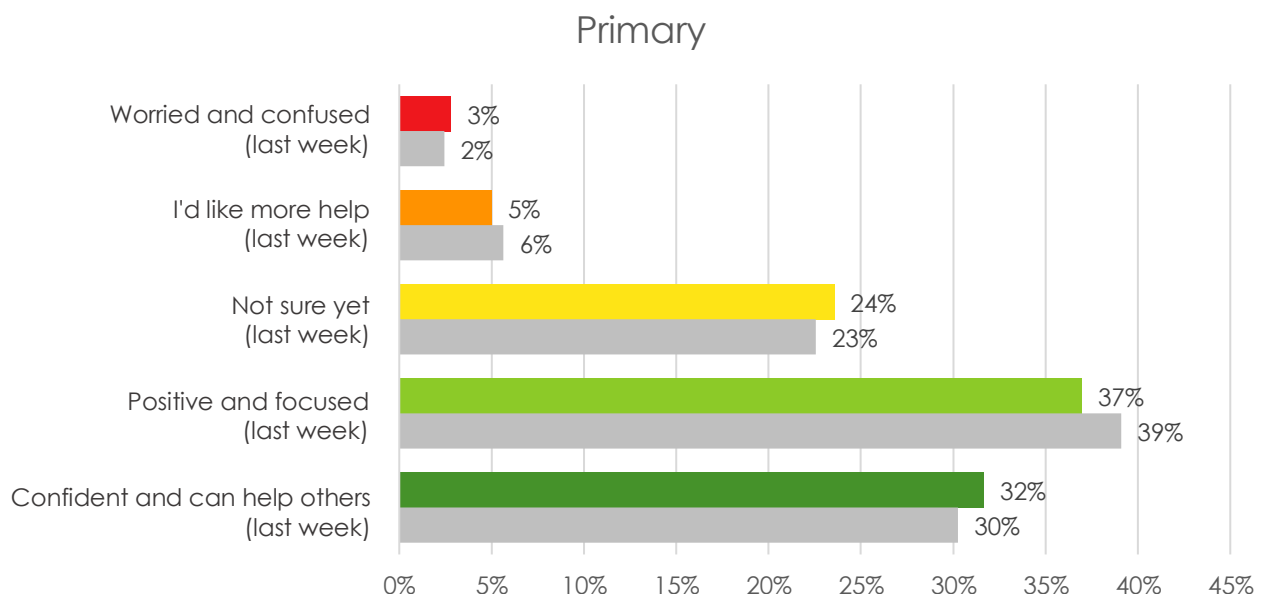
“Are child actors unfairly scrutinised?”

**Question College:**

“Are child actors unfairly scrutinised?”

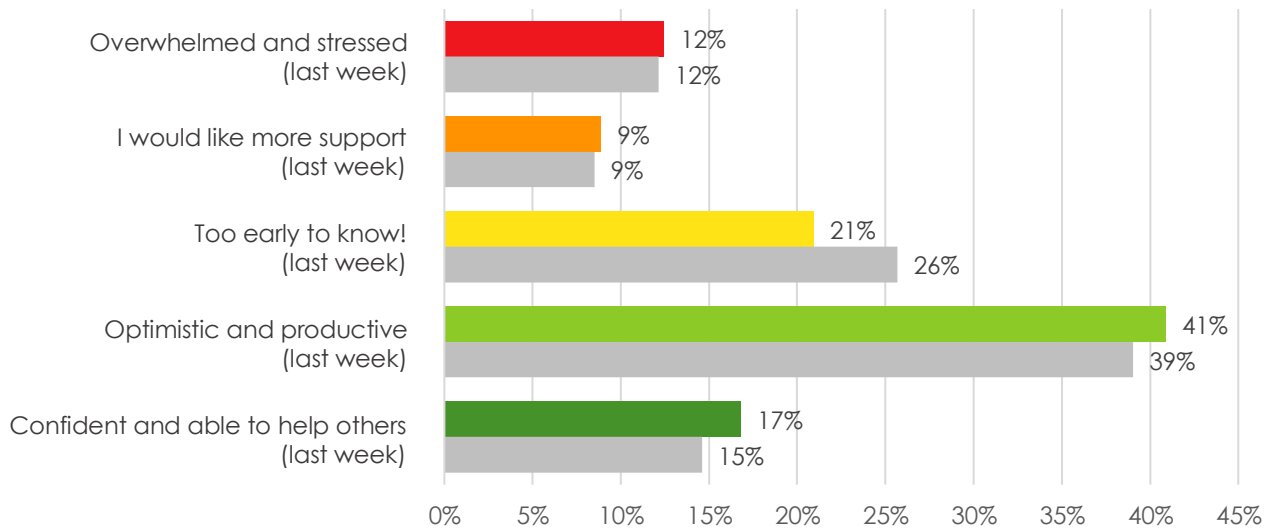
Due to the Coronavirus crisis, schools in the UK were mostly closed this week. As a result, students/pupils instead engaged with our content from home. While usually our votes are logged by teachers, we set up links for students/pupils and parents to vote independently. The response was overwhelming as many took the opportunity to have their voice heard from home.

