

Governing Body Termly Updates to Parents – 2017-18

Summer 2 2018

The final Committee meetings and full Governing Body Meeting for the year have now taken place. The Governing Body welcomed our newly elected parent governor, Michelle McCalden, and our newly elected staff governor, Tina Courtenay-Thompson, both of whom were in attendance to observe the meeting, and to be fully appointed for the start of the new academic year.

With the external exams having now concluded, we now all eagerly await the GCSE and A-Level exam results in August, and wish all students the very best when they receive their results and hope they lead to a wonderful pathway for their future life.

The Academy's School Improvement Partners (SIPs), Sue Gregory and Marcia Headon, visited the Academy in June, and Sue Gregory also attended the Governing Body Meeting. The governors warmly welcomed the reassurance and positive feedback received from our SIPs, with the leadership and Academy team continuing to work well and teaching and learning being maintained at a very high standard. This was further supported in the review of the Academy's Self Evaluation Form (SEF).

The governors reviewed and approved the budget for 2018-19 and also reviewed the three to five year strategic financial forecast, ensuring the planning for future budgets and priorities continue to be reviewed and monitored.

The GDPR policies were reviewed and approved by the governors, and will be published on the Academy's website in due course.

The governors finalised the Governance SEF, with reflection having taken place on all aspects of governance at the Academy. The governors are keen to develop further the links with the Academy community, and to have further community representation on the Governing Body. We are always keen to receive applications to the Governing Body from our local community, and to then appoint new governors when positions arise. Please do direct any expressions of interest / recommendations to the Clerk to the Governors.

The Parent Feedback Survey has been emailed to all parents, if you haven't received, please access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B52GVDK>

Your feedback is greatly appreciated, and supports our future development plans.

The governors would like to thank the leadership team, staff and students at the Academy for an excellent year, and to wish everyone a very well deserved summer break.

If you have any specific questions to raise with governors, please do so directly via the Clerk to the Governors, Louise Garcia: l.garcia@uclacademy.co.uk. Please note that all governor updates to parents for the academic year can also be found under the Governance section of the website.

Best regards
Lucie Green, Chair of Governors

Summer 1 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

The Governing Body have held the Summer 1 round of meetings. As a part of the Governing Body meeting, we were taken on a tour of the Academy, viewing Engineering, Art, the nurture room, the sixth form, and science. Thanks were raised to the students for taking us on the tour.

There were a number of policies reviewed by the governors, with the following policies having been updated and will be published on the Academy's website in due course:

SEND Policy
Complaints Procedure
Data Retention Policy

A wide variety of discussions were held covering areas including student progress and attainment, in particular for those students approaching their external exams, with further review of all student data to be taken in the Summer 2 term.

The governors also discussed progress to the Academy's five year strategic development plan, and undertook a self-evaluation of Governance.

We wish all students taking exams the very best and congratulate staff on all their work.

Key items coming up for next term (Summer 2) include the following: Full data review of Spring term data; review of the Academy's SEF and priorities for 2018-19; Governors' Committee planning for 2018-19. We also have our Academy Trust meeting with our Sponsor members from UCL.

Thank you to Michael Jacobi and Michelle McCalden for submitting applications to become the parent governor. The outcome of the election will be announced in due course, with the election closing on Thursday 24th May.

We are pleased to announce our newly elected staff governor, Tina Courtenay-Thompson.

If you have any specific questions to raise to governors, please do direct these via the Clerk to the Governors, Louise Garcia: l.garcia@uclacademy.co.uk

Please note that all governor updates to parents for the academic year can also be found under the Governance section of the website.

Best regards
Lucie Green, Chair of Governors

Spring 2 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

The governors have held the Spring 2 round of Committee meetings, and the full Governing Body Meeting, with the key focus across all meetings involving the full review of the Autumn term data, with particular attention on the Level 2+ cohort approaching their GCSEs this summer.

This year will see the majority of GCSEs moving to new specifications, and the grading of 1-9. Similar to last year, there continues to be uncertainties with grade boundaries for the new exams, however

the Academy team have been externally moderating and reviewing assessments throughout the year, in order to best prepare for the upcoming exams.

Best wishes are sent to all students as they revise and begin their exams.

The Academy welcomed our School Improvement Partners (SIPs) and also a peer review by Challenge Partners, with the reports of both visits being reviewed by the Governing Body, and noted as being very positive.

The governors reviewed and approved policies, as per our annual schedule, and the updated policies will be uploaded on the Academy's website in the coming weeks.

The Charging and Remissions Policy has been updated, with a new section included regarding charging for damages. The governors are mindful that any charges would be in circumstances where deliberate damage has been caused, and where deemed appropriate to sanction by the Co-Principals.

The governors received a presentation on the Collaborative Group Learning, and the learning sets in place, with this being a unique feature to the Academy.

There have been a number of Link Governor Visits taking place over the term, and with governors also having been in attendance at the STEM week. Congratulations were raised to the Academy team for such a successful and positive week of activities and opportunities for the students to engage in.

The Governing Body will be advertising for a new parent governor over the Summer term, with information to follow on how to apply and the requirements of the role, please do look out for this in future bulletins.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable and restful Spring break.

If you have any specific questions to raise to the governors, please do direct these via the Clerk to the Governors, Louise Garcia: l.garcia@uclacademy.co.uk

Please note that all governor updates to parents for the academic year can also be found under the Governance section of the website.

Best regards
Lucie Green, Chair of Governors

Spring 1 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

It has been a great first term as Chair of Governors, and I've enjoyed visiting the Academy and meeting more of our students and staff.

I've really valued the students giving up their time to talk to me about their experience at the Academy, and in proudly taking me around to see lessons in progress.

