



## Parent e-Bulletin – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015

### Thought of the Fortnight

**“The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself.” – Henry Miller**

Welcome to the second edition of The UCL Academy e-bulletin for the 2015/16 Academic year. The purpose of this fortnightly e-bulletin is to keep parents, carers and guardians 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

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – UAPA coffee morning**

8:45am – 10:00am. All parents, carers and guardians are invited to the Academy for the UAPA (UCL Academy Parents' Association) coffee morning. You can contact the UAPA by email at [parents.association@uclacademy.co.uk](mailto:parents.association@uclacademy.co.uk).

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – HPV Injections for Level 1 (Year 8) Girls**

This will take place during the Academy morning. Parents/guardians have been sent consent forms which should be returned to either NHS (address on letter) or

directly to the Academy. For further information please contact NHS Camden by phone at 020 3214 5700.

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Senior Leadership Drop-in for Parents and Guardians**

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.

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Staff Planning Day (non-student day)**

Due to a scheduled staff planning day, the Academy will be closed to all students on this day.

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Level 3+ Parent Consultation Evening**

4:00pm – 6:00pm. More information to follow.

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 - UAPA (UCL Academy Parents Association) Social**

**7:00pm – 8:30pm.** An informal social for any parents interested in meeting and catching up with fellow parents or carers. Hosted in one of our Superstudios by Ms Florie Canolli and Mr Robin Street, you are asked to bring a small something (nibbles or beverage) to share with others. Water, glasses and plates will be available.

### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Half term Break**

## **General Notices**

### **What's been happening at the Academy?**

*Just a brief list of key headlines at the Academy:*

- Close to 600 parents and students have visited the Academy in our first two open events of the year. Huge thanks to our 80 plus students who impressed all our guests with their terrific tours of the Academy.
- 40 of our Level 3 students have begun volunteering weekly to support the Syrian Refugee Crisis.
- Delighted to confirm a partnership with the North London Philharmonic Orchestra who will be working with the music department and hosting some wonderful concerts for students, parents and staff this academic year.
- Last week our Biology trip to Boston MIT and football Academy trip to Sweden have been two wonderful successes and students have had unforgettable experiences. Blogs to follow.
- We were delighted to host Dame Nicola Brewer to the Academy – Vice Provost International UCL. She spoke to our Level 3 students about opportunities in the diplomatic service and the importance of breadth and depth of educational experiences.

- Our UCL Lecture Series (see below) is underway and has been very well attended. Plans for Parent ones to follow! UCL Learning companions and mentor programs are being planned ready for launching in December.
- All Houses have had assemblies on the Duke of Edinburgh Award and opportunities for them in the future.
- The Engineering department are working very closely with Founders 4 Schools and hosting some amazing speakers.
- Equuleus House won the annual Foundation Athletics Day. A sensational day for all involved with GB athletes running master classes alongside the competitive racing.
- **Teacher(s) of the fortnight:** Mr Kizintas (Lyra) in Chemistry, blowing the minds of the Foundation students with his introduction to the world of chemists (proverbially, not physically); Mr Ward for organising and inspiring our students to 'help Calais'.
- **Student(s) of the fortnight:** Our Level 3 students who gave freely of their time to support the refugee crisis, inspiring the younger students and helping the local community.

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

## Working With Our Sponsor, UCL

- Our UCL lecture series has started with a talk from PhD student, Charlotte Stoner, on the use of positive psychology in the treatment of dementia.
- Upcoming lectures will include: Professor Andrew Coates on Life on Mars; Professor David Price on The History of the World and Doctor Anthony Smith on The History of Infectious Diseases.
- The UCL Pastoral Mentoring programme will start after the Christmas holiday, with the UCL students coming in for training in December.
- There will be four sessions where our students will be able to get advice about revision tactics, choosing A Levels and degree courses – all from people who have only recently had to make these decisions themselves.

## The Academy in the local community

Local groups, businesses, and organisations are increasingly using the 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:

- 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 local community police officer who has been working with us for the last 3 years has moved on. We thank PCO Paul Rohm for all his help and work with our students. We are delighted to welcome **PC Paul Brown** who will be working with us and the local community in place of PCO Rohm.

## 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.

This week we will be carrying out information assemblies for our Foundation students and giving very clear guidance about appropriate behaviour online and what can happen if these guidelines are not followed.

## 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.

## Mandarin Notice

We are currently taking part in a collaborative programme with a Chinese School, Tsinghua High School, Fengtai, as part of the British Council International Link School Programme.

We are looking for any Lower School parents interested in hosting a 13-14 year-old Chinese Exchange student in February 2016 for 12 days.

Please forward any Expressions of Interest to Haiyan Yin, Curriculum Leader for Mandarin, by email at [h.yin@uclacademy.co.uk](mailto:h.yin@uclacademy.co.uk)

## Student Absences

Please be reminded that the correct procedure for reporting your child's absence is by calling 02074493080 and pressing option 1 (student absence) where you will be directed to the Attendance Officer.

## 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](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**

### **Autumn term 2015**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Half-term:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Christmas break:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016

### **Staff Planning Days:**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 & Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

### **Spring term 2016**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Half-term:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**Easter / spring holiday:** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### **Staff Planning Days:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 & Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### **Summer term 2016**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Spring Bank Holiday: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016

Half-term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

### **Staff Planning Days:**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 & Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016