



Parent e-Bulletin

Friday 13th November 2015

Thought of the Fortnight

**"If you clean the floor with love, you
have given the world an invisible
painting." – Osho**

Welcome to the fourth 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

Wednesday 25th November 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.

Thursday 26th November 2015- Level 1 Parent Consultation Evening

4:00pm – 6:30pm. Appointments will be made through our online booking system. Information will be sent closer to the date.

Friday 27th November 2015 - Late Start

The Academy day will start at 9:25am for all students.

Monday 30th November 2015 - Senior Leadership Drop-in

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.

Tuesday 1st December 2015 - Staff Planning Day (non-student day)

Due to a scheduled Staff Planning day, the academy will be closed to all students.

Tuesday 8th December 2015 – Poetry Competition Evening

Poetry of any form and subject matter welcome for submission to reception. Deadline is 2nd December. There will be a presentation night on Tuesday 8th December. More details will follow soon.

Tuesday 15th December - Winter Concert

6:00pm – 7:30pm. More details to follow.

Tuesday 15th December - UAPA Social Event

7:30pm – 8:30pm. More details to follow.

Message from the Board of Governors

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

As the Academy continues to grow, we will be appointing one further Parent Governor to join the Governing Body, with the aim for the appointment to commence in the Spring term.

Please find attached the accompanying Job Description / Person Specification for the role of parent governor, along with the self-nomination form.

By volunteering your time to being a governor, you will be making a positive contribution to the Academy's success, and having an impact on the lives of our students, teachers and the local community.

If you're keen to apply, please complete the self-nomination form and either email to the Clerk to the Governors, Louise Garcia: l.garcia@uclacademy.co.uk or post to the Academy address. All completed nominations are to be submitted by 5:00pm on Friday 27th November 2015.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Louise Garcia accordingly.

General Notices

What's been happening at the Academy?

Just a brief list of key headlines at the Academy:

- Inspirational finalists in the Academy's inaugural sustainability and innovation awards - watch this space!
- Packed lecture theatre for 'life in Mars' lecture for professor Andrew Coates
- Powerful and moving house assemblies from Mr Bowen on Remembrance Day this week
- The Academy community holding minutes silence across the Academy on Wednesday
- Foundation parents and staff saw outstanding work confidently presented by our Foundation level humanities students
- Interested and informed Level 1+ students/parents introduced to GCSE options for next year
- Busy and successful sporting fixtures continue with some great results coming in
- Rehearsals for our Christmas showcase well underway
- Level 3 students return from their maths trip to Denmark working with fellow students there
- Star Student(s): Foundation Humanities students presenting their 'civilisations' to parents and friends - amazing concepts and ideas connecting their curriculum after only 8 weeks at the Academy
- Staff Star(s): Humanities department, for their hardworking and innovative approach to teaching. This was certainly showcased to all in the Foundation Celebration of Learning!
- PC Anthony Sweeney joined us this week as our new Safer Schools Officer.

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

Work Experience: Can you help us?

180 students will be doing work experience in Summer Term, 2016.

We request your assistance in two ways

- Would you like to be part of a parent work link group? This will be a role to help organise parents to provide work experience to students.
- Would you or your company / job be able to offer work experience to a 15 year old for a week next year?

If either of these are the case please email the school at careers@uclacademy.co.uk with your name and the level of engagement you would like to commit to.

Thank you in advance,

Mr. Molloy

Assistant Principal

Working With Our Sponsor, UCL

- Upcoming lectures will include: Professor David Price on The History of the World and Professor 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.

Students share mindful experiences with members of parliament

Recently, two UCL Academy students spoke at the Houses of Parliament for the launch of the 'Mindful Nation UK': a Parliamentary report into the uses of mindfulness in education, health, criminal justice and the workplace. Their audience included members of all parliamentary groups, including: Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP, Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities; Tracey Crouch MP, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage; and Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Minister of State for Community and Social Care.

Enaya and Haroon, students from The UCL Academy, spoke about their personal experience of mindfulness. They have both recently completed a mindfulness program developed especially for secondary school children called .b (pronounced [dot-be]), which stands for Stop, Breathe and Be. They spoke about the positive impact it has had on their lives and how they use mindfulness practices to help relieve anxiety, focus more in lessons and gain a little perspective every now and again.

Speaking openly about how mindfulness helps him in the classroom, Haroon said: "It has always helped me at school when I am feeling frustrated about being stuck on a question,

or when I feel like I could get into argument, either with a teacher or someone in my class. Now I 'stop, breathe and be' which helps me to not react to things as much as I used to."

Enaya said: "Normal teenagers like me suffer from anxiety and don't know how to deal with it. There are times when I don't feel like talking to anyone. Using mindfulness can relieve the pressure and the feeling of not knowing how to manage it, helping me clear my mind."

"With my GCSEs coming up, I know I can walk into an exam room feeling a lot more confident. I used to let my negative emotions take over but if I were to do one of these practises before a test, I could get rid of those unnecessary distractions and focus more."



Ms Kearney, lead teacher for Mindfulness and Wellbeing at The UCL Academy said: "We are so proud of Enaya and Haroon and how well they represented the Academy; they impressed a rather exclusive audience with their authenticity and confidence. We look forward to many more students sharing their experience of mindfulness in the future."

You can read more about Mindfulness at The UCL

Academy and the .b programme here: <http://www.uclacademy.co.uk/Mindfulness-and-Wellbeing>

Football teams having great success in Camden Shield fixtures

Foundation and Level 1 boys have progressed to the Semi Finals of the Camden Shield Competition after a fantastic last round of the group stages.

The Foundation team beat William Ellis 1 -0 with the goal scored by Caleb adomako-Mensah and Regent High 3-0, goals scored by Caleb Adomako-Mensah (2) and Veron Przha.

Level 1 defeated Regent High School 3-0 with goals from Rhys Hajro (2) and Ogrri Krasniqi, and Hampstead School 5-0 with goals coming from Adrion Pajaziti, Ard Bejta, Elion Tmava and Ehsan Amirzahi (2).

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.

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.

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 student's 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.

Camden Notices

Apply for a Camden Scholarship for your son or daughter

Are you worried about tuition fees for your son or daughter? Camden Council is working in partnership with [Anglia Ruskin University](#) and [HULT International Business School](#) to offer Camden school children a range of part and fully-funded scholarships to help our young people realise their potential.

With tuition fees increasing, the scholarships provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform your child's career prospects without getting into debt. (The Hult undergraduate scholarship is worth £90,000). Read our [case studies](#) to find out more.

The offer includes part-time options for some courses and the opportunity to study overseas. The scholarships are offered from Year 12 upwards but are also available to residents of any age with minimum B/C A level grades. (Please note the scholarships are open to Camden residents only.)

Visit: www.camden.gov.uk/camdenscholarships.

Deadline: **4 April 2016**

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theuclacademy> where our news and photos are also published

Term Dates and Holidays 2015/16

Autumn term 2015

Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 18th December 2015

Half-term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2015

Christmas break: Monday 21st December 2015 to Friday 1st January 2016

Staff Planning Days:

Thursday 15th October 2015 & Tuesday 1st December 2015

Spring term 2016

Monday 4th January to Thursday 24th March 2016

Half-term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2016

Easter / spring holiday: Friday 25th March to Friday 8th April 2016

Staff Planning Days:

Monday 4th January 2016, Friday 5th February 2016 & Monday 14th March 2016

Summer term 2016

Monday 11th April to Wednesday 20th July 2016

Spring Bank Holiday: 2nd May 2016

Half-term: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2016

Staff Planning Days:

Thursday 19th May 2016 & Wednesday 6th July 2016