



Parent e-Bulletin

Wednesday 29th 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 4th July – Academy Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day will be taking place on Monday 4th July 2016 at Willesden Sports Centre Athletics Track. Please see additional letter attached to this email for more information.

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.

Monday 4th July – Parent Social Evening

6:00pm – 7:30pm. Please join us for our informal parent social evening on Monday 4th July.

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

Proposed Strike Action by Members of the NUT – Tuesday 5th July

We have been notified by the NUT that members intend to strike on Tuesday 5th July.

We are currently intending to operate a normal school day. However, if there is to be any change to the Academy day, parents and guardians will be notified as soon as possible.

Ofsted

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

As you all know, Ofsted visited the Academy on Thursday and Friday last week.

A very prestigious and experienced team scrutinised all aspects of our work and standards. Our students and staff were magnificent. We came together as a community to support each other and you should feel very pleased with the way your sons and daughters rose to the occasion.

I can tell you that the feedback at the end of the inspection was positive, however, the outcome remains confidential until the report is published in two or three weeks' time.

I look forward to sharing the report with you all in due course.

Yours sincerely

Geraldine Davies

Principal

Postponed UAPA Coffee Morning – Thursday 30th June

Please note that the coffee morning due to take place on Thursday 30th June has been postponed. There will be a Parent Social Evening on Monday 4th July.

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.

ParentPay

Please note that there has been a recent update to the ParentPay website which changes the way that payments are made online.

From now on it is essential that payments onto the ParentPay website are allocated to a specific item eg. School dinners.

Please note that all queries re allocating payments should be made to ParentPay in the first instance.

If you have contacted ParentPay and still need advice, please call the UCL Academy finance department on 0207 449 3085.

Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day will be taking place on Monday 4th July 2016 at Willesden Sports Centre Athletics Track. If parents/carers and family members would like to come and support on the day, please feel welcome to join us at the centre. Please note this is an obligatory event for pupils.

General Notices

What's Been Happening at the Academy?

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

- *UCL Academy has become the first secondary school in Camden to achieve the Healthy School London silver award. The prestigious award is given in recognition that the Academy has prioritised improving students' health and wellbeing in a planned and coordinated way and will be able to show a measurable impact.*
- *On Monday 13th June, we had our annual UCL Academy Summer Party. There was a great turn-out with even the Mayor of Camden turning up to officially open the event. Special thanks are owed to our lovely UAPA, UCL Academy staff and sponsors for making this night unforgettable for students. Over £1250 was raised so far to help tackle homelessness in London.*
- *During Festival Week Level 2 pupils participated in an exciting career fair with five speakers from global businesses including Morgan Stanley and BP. Meanwhile 15 additional companies held information stands for pupils to engage with from various sectors including tech, advertising, IT, e-commerce, oil and gas, investment and recruitment. The event's purpose was to kick-start the careers thought process for Level 2. Future events are in the pipeline for next academic session which will enable students to find out about different industries in greater detail.*
- *This year's Battle of the Houses competition saw a fantastic day of competitive sportsmanship all round but ultimately it was Lyra House that took home the winner's trophy.*

Festival Week Round Up

On Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th June, students enjoyed House days out as a special reward for their hard work during the summer assessments. Cygnus and Orion visited the Arsenal and Chelsea stadiums, whilst Lyra and Vela went on a tour of the Olympic Park and Equuleus enjoyed a cultural day trip in the park.

On Wednesday, Orion and Lyra tried Oxygen Free Jumping followed by a Chinese Buffet. Vela, Cygnus and Equuleus went to Thorpe Park.

On Thursday, for 'Try Something New Day', students selected a number of options from a comprehensive programme of amazing activities including: a live reptile workshop, horse riding lessons, camping, rocket-making, Chinese cooking lessons, a London ghost tour, rock climbing, street dance, Kong Fu, rounders, jewellery making, plus many more!

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 students' 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