



Parent e-Bulletin

Friday 15th April 2016

Thought of the Fortnight

"Everything is created twice, first in the mind and then in reality."

- Robin S. Sharma

Welcome to the fortnightly Parent e-Bulletin, the best place to be 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

Tuesday 19th April – UCL Japan Trip Presentation

6:00pm – 7:30pm. We would like to invite you to the Academy for a presentation about the recent trip to Fukushima, investigating the recovery following the devastations of the 2011 earthquake.

Thursday 21st – 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 28th April - Celebration of Foundation Learning: Climate Change

4:30pm – 5:30pm. How can we tackle climate change? Come hear from our Foundation students in our Celebration of Foundation Learning.

Spring Bank Holiday – Monday 2nd May

Thursday 5th May – Level 1+ Parent Consultation Evening

4:00pm-6:30pm. This is for Level 1+ only. Appointments can be made via our online booking system. Letters will be sent home with the relevant details.

Friday 6th May – Late start 9:25am

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

Monday 9th May – 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.

Thursday 19th May – Staff Planning Day

Due to a scheduled Staff Planning Day, the Academy will be closed to all students.

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June – HALF TERM BREAK

Monday 6th June – Friday 10th June – Assessment Week

In the first week back after the half term break, students will be sitting formal exams and assessments. A more detailed letter will follow for parents and students to support student preparation. There will be some timing changes to the Academy day.

Monday 13th June – Thursday 16th June – Festival Week

Festival week will follow Assessment week; more detailed letters will follow. Please note that the Academy will also be closed to students on Friday 17th June to support staff planning for the new GCSE and A level courses. There will be some changes to the Academy day.

Thursday 30th June – 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

Monday 4th July – 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.

Wednesday 6th July – Staff Planning Day

Due to a scheduled Staff Planning Day, the Academy will be closed to all students.

Important Notices

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Some of you may have seen the article in a recent Ham and High regarding building issues at Swiss Cottage Special School. I would direct you towards Mrs Bedford's letter on their website for reassurance. As you may be aware, our building was constructed at the same time and by the same contractor and as Mrs Bedford says in her response to the article, new buildings always have a number of teething issues. The Academy's Governors and senior staff have been proactive in seeking reassurances and I can confirm that the Academy has received confirmation that the building is safe for occupation from the Special Purposes Vehicle General Manager, who manages the Academy's PFI contract through Camden Council. In addition, the Academy is relentless in ensuring any defects that begin to arise as the building settles into full occupation, are dealt with by the contractor.

Yours sincerely

Geraldine Davies

Changes to the end of Summer Term 2016

Governors have agreed to additional planning time for staff to support new GCSE and A level syllabus planning. The term will end for students on Friday 15th July at 12:30pm.

Minor Change to Monday start time

As previously communicated, please be reminded that for the remainder of the Summer Term the Academy Day will start at 8:40am on Mondays (unless otherwise advised of a late start).

Parent and Student Surveys

During the Easter half term break we sent out a questionnaire to all Parents and students. We would greatly appreciate if you could spend 10 minutes to complete the survey and ask your child to return it to reception.

General Notices

Launch of School Counselling Service - 'Open Minded'

After Easter, students will be able to self-refer themselves to the school therapy and counselling service. This service is an addition to the Tavistock and Portman, NHS Camden CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) service which is already in place in school, and for the past 2 years has been providing specialist support for pupils, referred by members of staff.



Now, students will be able to contact this service directly to ask for support in school. Students will be able to make appointments for a 'drop in' session during Wednesday lunchtimes and can then be offered up to 6 sessions in school. The counselling service aims to help them think about what they are worried about and how to get more help if needed. This will be a confidential service and all the therapists will work within the NHS CAMHS framework for confidentiality and safeguarding.

Details of this service will be made available to students and staff after the Easter holidays, through the pastoral team (Heads of Houses and Tutors) and posters in school.

For further information, please contact Ms Lynne Taylor, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist by emailing: openminded@uclacademy.co.uk

Invitation to Japan Symposium

In March, three sixth form students; Ershad Ahmadi, Agatha Salazar, Sami Casaneanu and myself, joined a group of professors and postgraduate students from the UCL Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction on a trip to Fukushima province, by invitation of the Governor, Masao Uchibori. The purpose was for us to see that Fukushima is well on the way to recovery after the devastations of the 2011 earthquake.

We would like to invite you to a presentation about this trip at the Academy on Tuesday 19th April from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Please express your interest by email at t.courtenaythompson@uclacademy.co.uk with Japan Presentation as the subject. Places are limited so please get in contact with us as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

Tina Courtenay-Thompson

Director of UCL Links

What's Been Happening at the Academy?

Just a brief list of key headlines at the Academy:

- Incredible effort shown by staff and students taking part in the quickest mile challenge. Total funds raised: £825.74
- Some amazing STEM activities took place recently: Operating Theatre Live, Acorn Hack Girls and the Big Bang Fair – stay tuned for more information in the Spring Newsletter. Also, stay tuned for the STEM video being released soon!
- Turtle Crisis, a team made up of UCL Academy girls (Geneva, Mia and Reshma) won the grand prize at Acorn Hack Girls, gaming app for children to learn about and solve world's problems. Each girl received a Kano power up kit as well as an invitation to the red carpet premiere of movie Blazing Samurai chaperoned by Ober.
- Level 3 students recently welcomed Suzi Woolfson, the Head of Private Business at PwC, who ran a careers workshop in professional services

- National Citizen Service came and spoke to Level 3 students about the opportunity to go on an outwards bound residential course and a skills development course, followed by social action campaigning in the local area
- Professor Mark Ford, a poet from UCL, delivered inspiring workshops with Level 2 and Sixth Form students.
- Release of student migration stories. Read them here: <http://www.blurb.co.uk/ebooks/573687-migration-stories>
- Level 2 students visited University College London to present their work for last term's Level 2 Grand Challenges
- This term's Level 2 Grand Challenge, Intercultural Interaction, was launched.

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?

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 April 2016, Professor Lucie Green

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.

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

General Housekeeping

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.

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 have begun sanctioning students who are consistently late over a one or two week period. This sanction runs from 15:35-16:00pm for Foundation, Level 1 and Level 1 + and 16:30pm-1700pm for other students 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 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.

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

Students final day 1230 15th July - Governors have agreed to additional planning time for staff to support new GCSE and A level syllabus planning.

Monday 11th April to Friday 15th 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 and Holidays 2016/17*

Autumn Term 2016

Thursday 1st September to Friday 16th December 2016

Staggered Start Times:

Thursday 1st September – Staff Planning Day (non-student)

Friday 2nd September – Foundation and Level 3 new starters

Monday 5th September – All other students (Level 1/1+, Level 2/2+, Level 3+)

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

Christmas break: Monday 19th December 2016 to Monday 2nd January 2017

Spring Term 2017

Tuesday 3rd January to 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 to Friday 21st July 2017

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

*Staff planning days to be confirmed at a later date