



## Parent e-Bulletin

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### Thought of the Fortnight

**"Happiness is your nature. It is not wrong to desire it. What is wrong is seeking it outside when it is inside."**

– Ramana Maharshi

Welcome to the fifth 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

## **TBC – Poetry Competition Evening**

To ensure the event is a success we will be extending the deadline and presentation and postponing the event to early next year. A letter will be sent with further details.

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 - Winter Concert**

5:45pm– 7:30pm. The UCL Academy Performance Faculty would like to invite you to the Arts Winter Showcase on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December in the Main Hall. This will be an opportunity to see some of the incredible work of our staff and students. The evening will feature an Art Exhibition from 5:45pm followed by Dance, Drama and Musical performances. The evening will finish at 7:30pm. Tickets are £1.50 for students and £3.00 for adults and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are available from the Music Department every lunch time. We hope you can join us to celebrate the achievements of our talented students.

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 - UAPA Social Event**

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

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – 12:30pm finish for all students**

#### **WINTER HOLIDAYS**

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – Staff Planning Day**

Due to a scheduled staff planning day the Academy will be closed to students.

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – First day back for students**

Spring Term commences on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 for a normal start time.

## **General Notices**

### **What's Been Happening at the Academy?**

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

- Amazing lecture given by Professor David Price on Magnetism on Earth and the Solar System – from wandering magnetic poles to the blistering temperatures in the Earth's core and even an explanation of peas in microwaved soup
- Pop-up foundation's Innovation, Sustainability and Enterprise Awards were a huge success with some sensational ideas – blog to follow next bulletin
- Parent consultation for Level 1 was really well attended and it was great to hear how well the students are doing
- Level 3 students loved their 2-day Acorn Hack! See below to see what that actually means!
- Rehearsals going really well for the upcoming showcase – see page 2 for information

- Powerful assemblies for all houses reflecting on the tragic events in Paris and asking students and staff to think about the significant of community, understanding and global citizenship
- Entries for poetry competition showcasing some lovely ideas
- Staff house competition Bake-off to run before the end of term – which house to win?
- Star Students: Exostart and RollerRoads - the two teams who blew the judging panel away with their ideas for sustainability
- Staff Star: Mr Molloy for his energy and enthusiasm in setting up the unique opportunity for the students involved in the AcornHack

*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](mailto: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**

- UCL Lecture series: Thursday, 3rd December 2015, 4.30pm, Professor Anthony Smith: A History of Infectious Diseases
- UCL Lecture series: Thursday, 21st January 2016, Dr Kerstin Sailer: Buildings and Society
- UCL Lecture series: Thursday, 21st April 2016, Professor Lucie Green
- On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015, Dr Kirsten Sailer from the Bartlett School of Architecture and a group of undergraduates will be touring the Academy and will be available afterwards to answer questions about studying Architecture.
- On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015, Jess Shepherd, Head of Communications (Education and Student Affairs) will be working with a group of our students to give feedback on their new Education Strategy.

- 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.

## **Big Ideas! Foundation Students Design their own 'Civilisations'**

The work showcased at our recent 'Foundation Celebration of Learning' was a great reflection of the Academy's Big Idea, Connected Curriculum and Learning Set culture. See more here:

<http://www.uclacademy.co.uk/Big-Ideas-Foundation-students-design-their-own-civilisations>

## **UCL Academy Students Praised for Designing Innovative App**

Taking part in the recent AcornHack event, an all-female team from The UCL Academy, Natural Network, has received the 'Most Investible Idea' award and the 'I can't believe it doesn't exist' award for creating an app/platform that allows women with curly, kinky and/or afro hair to connect with each other, embrace their locks, and find products that suit them.

Check out the fantastic prizes they won here:

<http://www.uclacademy.co.uk/UCL-Academy-students-praised-for-designing-innovative-app>

## **The Academy in the Local Community**

Local groups, businesses, and organisations are making increasing use of 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.
- A note from PC Anthony Sweeney: "Across Camden, all schools are working with the local community police team to ensure students and parents are aware of the potential hazards surrounding objects that are often misrepresented as toys. Examples include BB guns, Laser Pens and replica toy weapons. It is critical that all members of the local and school communities are reminded that these objects are banned from use in public places and on any school site. I recommend that parents

and carers should hand any unwanted items into their local police station. There will be no sanction for handing these in. Similarly students and parents should be vigilant in the local community in regards to these potentially dangerous objects and not hesitate to report them should they see them or hear about them. On behalf of the local Community Police team I thank you for your support.”

## 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 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.

## **Camden Notices**

### **Apply for a Camden Scholarship today**

Is your son or daughter applying to UCAS this year? Are you worried about the debt they will incur at the end of their course?

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 full potential without the burden of debt on their shoulders.

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/CC A level grades or BTEC equivalent.

To apply, visit: [www.camden.gov.uk/camdenscholarships](http://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](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