

Wednesday 19 March 2014

Dear Parent / Guardian

Big Idea Unit 4: Resilience. *Success over time requires persistence*

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the slightly improved weather.

Over the last half term we have been working on developing a number of key aspects of our provision and systems within the Academy. A new Home Learning Policy is being devised which we will begin to implement during the next half term. You will be given access to this to help clarify our systems and expectations with regard to home learning (homework). In the meantime we have explained to students through assembly and through the production of a home learning plan (which you can find within your child's planner) that they will receive 35 minutes of home learning per subject per week – a total of 400 minutes per week. This should be carried out across the week and includes the use of the personal study opportunity within the timetabled day. Can I request your assistance in checking that home learning has been written in planners and that students spend the designated 35 minutes on each home learning piece.

We have also been developing the UCL Academy Learner Attributes:

**Resilience | Creativity | Spark | Self-Esteem | Positivity | Collaboration | Excellence
Community | Internationalism | Leadership**

These will sit at the heart of our newly developed rewards system that will enable teachers, students and parents to track positive behaviours and rewards through a specially developed online platform. We have also been developing our e-portfolio resource. This website will enable learners to monitor and evidence their progress and attainment throughout their life at the Academy. A small trial of the site has begun with a much wider application beginning after the spring break.

During the upcoming unit, students will be studying the following topic areas within their subjects:

Mathematics	Transformations, ratio and proportion, equations
Science	Disease and illness
English	Oliver Twist
Engineering	Balancing toy or solar light projects
Mandarin	Food, likes and dislikes
History	7000 years of medicine and public health
Geography	Antarctica
Computing	Scratch programming
Art	Japanese kite design
Physical Education	Developing skills through purposeful practice
Drama	Physical theatre

You may wish to use the above as a guide to support and extend your child's learning at home.

Within this unit we will also seek to develop student skills in the following areas:

- To be able to cope with unfamiliar situations;
- To be able to approach tasks with confidence;
- To be able to stick with a task until it is completed;
- To be able to cope with the disappointment they face when they are not successful in their activities;
- To know about the similarities and the differences between the lives of people in different countries;
- To be able to appreciate another country, culture, society while still valuing and taking pride in one's own.

We would appreciate your support in enabling learners to develop these important attributes and dispositions.

Students continue to come to the Academy well dressed and ready for learning. I would like to thank you for this. One issue I would like to draw to your attention is a noted increase in the amount of sweets, chewing gum and unhealthy snack foods being brought into the Academy. Could I ask for your support in ensuring such items are not being purchased and brought into the Academy. With regards to attendance, can I ask for your support in the Academy's drive to maintain 100% attendance for all our students.

We are noticing is the large number of students hanging around in groups after the Academy day in the vicinity of the Swiss Cottage fountain and the Winch. The Academy day is long and we expect all students to make their way home swiftly once they leave. We would also like to make it clear that while in uniform students represent the Academy and as such our rules and expectations still apply even after the Academy day has ended. Please make it clear to your child that they should make their way home as soon as the day is over and that while in uniform they are still subject to Academy behavior expectations. Thank you in your support of this matter and helping maintain the positive atmosphere that exists throughout the Swiss Cottage community.

One final request comes from the art department. We are keen to add to our inspirational art space by furnishing it with objects of all types. May I ask that if you have any interesting objects such as empty perfume bottles or other small household items that you consider donating them to the art department. Donated objects should be brought to reception.

If you have any questions regarding the above, the year so far and the year ahead, please contact us on 0207 449 3080 or visit us in reception at the UCL Academy.

I look forward to speaking to you soon and seeing as many of you as I can over the terms ahead.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Gratton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr R Gratton
Assistant Principal (Level 1)