Our staff continue to work extremely hard, and it was very encouraging to meet with our current NQTs and to see their dedication and commitment to the role.

The importance of how space is used to meet the needs of all our learners is highly commended, for example the role of the Library for both students and the community through events like the UAPA Coffee Mornings.

The governors have held the Spring 1 round of Committee meetings, with the Admissions Committee and Staffing Committee having met.

The Admissions Committee reviewed the social and medical applications for entry into Foundation in September 2018, and will be raising points to Camden so as to ensure the process of applications via this route are clear for all applicants, with full and detailed evidence required to support the applications.

The Committee received updates on the Level 3 applications, with the Academy continuing to be a popular choice of sixth form provision.

The Staffing Committee discussed the Academy's focus on ensuring staff wellbeing, and the positive impact this then has on the students we serve.

The Academy's Staff Association has been progressing, with meetings held by our Chair of the Staffing Committee, Jessica Learmond-Criqui, and a positive response from staff keen to be involved.

The works to the reception area will be commencing over the February half term break, and we are all very excited to see the improvements to the area when the work has completed.

Key items coming up for next term (Spring 2) include the following: Full data analysis of the Autumn term, a review of the One Year Operating Plan and Self Evaluation Framework.

Looking ahead, the STEM week (9th – 16th March) will be another example of innovative and engaging activities for the students to be involved in, and we look forward to hearing about the successes of the week.

If you have any specific questions to raise to governors, please do direct these via the Clerk to the Governors, Louise Garcia: l.garcia@uclacademy.co.uk

Best regards
Lucie Green, Chair of Governors

Autumn 2 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

This update to parents will be my last as Chair of Governors, as I am stepping down at the end of this term, with Lucie Green confirmed as the new Chair of Governors to commence from January.

It has been an honour and a huge pleasure to be Chair of Governors for UCL Academy for the past seven years. This time has seen our wonderful building planned and completed, and excellent and committed students arrive and now fill the Academy. I thoroughly enjoyed working with our Founding Principal Geraldine Davies, and more recently with our two Co-Principals Robin Street and Simon McBride, and Louise Garcia, our excellent Clerk to the Governors. I have delighted in seeing how the staff have grown and developed over the years, and I know I leave the Academy functioning outstandingly and on a firm financial footing. I wish all students, staff and parents well for the future, which I know will be bright and full of success.

More recently the governors concluded the Autumn 2 term round of Committee meetings, and full Governing Body Meeting, as well as the Academy Trust meeting with our Sponsor, UCL.

The governors held a working group, so as to Self-Evaluate the governance in place. Areas identified for further development included wider communication with the Academy community. The governors are reviewing ways to develop this, and will notify parents in due course of developments.

In the new year we will be advertising for a new parent governor to join the Governing Body, this will be via self-nomination, and then election, if more than one application is received. Please look out for further information on this in the new year.

A full Safeguarding Annual Report was presented at the Governing Body meeting, with the Academy continuing to drive exemplary Safeguarding processes and practice. The Governing Body highly commended the Academy team for this.

We also met the Academy's Student Wellbeing Ambassadors, and were all highly impressed with their commitment to furthering the student voice at the Academy, and in raising key areas for development for the leadership team to consider.

The Academy's Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2016-17 were reviewed and approved by the Governing Body, and will be published on the website in due course.

With our Sponsor, UCL, the GCSE and A-Level outcomes were shared, and were highly commended by all. The Sponsor and governors raise thanks to the whole Academy community for the collaborative approach to achieving such positive outcomes in the summer.

As I have said, it has been a pleasure serving the Academy over the last seven years, and I very much look forward to hearing about the continued developments and achievements of the Academy in the years to come.

We wish you all a very enjoyable winter break.

My best regards,

David Price, Chair of Governors

Autumn 1 2017

A welcome to all new students, and those returning, as we approach the end of the first half term in Autumn.

The Governing Body have met over the term, with our Standards Committee and Admissions Committee having met, followed by the full Governing Body meeting being held.

One of the main items of review across the meetings has been that of our excellent GCSE and A-Level outcomes from the summer. Huge thanks are raised to all students and staff for their collective hard work and dedication in achieving such strong outcomes – we are all absolutely thrilled with the achievements of our Founding Cohort, and look forward to continued drive and rigour in maintaining such standards in future years.

Thank you to all who responded to the Parent Feedback Survey. The survey results and feedback received are being reviewed further by the leadership team, and will support in informing areas of future development, and improvements in communications with the Academy community.

The Governing Body reviewed the Academy's Self Evaluation Framework (SEF) and the School Development Plan (SDP), both of which are interlinked, and focus on the key strategic developments of the Academy as we continue to strive forwards.

Our School Improvement Partners (SIPs) attended this term, observing lessons and reviewing our 2016-17 progress and attainment data. The SIPs continue to support and challenge the Academy, and to also externally validate the strong practice in place across the Academy.

The Co-Principal model has continued to be monitored and reviewed by the Governing Body, and the governors have felt highly reassured that the model is working well and that teaching and learning and outcomes have been maintained at a high standard. The Governing Body and Sponsor have confirmed the continuation of the Co-Principal model as substantive posts.

The impact of Disadvantaged Student Funding has been reviewed, along with the Year 7 Catch Up Premium, with the reports to be uploaded on the Academy website for information in due course. The progress of Disadvantaged Students has been particularly strong, with an indicative Progress 8 of 0.29 for Disadvantaged Student.

Key items coming up for the next term include the following: Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2016-17; Safeguarding Annual Report; Academy Trust meeting with our Sponsor, UCL.

If you have any specific questions to raise to governors, please do direct these via the Clerk to the Governors, Louise Garcia: l.garcia@uclacademy.co.uk

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Best regards
David Price, Chair of Governors