



Parent e-Bulletin

Friday 8th January 2016

Thought of the Fortnight

"Our attitudes control our lives. Attitudes are a secret power working twenty-four hours a day, for good or bad. It is of paramount importance that we know how to harness and control this great force."

- Irvine Berlin

Welcome to the sixth 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, 14 January 2016 – Level 1 + Options Evening

This will be an opportunity for parents to have the system of options explained and to ask any questions. 5pm start in the main hall.

Tuesday, 19 January 2016 – Level 2 Parent Consultation Evening

16:00 – 18:30pm. You should have received a letter explaining how to make appointments. If there are any problems please contact your child’s tutor.

Wednesday, 20 January 2016 – 9:25am start for all students

Friday, 22 January 2016 – Level 1 + Information, Advice and Guidance

This will be an opportunity for parents and students to meet with a senior member of staff to discuss our recommendations regarding options. This will happen in the main hall, and a letter will be sent out with your appointment time in the next week.

Thursday, 25 January 2016 – Senior Leadership Drop-in

16:30 – 18:00pm. 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.

Monday, 29 January 2016 – 9:25am start for all students

Thursday, 4 February 2016 – UAPA Coffee Morning

8:45 – 10am. More details to follow

Friday, 5 February 2016 – Staff Planning Day

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

HALF TERM BREAK - Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2016

Monday, 22 February 2016– First day back for students

9:25am start for all students

TBC – Poetry Competition Evening

A letter will be sent with further details.

General Notices

What’s Been Happening at the Academy?

Just a brief list of key headlines at the Academy:

- Presentation to level 1 and level 3 students on the UCL mentoring program that starts next week.
- All students getting stuck into the new SDL program including Duke of Edinburgh, Photography Engineering specialists, Rights Respecting Awards program with Amnesty International and Hampstead Cricket and Hampstead Rugby clubs running sessions!
- Preparations for the choir’s trip to the Royal Albert Hall next month.
- Some brilliant Oral work from our Level 2 students Mandarin assessments.

- Launch of this term's big ideas for all years including Crystal Maze challenge for Maths students, and thought provoking debates and discussion around challenges of Migration in Humanities lessons.
- If you didn't see it – check out last term's [Winter Newsletter](#).

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

Work Experience: Can you help us?

Thank you so much for all the volunteers so far. We will be touch soon to move forward!

We have 180 students in Level 2 who 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.

We also have 100 students in Level 3 that will be going on work experience in July 2016.

These students are 17 years old on average. If this is an age group that may suit your company more, it would be great to hear from you.

Thank you in advance,
Mr Molloy
Assistant Principal

Working With Our Sponsor, UCL

After the great success of last term's UCL Lectures, the program continues:

- UCL Lecture series: Thursday, 21st January 2016, Dr Kerstin Sailer: Buildings and Society
- UCL Lecture series: Thursday, 21st April 2016, Professor Lucie Green
- There will be four sessions of meetings 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.

GCSE Revision and Study Skills

We have provided a text book to all students that we hope they will use effectively to help guide them through their journey at level 2/2+.

We also recommend you read it so you can support them in their first external exam period.

An session for parents will take place later in the term that will give practical advice to help with the upcoming exam seasons.

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 020 7449 3080 and pressing option 1 (student absence) where you will be directed to the Attendance Officer.

Punctuality in the Morning

The majority of our students are consistently punctual to The Academy, ready to learn every morning. To maintain these high standards and to ensure that all students understand the importance of arriving to school punctually, we will be sanctioning students who are consistently late over a one or two week period. This sanction will initially be targeted at Foundation, Level 1 and Level 1+ students and will run from 15:35-16:00pm (16:30pm) on a Friday. Students who arrive at school without a note (or a phone-call) from a parent or carer to explain lateness, **more than once in a week** will be given a 30 min ACS on the Friday after school. Students whose punctuality **does not improve** may receive a 60 min ACS. Parents will be asked to give permission for their child to attend this ACS.

We thank you as ever for your on-going support in ensuring students understand the value and importance of the high standards of behaviour and attitude to learning.

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 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

Deadline: 4th 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

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

Term dates for the academic year 2016/17 are being finalised and will appear in the next bulletin.