

Sixth Form Newsletter

Summer 2015



The
UCL Academy

WELCOME FROM HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Welcome to the latest edition of our Sixth Form newsletter. As we have now reached the end of the academic year and have survived the stressful and crucial exam period, we have a range of success stories and encouraging news to share with you.

The Sixth Formers have shown exceptional promise and outstanding commitment to their studies over the course of this academic year. Staff have been hugely impressed with their progress, and we expect to hear some excellent news on results day in August. Thanks to their work ethic and the continued efforts of our teaching staff, all are well on their way to successful futures.

Alongside their work in the classroom, students have also been busy developing their personal, social and employability skills through a range of enriching projects and schemes. These have included art competitions, apprenticeships with high-profile corporations and further progress in Extended Project Qualifications.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories in this newsletter. We are extremely proud of our latest successes, and believe our upcoming set of results will truly establish The UCL Academy Sixth Form as a leading provider of post-16 education in the local area.

Mrs A Lucas

Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Formers Stand Out At Inaugural Art Competition

We recently held our very first Academy-wide Art Competition, designed to showcase the creative talents of all of our students. Revolving around the theme The UCL Academy: What makes us, us?, students were challenged to produce artwork which conveyed the core ethos of the Academy. Their work was judged by University College London Vice-Provost, Professor David Price, and Sue Collins, Faculty Director of UCL's Slade School of Art.

Sixth Form students approached the competition with considerable enthusiasm, demonstrating striking artistic flair in the work they produced. The winner in the Sixth Form category was Brenda

Mensah, who's winning piece was a fast-forward video of a building being painted over time. Runner-up was awarded to Anna Wernick, for her four piece project on canvas. The admirable commitment they showed throughout their projects was a superb example to their younger peers, and is a real indication of the high standards of work that we expect at the Sixth Form.



GENERATING GENIUSES

The last few months have been a hugely productive time for Sixth Formers aiming to enrich their experiences beyond the curriculum. We caught up with Daniel Raeburn, who has taken part in a variety of projects to develop his future employability.

Daniel has been part of the Barclays Generating Genius programme since December. This unique scheme, organised through our links with UCL's Engineering department, has allowed Daniel to attend a range of sessions covering CV writing, presentation skills and business etiquette. He has also been given a personal mentor from Barclays, with whom he can discuss his future educational and career options at any time.

In addition to this, Daniel has also recently completed a work experience placement at University College London's Finance department, allowing him to build on his passion for this discipline. He now has hopes to study at the University of Warwick, where he is also considering developing his new-found interest in Chemistry.

Daniel's experience is just one example of the many extracurricular opportunities on offer to our Sixth Formers, which go a long way towards increasing ambition among students.



GENERATING
GENIUS

The Generating Genius programme is showing me the different ways I can develop my career, while also building my confidence in presentation situations. It's been really helpful.

Daniel Raeburn



EPQ continues its evolution

The Extended Project Qualification continues to be an extremely popular option for Sixth Form students looking to broaden their horizons beyond the main curriculum. Val Borba made the most of the flexibility offered by the EPQ by producing a quilt poem, inspired by Sophocles' ancient Greek tragedy Antigone.

Val's work involved reading and analysing a modern translation of the text, studying literary opinions, writing several poems, designing and creating the quilt, and producing a commentary of her work at the end. The final result was extremely impressive, and was hugely beneficial in developing Val's creativity and enriching her knowledge of literary criticism and feminist philosophy.



The EPQ was a really rewarding experience, as I had a free choice to work on something I'm passionate about and could complete the work on my terms, rather than being confined to single syllabus or mark scheme. It has also helped me gain skills which will make me a better student, ready for university study in the near future.

Val Borba

ALUMNUS MAKES BIG STEPS WITH SHELL



The last few months have been an exciting time for former Sixth Form student Hassaneen Al-Saidy, who has been completing a one-year industrial placement in Manchester with multinational oil corporation Shell.

Hassaneen has seized a unique opportunity to learn more about how a company like Shell operates, gaining extensive hands-on experience of data analytics, programming and a range of

practical experiments. He has impressed his colleagues at Shell so much that they are offering to fund his degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Manchester starting next year, and will be offered a full-time job at the company on completion of his studies. Hassaneen's experience is a true demonstration of the exceptional opportunities on offer to Sixth Form students, and the emphasis we place on developing employability among all.

Forging a path in medicine

This year has also presented a number of opportunities for our current students to gain invaluable experience of the workplace. Rakhee Bharj recently secured a summer work placement at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, and is set to spend six hours per week assisting doctors and consultants in caring for patients with dementia.

In addition, Rakhee and five other academy students have been

offered places on a prestigious week-long residential summer school in Applied Medicine at University College London. Acting as a taster programme for the full Applied Medicine course at UCL, the week will involve practical work, interactive online lectures and talks from highly respected professors and research scientists. The students involved are eagerly looking forward to gaining inside knowledge of a hugely respected degree discipline.



I want to pursue a career in medicine and these two opportunities will give me a chance to gain experience in this field. Dementia care is an area of medicine very close to my heart, so I can't wait to get started!

Rakhee Bharj

Sixth Formers play jury at PSHCE session

Sixth Form students took part in a PSHCE day, aiming to build key life skills for their futures. This session focused on the topic of consent, led by Ms Amatruda, Ms Courtenay-Thompson and Mr Rankin and was also attended by PC Brown from the local police force.

Students had the opportunity to form a jury and take part in debates relating to consent, with all given a platform to express their views. They were also given a detailed overview of the judicial process, emerging from the session with greater awareness of UK law and how sensitive issues are tackled.

As a follow-up to this event, a representative from The Havens, the specialist centres which help victims of sexual assault, will be visiting the Academy to speak with students in the near future.

Well done to all students involved for your considerate, measured approach to the day!



A dedicated space for Sixth Formers

Since the Academy opened, one of the main issues raised by Sixth Form students was the lack of their own space in which to relax, socialise and catch up on work. This was raised formally by Sixth Form leaders in the Student Senate and, after a consultation with the Academy caterers, the Sixth Form Café was opened in February.

This new facility provides an area for Sixth Formers to grab a coffee and meet with friends between classes, with new tables and benches on the outside balcony allowing the students to make the most of the summer sunshine.

The Café has been a hugely popular addition to our state-of-the-art facilities. Its opening marks a triumph for Sixth Form leadership, which was instrumental in bringing the project to fruition. We look forward to seeing future generations of Sixth Formers making the most of the space!



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PARTY TIME!

Year 13 students enjoyed their prom, onboard a boat called the London Belle. The students celebrated the end of their A levels – after two years of hard work they could finally let their hair down and celebrate with their teachers! We look forward to seeing them back on 13th of August for another round of amazing A level results.



To mark the end of the A2 exams, Sixth Formers gathered together for a presentation assembly. We would like to wish them the best of luck with their results, and every success for the future!

