



## Parent e-Bulletin – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

### Thought of the Fortnight

**“Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.” – Carl Jung**

Welcome to the third 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

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

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 – First Day Back – Late Start**

All students will start the Academy Day at 9:25am. The remainder of the day will be as per normal timetable.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 - Foundation Students 'Celebration of Learning' Event**

5:00pm – 6:15pm. As part of our approach to assessing and celebrating learning at The UCL Academy, we wish to invite all parents, carers, guardians and teachers to

the first 'Celebration of Learning' event where students will showcase the work they have been doing in Humanities since the start of the academic year. This will take place on Wednesday 4 November 2015 between 5 and 6:15pm. Please find further details by following this link: <http://bit.ly/1PCKTg4>

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015- Meet-the-Tutor event for Foundation**

4:00pm – 5:30pm. This event is for Foundation (Year 7) parents only. An informal event where Parents can meet their child's House Tutor.

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 - Level 1+ GCSE Options Evening**

4:30pm – 6:30pm. All Level 1+ students and parents are invited to attend. Mr Molloy will be sending personal invites in the first week back. It would be great if you could begin to have conversations about the options that are best for your child's future.

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:parents.association@uclacademy.co.uk).

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 - Late Start**

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

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 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.

### **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 - Staff planning day (non-student day)**

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

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Winter Concert**

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

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - UAPA social event**

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

## Message from the Board of Governors

A welcome to all new students, and those returning, as we approach the end of the first half term in Autumn.

The governors are keen to update and communicate further with the Academy community, and to ensure all are abreast with key points being discussed at our Governing Body and Committee meetings. Therefore after the conclusion of the half termly meetings, an update will be circulated regarding the key items discussed over the term and upcoming areas of focus.

Over the term, the meetings have strongly focussed on reviewing the results of last year across all year groups and the Sixth Form, along with progress and attainment data. Good progress is being made across the Academy, and thanks have been raised to the Senior Leadership Team on their continued determination to improve standards and outcomes for our students.

The governors have reviewed the Strategic Development Plans, with the next five year plan set to be worked on over the coming terms.

Safeguarding of our students continues to be of paramount importance, with practice applied with rigour. There will be a detailed focus in the next half term on adherence to the NSPCC guidance on Safeguarding, along with work related to PREVENT and anti-radicalisation.

The impact of Pupil Premium funding has been reviewed, with the report due to be uploaded on the Academy website for information.

Financial planning and budgets continue to be monitored closely, with the Academy having undertaken the Audited Accounts for 2014-15 this term. The full report of which will be available on the website at the end of the full Autumn term.

Key items coming up for next term include the following: Curriculum Review and Forward Planning for 2016/17; Five Year Strategic Review; Curriculum focus on Arts; Review of Academy Policies; Admissions Policy 2017-18, consultation on Level 3 entry for our founding cohort.

We will also be moving ahead with the appointment of a new parent governor after half term, with the appointment and election process to be communicated in due course.

If you have any specific questions to raise to governors, please do direct these via the Clerk to the Governors, Louise Garcia: [l.garcia@uclacademy.co.uk](mailto:l.garcia@uclacademy.co.uk)

Best regards

David Price, Chair of Governors

# General Notices

## What's been happening at the Academy?

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

- Unprecedented levels of student interest in Duke of Edinburgh Assemblies taken by Ms Rimmer this week, 60% of students interested in applying! We might need to buy some more tents!
- Mr Whipp took our Level 3 D of E silver expedition out for the weekend – wet, cold but proud students
- Fixtures a plenty from the PE department with some outstanding results coming in especially from the girl's teams – see Twitter for more.
- More visits from Founders for Schools inspiring young minds
- Inter-house sustainability competitions going very well - trip to Paris conference in December up for grabs!
- Live music assemblies all week - which house is the most tuneful? Find out next month!
- Connected curriculum has seen students making wonderful links between subject content, the national news and personal development – Foundation work on Identity has been particularly inspiring as they create their own Civilisations to responding to Maslow's hierarchy of needs.
- Equuleus staff won some important house points in the inter-staff badminton competition. Combined with the Foundation Athletics win, that's a great start to the year for the Equuleans!
- **Teacher(s) of the fortnight:** Mr Kothari for recently completing a Post-graduate Diploma in Education with Distinction.
- **Student(s) of the fortnight:** Level 2 English students:  
Mr Street on lunch duty: "Mr Macbrayne, where are all the level 2 students?"  
Mr Macbrayne: "They are taking a working lunch in Vela preparing for their English Assessments..."

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

## Working With Our Sponsor, UCL

- 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.

## UAPA Social Evening

Thank you to all the parents and guardians who attended the very enjoyable parent social on Wednesday. A wonderful array of food and drinks were brought by all and it was great to see a lot of familiar faces meeting some new ones. The top headline is that it was the Vela parents who won the quiz as they all sat the level 1 knowledge paper from summer 2015.

Vela get 10 house points, Orion 8 with the other houses sharing 3rd spot with 6 house points each!!

## Sixth Form Students Help Calais

Recently, a total of 35 Sixth Form students, led by a number of UCL Academy staff, spent two consecutive weekends supporting Help Calais, a grassroots charity set up to help the thousands of people living in temporary camps in Calais, Greece and the Balkans. The day was spent in a Massive Yellow Storage Depot carrying boxes of clothes, crates of tinned food, sacks of flour, lentils, rice, pasta and dried soup. These goods were stacked high onto pallets by our now-expert 'palletters' that were then shrink-wrapped before being loaded onto the enormous lorry that was departing for Calais that afternoon. Eight hours later, eight tonnes of food and clothing were sent to Calais, thanks to the determination, brawn and brains of group of UCL Academy Sixth Form volunteers.



## 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.

## 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.

## 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