



Parent e-Bulletin

Tuesday 3rd May 2016

Welcome to the fortnightly Parent e-Bulletin, the best place to be informed about upcoming key events, important changes to the previously published schedule, general notices and news updates.

Please see the below summary of upcoming dates to mark in the calendar for this Half Term. **In green are new dates/events which have been added.**

Also included is a brief summary of just some of the many activities and headlines that have taken place at the Academy recently.

Important Upcoming Dates and Events

Thursday 5th May – Level 1+ Parent Consultation Evening

4:00pm-6:30pm. This is for Level 1+ only.

Friday 6th May – Late start 9:25am

The Academy day will start at 9:25am for all students.

Monday 9th May – Senior Leadership Team Drop In

4:30pm – 6:00pm. Parents, carers and guardians with any general queries are invited to drop in for an informal discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Thursday 19th May – Staff Planning Day

Due to a scheduled Staff Planning Day, the Academy will be closed to all students.

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June – HALF TERM BREAK

Monday 6th June – 9:25am start for all students

Monday 6th June – Friday 10th June – Assessment Week

In the first week back after the half term break, students will be sitting formal exams and assessments. A more detailed letter will follow for parents and students to support student preparation. There will be some timing changes to the Academy day.

Monday 13th June – Thursday 16th June – Festival Week

Festival week will follow Assessment week; more detailed letters will follow. There will be some changes to the Academy day.

Friday 17th June – Academy Closed

Academy is closed to support staff planning for the new GCSE and A level courses.

Thursday 30th June – UAPA Coffee Morning

8:45am – 10:00am. All parents, carers and guardians are invited to the Academy for the UAPA (UCL Academy Parents' Association) coffee morning. You can contact the UAPA by email at parents.association@uclacademy.co.uk

Monday 4th July – Academy Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day will be taking place on Monday 4th July 2016 at Willesden Sports Centre Athletics Track. More detailed letters will follow.

Monday 4th July – Senior Leadership Team Drop In

4:30pm – 6:00pm. Parents, carers and guardians with any general queries are invited to drop in for an informal discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Wednesday 6th July – Staff Planning Day

Due to a scheduled Staff Planning Day, the Academy will be closed to all students.

Friday 15th July – 12.30pm finish for all students.

N.B Changes to the end of Summer Term 2016

Governors have agreed to additional planning time for staff to support new GCSE and A level syllabus planning. The term will end for students on Friday 15th July at 12:30pm.

Important Notices

Level 1 + Consultation

Level 1+ parents are reminded to book their appointments online via our booking system: <https://uclacademy.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

Late Start 6th May

Please note that on Monday 6th May, there will be a late start of 9:25am for all students.

Senior Leadership Team Drop-in 9th May

Parents, carers and guardians are reminded that there is a SLT drop-in session between 4:30pm – 6:00pm on Monday 9th May. If you have any general queries please feel free to drop-in for an informal discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Minor Change to Monday Start Time

As previously communicated, please be reminded that for the remainder of the Summer Term the Academy Day will start at 8:40am on Mondays (unless otherwise advised of a late start).

Student Punctuality

We have noticed that a core groups of students are using travel problems as an excuse for arriving a few minutes late in the morning – can we urge all parents and carers to ensure their child is leaving an appropriate amount of time to arrive ready to learn at 08:30am. Your support as ever is appreciated. Please inform the office if there is a legitimate reason for your son or daughter's lateness.

General Notices

Launch of School Counselling Service - 'Open Minded'

Students are now able to self-refer themselves to the school therapy and counselling service. This service is an addition to the Tavistock and Portman, NHS Camden CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) service which is already in place in school, and for the past two years has been providing specialist support for pupils, referred by members of staff.



What's Been Happening at the Academy?

Just a brief list of key headlines at the Academy:

- *Very proud of Ms Dydymka for running the London marathon and raising money for the National Autistic Society. If you would like to sponsor Ms Dydymka , please go to: <https://nas-london-marathon-2016.everydayhero.com/uk/emily#>*
- *Great participation levels and excitement for all our students sitting the National Maths Challenge last week*
- *Baroness Garden visited and spoke to our Level 3 students about the role of peers in the House of Lords*
- *Fantastic turnout and presentations by foundation students at the Humanities Celebration of learning last week*
- *Great to see so many familiar faces at the parents UAPA coffee morning discussing the power of the Connected Curriculum*
- *House senators planning their house days out for festival week - students and staff equally excited!*



Please do follow our Twitter Account and Facebook page to keep further updated.

Ideas for parents and carers to support students on Academy planning days

After a great suggestion from one of our parents last week, watch this space for ideas, inspiration and advice what to do with your children on planning days that will support the big ideas and Grand challenges of the Connected curriculum. Mr Street will be sending out some of the key documents shared with parents last week to help parents further understand and learn about the Connected Curriculum and the student experience.

Work Experience: Can you help us?

Thank you so much for all the volunteers so far. We will be touch soon to move forward!

We have 180 students in Level 2 who will be doing work experience in Summer Term, 2016. We request your assistance in two ways:

- Would you like to be part of a parent work link group? This will be a role to help organise parents to provide work experience to students.
- Would you or your company / job be able to offer work experience to a 15 year old for a week?

If either of these are the case please email the school at careers@uclacademy.co.uk with your name and the level of engagement you would like to commit to.

We also have 100 students in Level 3 that will be going on work experience in July 2016.

These students are 17 years old on average. If this is an age group that may suit your company more, it would be great to hear from you.

Thank you in advance,

Alison Dewhirst

Curriculum Leader for Careers, Enterprise and Work-Related Learning

GCSE Revision and Study Skills

We have provided a text book to all students that we hope they will use effectively to help guide them through their journey at Level 2/2+.

