

Welcome to The UCL Academy e-bulletin for the 2016/17 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. Also included is a brief summary of just some of the many activities and headlines that have taken place at the Academy recently. **Please note new dates/events which have been added in green.**

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Week of 5th December — **GCSE Mock Exams (L2+ Students)**

Wednesday, 7 December 2016 – **UAPA Coffee Morning**, 8:45 – 10:00am

This coffee morning will give parents an opportunity to hear more on the Academy's GCSE planning activities. Assistant Principal Mr Molloy will be providing further information on the day. If time allows, we will look to start planning the international evening.

Tuesday, 13 December — **Winter Showcase**, 6pm - 8pm

All parents welcome; more details below. This event will be followed by a UAPA Social Evening.

Thursday, 15 December — **Late Start**, 9:25am

To support Exit Point.

Thursday, 15 December — **No SDL**; 3:30pm finish for Foundation, L1, L1+, L2, L2+

Level 3 and Level 3+ finish will be confirmed by individual teachers.

Friday, 16 December — **Last Day of Term**; 12:30pm Finish for All Students

Please ensure your student is in school for this day.

Tuesday, 3 January — **Staff Planning Day**; No School

Wednesday, 4 January — **Late Start**, 9:25am

First day of term.

UAPA – UCL ACADEMY PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The UAPA is an informal association of parents and carers, who meet to learn more about the Academy, engage with fellow parents and attend key events and activities.

Since the Academy opened, we have developed the UAPA in many different ways. Each year, we have had a stalwart group of dedicated parents who are involved in what goes on at The UCL Academy.

UAPA Coffee Mornings & Evenings

Each UAPA coffee morning will take place in the library, and will be hosted by Florie Canolli and a member of staff. The meetings will focus on what is happening at the Academy, and will include presentations from students, discussions about the curriculum and information about key events and activities. The dates for the 2016/17 academic year are as follows:

Mornings

Wednesday 7th December, 2016: 8.45-10.00 (GCSE Planning)

Wednesday 8th February, 2017: 8.45-10.00 (Plan the International Day)

Wednesday 24 May, 2017: 8.45-10.00

Evenings

Tuesday 13 December, 2016: 6pm - 8pm (Winter Showcase; all parents welcome)

Please note: the UAPA is an informal social association for parents and carers. Parents and carers who have individual concerns or queries regarding their child or and Academy policies should attend the SLT evening drop-in sessions, arrange to meet key staff and use the consultation evenings appropriately. It is important the UAPA events remain a vehicle for parents to learn about the school in general, meet socially and support activities and events. If you have any questions, please email parents.association@uclacademy.co.uk.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Performing Arts Winter Showcase

On Tuesday 13th December we are presenting a Winter Arts Showcase. Students have been preparing for this event since the start of term and it promises to be an entertaining evening of Art, Music and Drama.

The evening will start at 6:15pm in the Assembly Hall with an Exhibition from the Art Department, a garden stall and a Christmas food stall before the performances begin at 6:30pm. The evening will finish at 7:30pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Thursday 8th December and will be available via ParentPay; more information will be provided shortly. We hope you will be able to join us for this celebration of student performances and look forward to welcoming you on the night.

Ms Dydymaska, Ms Bettioui and Ms Kosasih-Wall

School Performance – Buggy Malone

The UCL Academy are proud to present our first musical production in February 2017: 'Buggy Malone'. Students and staff from across the Academy have been working hard all term to prepare for what is set to be a fantastic show! Tickets will officially be on sale from Wednesday 4th January via a special website (all details will be available on the Academy website). There will be two evening performances on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th February, starting at 6.30pm. Tickets will be priced at £4.50 for adults and £3 for children.

We are currently looking to source a range of props, set and costume items for the production including:

- » 4x car tires
- » 3x large laundry baskets
- » Very large bin with lid
- » Wooden crates, different shapes and sizes
- » 2x old fashioned telephones

- » 2x leather armchairs
- » Coloured tablecloths (large quantity needed)
- » Velvet drapes
- » 2x old fashioned lamps
- » Old fashioned suitcase
- » 1920s style costume pieces, especially men's hats

If you are able to assist in donating/ lending any of the above items or if you would like to volunteer your time to any other aspects of the show, your support would be much appreciated. There are also opportunities to advertise local businesses within our programme. Please contact Ms Bettioui, Curriculum Leader for Drama (n.bettioui@uclacademy.co.uk) with any queries.

