

Monday 16 December 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians

Principal's Winter Newsletter

As we approach the end of the autumn term and look forward to the holiday period, we reflect on what has been a very busy, productive and successful term for the Academy.

Inducting 180 new Foundation level students into the Academy way has been a pleasure. They have settled in very well and have added greatly to our growing community. Likewise, new and returning Level 3 students have fully embraced the high aspirations and expectations of the UCL Academy. This term, members of staff working with Level 3 have developed robust systems and processes to ensure that the students are working effectively. Students have been monitored and tracked by their Heads of Houses and Assistant-Principal, Ms Lucas, and we are seeing the impact of this through improved attainment. The Level 3 and Level 3+ STEM mock exams took place earlier this month and the students have received feedback on their areas for improvement.

UCAS applications

There is currently a lot of excitement around the UCAS application process and we are delighted that a large number of students have received invitations to attend interviews at Cambridge University, Oxford University and University College London.

Career Breakfasts

The Career Breakfast events have been a very successful and rewarding initiative for the students. Two events have already been held focusing on medicine and engineering and more are scheduled for the New Year. We are very grateful to all that have participated as the events provide invaluable information to the students about various professions. We are also very keen for parents to get involved wherever possible, be it through taking part in a breakfast event or through the offering of placements at their place of work. If you are able to offer any support for this initiative, please contact us by email on enquiries@uclcademy.co.uk.

UCL links

Our relationship with UCL has strengthened further over the last term. In terms of our activities, there are three key areas of interest:

- 1) The UCL Guest Lecture Series – We have been delighted to welcome two leading UCL academics to the Academy this term; Dr Francisco Diego of UCL's Space Science Department and Dr Daniel Richardson of the Cognitive Neuroscience Department. Their lectures were a huge hit with all attendees and we look forward to the lectures planned for the New Year.
- 2) Object-Based Learning – This term we gratefully received 6 fascinating objects from UCL Museums and Collections. They have been the focus of projects by Level 1 and Foundation students and have proved very popular with the students.
- 3) Mentoring – This is perhaps the most exciting development. 80 Undergraduate UCL students have applied to be mentors to our Level 1 and Level 3 students and the first sessions are to be held on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 January. The programme will use a platform called Brightside to enable secure and monitored communication between the mentor and mentee. An information session for parents will be held in January.

Spring term arrangements

To enable the Academy to fully prepare for what is expected to be another busy term, arrangements for the start of the spring term have been amended slightly. On Monday 6 January only the Level 3 and Level 3+ students will return to the Academy and will have the opportunity to take any STEM resits and non-STEM mock exams. All other students will return to the Academy on Tuesday 7 January at 8.30am.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Assistant-Principal, Ms Noctor. We thank her for her hard work and contribution to the Academy and wish her every success in her new role.

The Academy Winter Newsletter will also follow at the end of this term.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a peaceful holiday period.

Yours faithfully



Geraldine Davies
Principal