We also recommend you read it so you can support them in their first external exam period.

A session for parents will take place later in the term that will give practical advice to help with the upcoming exam seasons.

General Housekeeping

The Academy in the Local Community

Local groups, businesses, and organisations are making increasing use of facilities at the Academy. This is very much in line with our desire to be at the heart of the local community. While the majority of our students represent the Academy superbly on the way to and home from school, we would ask all parents and carers to remind their children of the following:

- Guidance from PC Sweeney and Metropolitan Police: Parents and students should remain aware that any toys that could be misconstrued as weapons are completely banned from the Academy. We urge parents and students to hand any such inappropriate toys to the Police. These include objects such as laser pens, BB guns or any replica weapons. **We have a no tolerance approach to any student bringing in objects that may be seen as a weapon.**
- Students should wear their uniform as per the expectations set until they are home or well out of sight of the Academy.

- We continue to work with Camden Council in regards to the traffic challenges and road crossings around the Academy. Our students in the main are exemplary in terms of how they cross the roads and use public transport. They must though always be vigilant, careful and respectful of others. This is something we have made very clear at the Academy and confirmation of this from home can only help us keep our students safe.

The UCL Academy's Digital Citizens

Our children are the first generation to grow up in a completely digital age. We work constantly to ensure students remain safe online and understand how to act ethically and thoughtfully online. Parents and Teachers must work in partnership. From now on every parent bulletin will include links, ideas and suggestions to help parents remain up to speed on what can be a difficult area to keep up with your children with!

- <http://ceop.police.uk/> - an ideal place to start for all parents, carers and guardians with easy-to-understand guidance for the challenges of keeping children safe online.
- <https://www.common sense media.org/social-media> - US based website that outlines the key areas of social media that your children may be surprised to know you know about.

Timings of the Academy Day

Please note that you can find the structure for the Academy day based on year level here: <http://www.uclacademy.co.uk/The-Academy-Day>. This includes start and finish times for each year level.

Student Absences

Please be reminded that the correct procedure for reporting your child's absence is by calling 020 7449 3080 and pressing option 1 (student absence) where you will be directed to the Attendance Officer.

Punctuality in the Morning

The majority of our students are consistently punctual to The Academy, ready to learn every morning. To maintain these high standards and to ensure that all students understand the importance of arriving to school punctually, we have begun sanctioning students who are consistently late over a one or two week period. This sanction runs from 15:35-16:00pm for Foundation, Level 1 and Level 1 + and 16:30pm-1700pm for other students on a Friday. Students who arrive at school without a note (or a phone-call) from a parent or carer to explain lateness, **more than once in a week** will be given a 30 min ACS on the Friday after school. Students whose punctuality **does not improve** may receive a 60 min ACS. Parents will be asked to give permission for their child to attend this ACS. We thank you as ever for your on-going support in ensuring students understand the value and importance of the high standards of behaviour and attitude to learning.

Guidance on Mobile Phones

Please be aware of the procedure on confiscated phones:

At the Academy, we absolutely understand that mobile phones are an important method of communication between parent and child which can enhance student safety. If a student wishes to bring a mobile phone to the Academy, they must ensure that it is kept in their locker and that they are not seen at all in the learning spaces, corridors or in the communal areas. Mobile phones seen or heard by staff inside the Academy will be confiscated, unless a member of staff has given explicit instruction that it can be used. A student's mobile device is their own responsibility. We do not take responsibility for students' losing mobile devices. This information is clearly printed in your child's planner.

If your child's mobile phone is seen by a member of staff when permission has not been given, it will be confiscated. A member of staff will then contact you to inform you. **We ask that you please collect the mobile phone from reception between 4:30pm – 6:30pm.** Confiscated phones will be kept in the school safe and can only be collected by a parent or guardian unless special dispensation has been given by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

There is absolutely no reason for any student to have their mobile phone out and visible without permission whilst on Academy premises. Should they need to contact a parent or guardian urgently, students must speak to a member of Academy staff.

Social Media

We share our day to day activities and news on Twitter so please follow us @UCL_Academy. We also regularly update Facebook with news stories and photos. For those who do not use Facebook and Twitter you can still view all of the content through our [SOCIAL MEDIA WALL](#) – click link. Link also on the website home page. Twitter: https://twitter.com/UCL_Academy

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theuclacademy> where our news and photos are also published

Term Dates and Holidays 2015/16

Spring term 2016

Monday 4th January to Thursday 24th March 2016

Half-term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2016

Easter / spring holiday: Friday 25th March to Friday 8th April 2016

Staff Planning Days:

Monday 4th January 2016, Friday 5th February 2016 & Monday 14th March 2016

Summer term 2016

Students final day 1230 15th July - Governors have agreed to additional planning time for staff to support new GCSE and A level syllabus planning.

Monday 11th April to Friday 15th July 2016

Spring Bank Holiday: 2nd May 2016

Half-term: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2016

Staff Planning Days:

Thursday 19th May 2016, Friday 17th June 2016 & Wednesday 6th July 2016.

Term Dates and Holidays 2016/17*

Autumn Term 2016

Thursday 1st September to Friday 16th December 2016

Staggered Start Times:

Thursday 1st September – Staff Planning Day (non-student)

Friday 2nd September – Foundation and Level 3 new starters

Monday 5th September – All other students (Level 1/1+, Level 2/2+, Level 3+)

Half-term: Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October 2016

Christmas break: Monday 19th December 2016 to Monday 2nd January 2017

Spring Term 2017

Tuesday 3rd January to Friday 7th April 2017

Half-term: Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2017

Spring holiday: Monday 10th April to Friday 21st April

Summer Term 2017

Monday 24th April to Friday 21st July 2017

Half-term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2017

*Staff planning days to be confirmed at a later date