As part of our vote this week, we encouraged students to share how they were feeling about learning from home with us. Here is an insight into what they said:

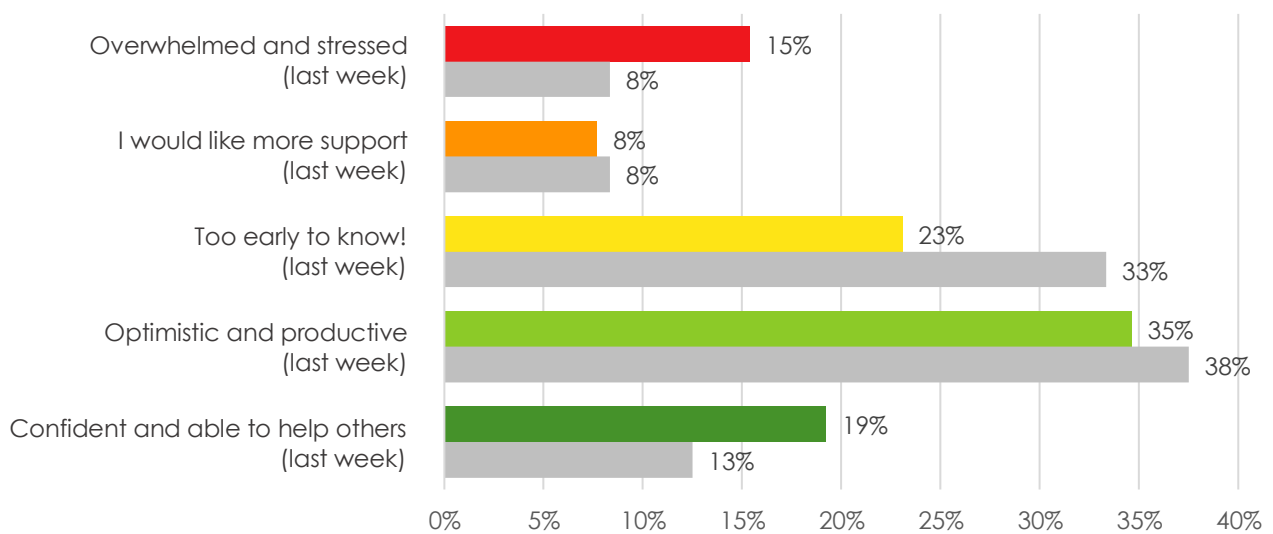




## Secondary



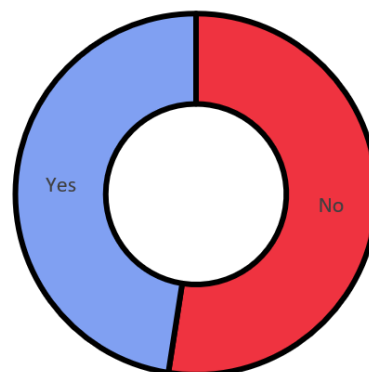
## 16+ and College



### Grand Total

Primary:  
Would you like to be  
a child actor?  
Yes 47.55%  
No 52.45%

Yes  
47.5%



No  
52.5%

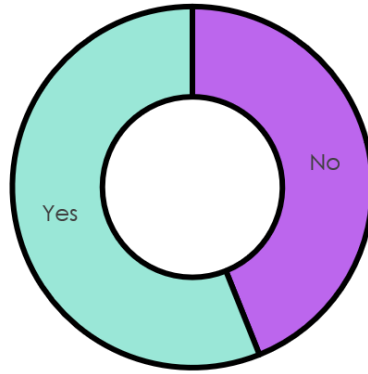


Secondary:

Would you enjoy being a child actor?

