

Thursday 18 September 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome from the Principal

As we start the new academic year, I would firstly like to offer a warm welcome to all of our new students, their families and staff and a welcome back to those returning. We welcome 28 new members of staff and nearly 250 students to the Academy this year. The students and staff have all enjoyed their inductions and are now settling into the Academy.

The beginning of an Academic year is a good time to remind ourselves what makes the UCL Academy special. Our sponsor, UCL has set us an innovative and creative educational vision with high expectations and aspirations for all at its heart. High expectations and aspirations are fine but they will never be fulfilled without hard work, dedication and discipline. We pride ourselves at the Academy in cultivating positive, well-ordered environment with respectful and supportive relationship between all members of the community and we know that you, the parents, value, share and support us in this endeavour. We want to celebrate the collaborative ethos we are building. However, if students only feel they need to behave well whilst someone is watching them we will have failed. The attitudes and behaviours we (here I mean both the Academy and parents) are inculcating in our students must translate into how they behave when they are not under the eyes of the Academy or parents. This is the bigger challenge and we hope that the experiences they gain at the Academy will provide them with the moral compass to make right and true decisions.

This will also be an important term for Level 1+ as they will be making their option choices for Level 2 just before Christmas. You will be hearing more about the programmes on offer later this term.

Level 3 results

We are still celebrating our A Level pioneers and their wonderful set of A2 results. 80% of our students achieved A*-C grades and 75% of those students going to University are going to Russell Group Universities including Cambridge, King's College and LSE. Our sponsor, UCL, is also about to enrol their first UCL Academy graduate onto their Chemistry degree. The Level 3 students also achieved excellent AS results and we look forward to helping them achieve their best in their A2 levels. As a STEM school, our Level 3 students study 3 STEM subjects with over 80 studying AS Biology, Maths, and Chemistry and 40 studying Physics. These are the most notoriously challenging AS and

A2 subjects. We are therefore immensely proud of all of the Level 3 students and look forward to hearing about all of their future successes. I attach an article that was printed in the Ham and High that details the amazing A2 results.

Heads of House

We have welcomed two new heads of houses to the Academy this year; Ewan Caseman who is our new Senior Head of House and looking after Equuleus and Ayeesha Lahai-Taylor who looks after Lyra. We are delighted to have appointed two highly experienced pastoral leaders to work with the students and staff in supporting all our students' wellbeing. Please contact them via enquiries@uclacademy.co.uk if you would like to meet with them to discuss any matters regarding your child's progress. They will also ensure you are able to meet with their form tutor.

Parent volunteers – 'Pass It On'

As part of our Self Directed Curriculum, we would be delighted to invite any parents or carers who would be interested in supporting our exciting programme. Parents or carers with a particular hobby, skill or expertise are encouraged to contact us. If you are interested in running or supporting our programme in any way, please do email us at enquiries@uclacademy.co.uk marked for the attention Robin Street, Vice Principal.

The UCL Academy Parent Association (UAPA)

We are delighted to welcome parents of new students to the Academy. The UAPA has already hosted and supported some wonderful events here at the Academy since we began two years ago and many more plans are in the pipeline. You will see from the attached calendar some dates for informal coffee mornings. Please email parents.association@uclacademy.co.uk if you would like to be added to the mailing list. We will also be hosting a meet the tutor event for all new parents in November which Mr Bowen will be writing to you about later this term.

Health and safety information

Even though we are pleased to have a new pedestrian crossing opposite the Academy, parents and carers are reminded to ensure their children are behaving in the appropriate manner when crossing the road and in the local community.

Parents and carers are reminded that if your child is approached and made to feel unsafe when outside of the Academy to please report this to the police in the first instance and then inform the Academy through the child's Form Tutor or Head of House.

We work very closely with the safer neighbourhood team at Swiss Cottage. We are very clear to all our students in ensuring they are aware of how they should act and represent the Academy on their way to and from school. Please support us by ensuring students arrive at school promptly in an orderly manner and are reminded to return home at the end of the day mindful and respectful of the local community.

Parking and dropping off

Where possible we encourage all students to walk or cycle to School to support healthy lifestyles. If it is necessary for you to drive, please ensure you are not parking in and of the local residences parking bays or obstructing their drives. We want to ensure we maintain positive relationships with our neighbours and you will also risk receiving a parking ticket.

Parental communication

Please continue to keep us updated with any changes to email, mobile or address, we are using our school communications system regularly, so if you have not been receiving text SMS or emails from the Academy address, please ensure you update your details by emailing enquiries@uclacademy.co.uk or your child can inform their Head of House.

We are using RealSmart - our learning portal - with all our students increasingly. As parents you will be able to view and access some of the online programmes of study your child is working on. We will be having an information evening on this later in the year.

Mychildatschool provides data for parents on attendance, punctuality and behaviour. We will be adding information about progress and achievement later this term. Parents of new children will receive their login information by half term. The details were provided to current parents at the end of last term. Those who require support accessing the information should email enquiries@uclacademy.co.uk for the attention of Mr Akinola.

Important dates

Please find attached a list of important dates for your diary. We anticipate an exciting and productive year and look forward to meeting and working with you all.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G Davies".

Ms G Davies
Principal