



Parent e-Bulletin

Wednesday 8th June 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

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

Students are currently sitting assessment this week. The Academy finishes at 15:30 each day to support students. Additional classes may run for level 2 and level 3 students - this will be communicated to classes and individuals directly.

Thursday 9th June – Parent Social Evening

Please note: This is has been postponed until the last week of term.

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

Festival week will follow Assessment week; The Academy day will run from 09:30-15:30 every day. Information for this has been sent to all parents and carers by letter.

Monday 13th June – Academy Summer Party

This event is for Foundation, Level 1 and Level 1+ students and is taking place on Monday 13 June 2016, from 6pm - 8:30pm. Tickets are £7 online and £8 at the door. For more information please go to: www.UCLparty.co.uk

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.

Governors Letter

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

The governors have held the Summer 1 round of Committee meetings, and the full Governing Body Meeting.

Applications for September 2016 were reviewed, with the Academy continuing to receive a high number of applications for Foundation, and also for Level 3.

The Spring term progress and attainment data across all year groups was presented and discussed. Good progress is being made across all year groups, and further analysis was undertaken on groups of students and particular subjects where progress had been slower in the Autumn term, with the action and impact reports of interventions being positive as detailed in the Spring term data. An area of focus is the progress of excellent progress being achieved, in particular for those students with high prior attainment.

The Pastoral and Wellbeing Programme was reviewed and was noted as a very inspiring programme being delivered, with this linking directly to the vision and ethos of the Academy in developing the whole child.

The Governing Body Self-Evaluation Framework (SEF) was undertaken, where governors collectively reflected on governance at the Academy over the last year, and areas of development for 2016-17.

Students attended the Governing Body meeting to present on STEM, and the future career choices they feel have been opened to them. The governors were very encouraged to hear the students speak with such passion and commitment to STEM.

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 2016-17; strategic planning for the next five years; Committee planning for 2016-17.

The governors are keen to receive feedback from parents, carers and guardians, and would very much encourage all to submit views via the Ofsted Parent View page: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

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

David Price, Chair of Governors

Important Notices

Assessment Week

As Assessment Week gets fully underway we would like to thank you for your on-going support during this time which can be a particularly stressful and busy period. We would also like to take the opportunity to reiterate these changes to the normal Academy schedule:

- To support Assessment Week no Self-Directed Learning sessions will be held during this week (6th-10th June). All students will finish at 15:30 each day. However there may be additional revision classes held after this time for Level 2 and Level 3 as advised by their teachers.

Festival Week

This is a week of exciting events and Academy trips for lower school students. During Festival Week, there will be no formal teaching. Instead students will be presented with the opportunity to take part in a fantastic range of fun activities.

This week will follow a very intense week of assessment for the lower school and it will be a great chance for everyone to wind down and relax after all their hard work. Letters have now been sent out via post detailing arrangements for this week. The Academy day will run 09:30-15:30 each day. The Academy is closed to students on the Friday as stated above.

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).

Emptying Lockers

Please can you encourage your child to completely empty their lockers prior to the end of term and remove any locks. Any lockers with locks left on over summer will be broken and any items left in lockers will be removed and destroyed.

Beijing Homestay

An opportunity to help your child with their Mandarin studies may interest you. As part of an exchange programme with our link school in Beijing, the Academy is looking for families who would be willing to host a Chinese student from 3rd - 15th July 2016. Seventeen students are

coming, and Ms Yin is hoping to offer them a varied experience of authentic British family life and culture.

If you are interested, please contact Ms Yin (h.yin@uclacademy.co.uk) to hear more about it.

General Notices

What's Been Happening at the Academy?

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

- *Tashi Kosasih-Wall, Curriculum Leader for Art, organised the second Academy wide art competition with a theme on Dreams and Visions. We had a huge number of entries from students and staff. Professor Price judged the competition following the Governing Body meeting and was impressed with the quality of submissions. Well done all.*
- *UCL's Bronze Award DoE group successfully completed their first expedition in Gilwell Park. 18 Level 2 students took part.*
- *The recent Ensembles Encore musical concert delivered a wonderful showcase of ensemble work with students new to strings and woodwind all performing together for the first time.*



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.

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