Yes 56.1%

No 43.9%



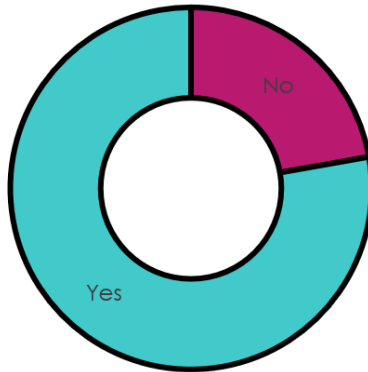
Yes 56.07%  
No 43.93%

16+ and College:

Are child actors unfairly scrutinised?

Yes 77.8%

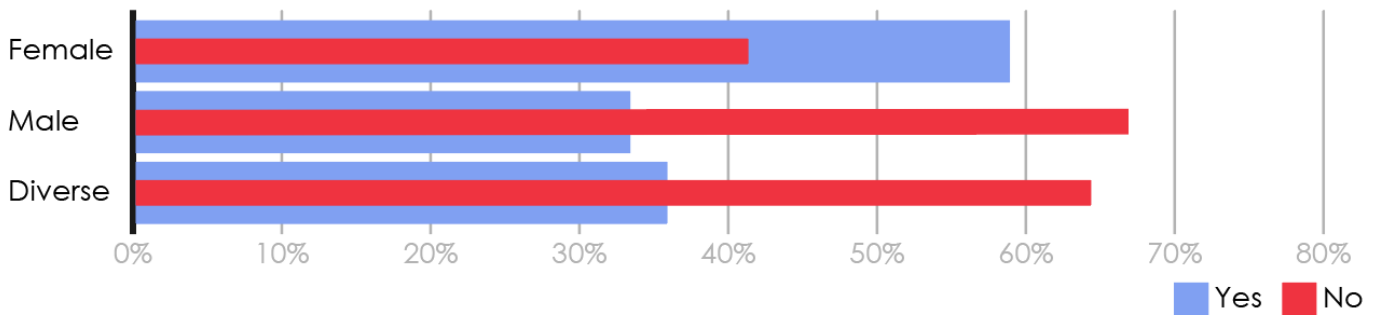
No 22.2%



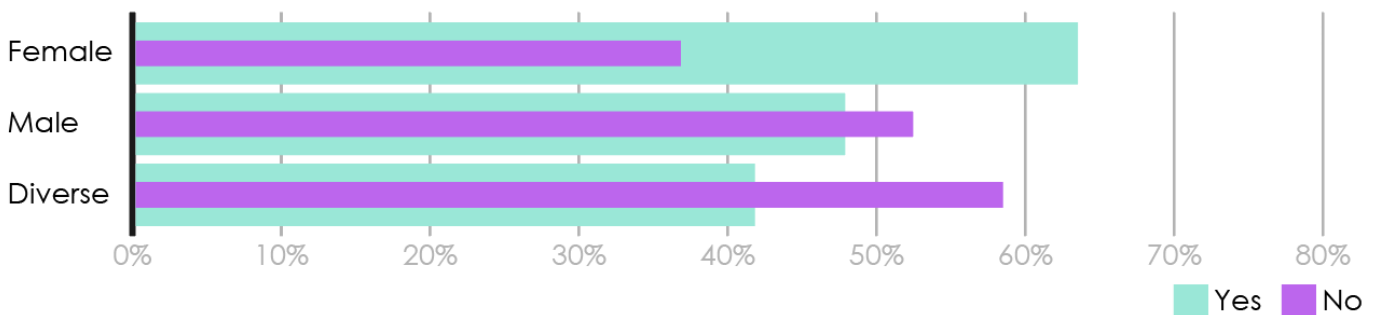
Yes 77.78%  
No 22.22%

Gender

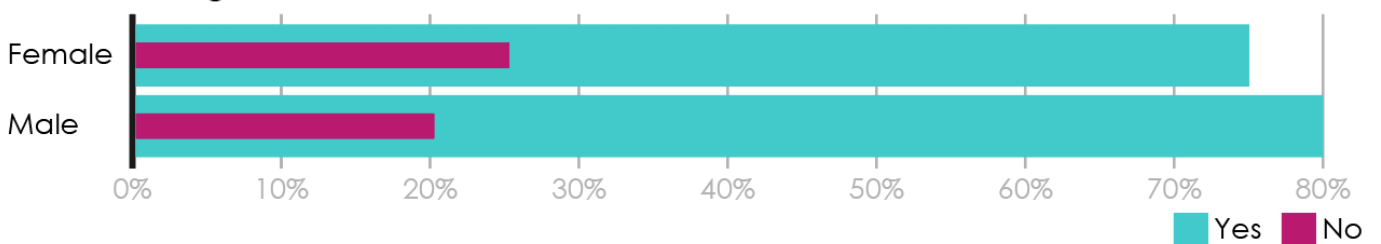
**Primary**



**Secondary**



**16+ and College**





Primary:

	Yes %	No %
Female	58.81%	41.19%
Male	33.22%	66.78%
Diverse	35.71%	64.29%

Both in Primary schools and Secondary schools, **more female voters said Yes**, they would enjoy being a child actor, compared to males.

Secondary:

	Yes %	No %
Female	63.40%	36.60%
Male	47.67%	52.33%
Diverse	41.58%	58.42%

In **Primary schools 25.59% more females said Yes** compared to male voters and in **Secondary schools 15.73% more voted Yes**.

Primary and Secondary Total:

	Yes %	No %
Female	62.48%	37.52%
Male	44.88%	55.12%
Diverse	40.31%	59.69%

In Secondary schools **gender diverse voters** had the smallest percentage of Yes votes, with 6.09% fewer saying Yes than male voters. In Primary schools 2.49% more gender diverse students voted Yes, compared to male voters.