GENERAL NOTICES

What's Been Happening at the Academy?



November 25 | Widening Participation Event @ UCL

Just a brief list of key headlines at the Academy:

- » The UCL Academy sent nine budding Chinese linguists to The Victory Services Club near Marble Arch to perform in the regional finals of the **HSBC Chinese Speaking Competition**. All participants were true ambassadors for The UCL Academy and were proud to represent their school. Good luck! Please find more details [here](#).
- » Dr Fiona Truscott of the UCL Biochemical Engineering department gave a lecture to our students about **universal vaccine discovery** and **automation** with help from their robot, GERTI.
- » Level 2 students **Mia Currid** (EQ6) and **Shahnoza Akramova** (EQ3) attended the **Acorn Inspirations** hack weekend on November 19th, arriving with an idea for an app which they briefly pitched to the room. They partnered with another 14-year old girl they met, and collaborated as a team to develop the product, a social justice idea for a game-based educational app called '**Road to Refuge**'. Aimed at children, the game idea is to follow the journey a refugee might take, answering questions along the way to gain points, which can then be used for in-app purchases, with any sponsorship / advertising donated back to charity. **Shahnoza** wrote up the concept, and **Mia** did all the coding, using a programme that she hadn't used before.

At the end of the day they had a working prototype, and the three of them pitched the concept (confidently and clearly) to a full room of peers, press and industry experts, coherently answering

any questions posed. Well done, girls!

- » Academy staff celebrated the launch of the **Research Innovation Centre** and its first publication, **Pathways 2015/16**, detailing an enquiry-based approach to Continuing Professional Development/ Learning (CPD/CPL) in order to ensure cross-disciplinary collaboration and innovation across the whole school. We're very proud of our staff members for their thoughtful and considered contributions, and to Mr R Gratton and Ms A Miller for leading the project. We are hoping for a revised edition to be published by the UCL Institute of Education sometime early next year.
- » Our own **Ali Sam Nateghian** (L1 CY2) was picked out of 1100+ students—by none other than Monica Lewinsky—to be sponsored for **Anti-Bullying Ambassador** training. Well done, Ali Sam!

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.

Student Punctuality

It is a common pattern that at this time of the term, student punctuality in the morning begins to worsen. Our process for dealing with late students in the morning is as follows:

- » Students arriving after 8:30am (8:40am on a Monday) will be marked as late, and should enter the gate at the Harley Road Entrance. Sanctions will be given.
- » Persistent late-comers will be sanctioned after school.
- » Where lateness is an ongoing concern, we will be writing to parents directly.

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:

- » Guidance from PC Sweeney and Metropolitan Police: Parents and students should remain aware that any toys that could be misconstrued as weapons are completely banned from the Academy. We urge parents and students to hand any such inappropriate toys to the Police. These include objects such as laser pens, BB guns or any replica weapons. **We have a no tolerance approach to any student bringing in objects that may be seen as a weapon.**
- » 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.

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.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/UCL_Academy

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theuclacademy>

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2016/17

Autumn Term 2016

Thursday 1st September — Friday 16th December 2016

Half-term: Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October 2016

Winter holiday: Monday 19th December 2016 to Monday 2nd January 2017

Spring Term 2017

Tuesday 3rd January — Friday 7th April 2017

Half-term: Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2017

Spring holiday: Monday 10th April to Friday 21st April

Summer Term 2017

Monday 24th April — Friday 21st July 2017

Half-term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2017

Staff Planning Days 2016/17 (Non-student days)

Planning days for 2017/18 to be confirmed by March 30th.

Tuesday 3rd January

Friday 3rd February

Wednesday 29th March

Wednesday 17th May

Thursday 13th July



Parent e-Bulletin

Monday, 5th December 2016