16+ and College:

	Yes %	No %
Female	75.00%	25.00%
Male	80.00%	20.00%

By comparison, **16+ and College students were asked the question: "Are child actors unfairly scrutinised?"**. Here the **difference between female and male votes is the smallest** with only 5% more male students saying Yes compared to female students.

In the week of **07<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020**, we asked students to vote on the question: **"Do you want to be internet famous?"**. The below tables show how the different genders voted back in February. **Fig.1 (Primary)** and **Fig. 2 (Secondary)** show a comparison of the Yes Vote percentages to the results outlined in this report, were students where asked: **"Would you enjoy being a child actor?"**.

Primary:

	Yes %	No %
Female	50.43%	49.57%
Male	33.33%	66.67%
Diverse	45.50%	54.50%

Secondary:

	Yes %	No %
Female	61.68%	38.32%
Male	45.69%	54.31%
Diverse	56.09%	43.91%

Fig.1:

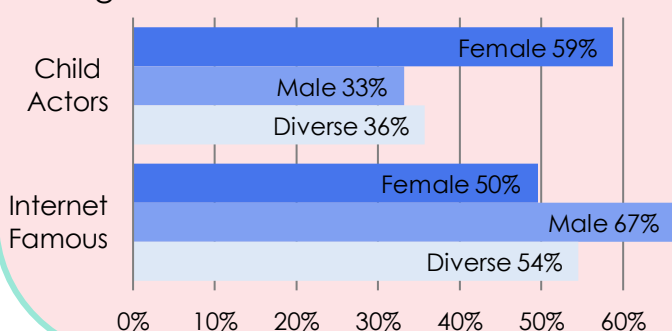
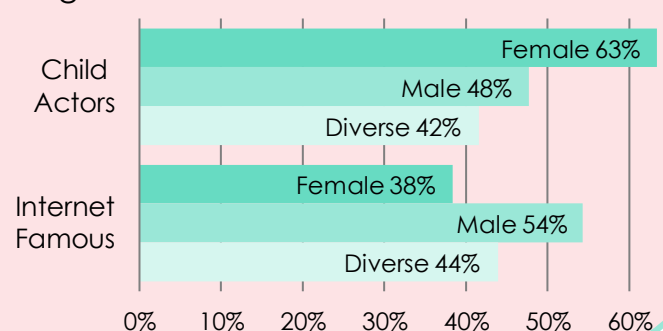


Fig.2:

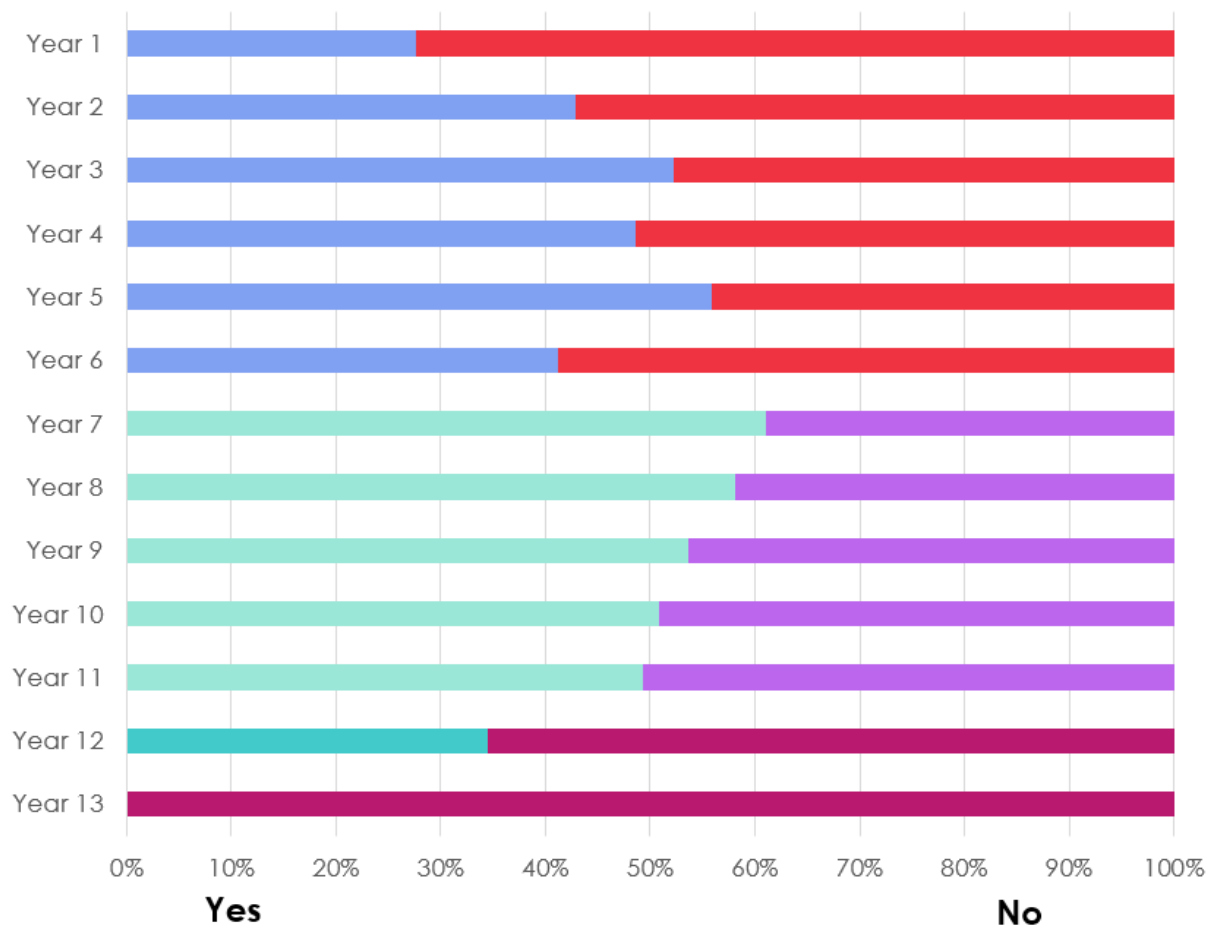




## Age

Year Group	Yes %	No %
1	27.59%	72.41%
2	42.86%	57.14%
3	52.17%	47.83%
4	48.55%	51.45%
5	55.92%	44.08%
6	41.20%	58.80%
7	61.10%	38.90%
8	58.15%	41.85%
9	53.66%	46.34%
10	50.87%	49.13%
11	49.34%	50.66%
12	34.55%	65.45%
13	0.00%	100%
Parent/Caregiver	25.00%	75.00%

### Votes by Year Group





## Students' Comments: Would you enjoy being a child actor?

"I always really wanted to be an actress and **starting as a child will get you loads of different experiences** which would help in later life."

Primary School, London

"Not only would I be able to **earn money from a young age** but acting is **a career I can peruse** my whole life, and if I'm lucky enough, I could become an actor."

Primary School, Berkshire

"There would be **endless opportunities!** I'd **make new friends and go to new places** which would be exciting and beneficial."

Primary School, Oxfordshire

"I **love watching movies** and I have always wanted to be in one."

Primary School, Surrey

"It would be awesome because **school is not really what everyone wants to be doing.**"

Secondary School, West Midlands

"It could be a really great way to **be more confident, increase your self-esteem and broaden your mind.** It would also **help to understand mistakes**, successes and drawbacks, analysing them and get better."

Secondary School, Surrey

"It **teaches you many different lessons** that I need to know in life and **lets me interact with and meet new people.** It would really cool to meet famous people, my idols that inspire me and shock me. It **would be a surreal experience.**"

Secondary School, Essex

"It's only on **rare occasions** where you get to do that sort of thing and **for many it's their dream.**"

Secondary School, Surrey

"I think that **stress is a part of being an actor** and dealing with it at a young age could mean that it would be **easier to deal with when they grow up.**"

Secondary School, Essex



“Having to **leave my family for however long would be hard** enough let alone the **pressure/stress** and leaving school to then having a missing piece of you education. Even if it is possible to learn on the road, there would be no way to focus like the average child.”

Primary School, Cambridgeshire

“It is **too much of a responsibility** for me to take on and it would take hours of practice and would **eat into my school time.**”

Primary School, unknown

“I would not want to be a child actor because it **would make you miss a lot of your learning** and what if you didn't do well it will mean you've wasted some of your time.”

Primary School, London

“At first I was totally up for it but then finding out about missing family going to so many places and doing so much to get things right, but **I would definitely want to when I am older.**”

Primary School, Surrey

“I would **miss my family and my friends**, and it will take a lot off my own time up.”

Primary School, Cambridgeshire

“You **wouldn't have a normal childhood** and you would be bombarded with interviews.”

Secondary School, West Midlands

“I think it would be **too stressful** and you would feel that **someone always wants something from you**. Also, I personally **don't like standing out** and being the centre of attention.”

Secondary School, Bristol

“Child actors are put under **a lot of pressure** as the scene has to be perfect and there are **a lot of things they will have to get used to** and may not lead such a normal life as things they act in they can't tell others which is hard for children at young ages.”

Secondary School, South Yorkshire

“You **miss months of school and valuable learning time** and the tutor you are provided with does not cover the topics in the same way a teacher would.”

Secondary School, Surrey



## Students' Comments: "Are child actors unfairly scrutinised?"

"Many prodigy child actors have been **abused for money**, have been **exposed to highly addictive drugs and are unable to stop their addiction.**

Child actors need to be supported by others in the industry and the companies they are working for in order to keep a healthy balanced lifestyle between work and leisure time. It's also important for the media to pick up on this as they can also be a primary cause to depression etc within the industry as many child actors and adults cannot cope with the fame so suddenly and are hounded by the press constantly. There needs to be a **law enforced where press is not allowed to visit private homes or take pictures at the airport of celebrities who have just landed.** The worst part about this subject is the fact that **the press feed on actors \ celebrities who are already in a dark place** and this leads to further depression, anxiety and addiction."

College, West Midlands

"Judging a child's skill and talent is one thing but **criticising them for how they behave and act outside of acting is wrong.**"

Secondary 16+, Essex

"Child actors are sometimes scrutinised more often than adult actors as they **get criticised for being too "adult like"**. Furthermore, the younger generation actors are more likely to have **social media which is the biggest platform for scrutiny,** than older actors. Thus, I believe **social media has one of the biggest roles to play in this.**"

Secondary 16+, Hertfordshire

"I believe child actors are unfairly scrutinised as it would be seen as **unacceptable to criticise children to the extent that child actors are in any other context!**"

Secondary 16+, Hertfordshire

"Whilst the scrutiny placed on child actors isn't necessarily worse than for adult actors, especially since fewer biases and personal grudges would be held against younger actors by the media, **the effects of mass scrutiny and fame can be more devastating an overwhelming for children.** The issue is that the media still takes this rather immoral standpoint because of the success such articles would have, **taking easy jobs at the ability of child actors** when they **should give more leeway** with the repercussions of childhood fame in mind."

Secondary 16+, Essex