



Parent e-Bulletin

Wednesday 26th October 2016

Following the normal pattern for the start of term and after half-term, **the Academy will have a late start on October 31st** due to an extended staff meeting. **Gates will open at 9:00am for a prompt start at 9:25am.** Contrary to anything you may have heard, Halloween has certainly not been declared a public holiday!

Thought of the Fortnight

"Poetry is just the evidence of life. If your life is burning well, poetry is just the ash."

- Leonard Cohen

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.

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.

UAPA – UCL Academy Parents' Association

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to include some key UAPA dates in this week's Parent Bulletin. 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 member Florie Canolli, along with Robin Street, have worked together to schedule the below dates for the upcoming academic year. Please note that some of these dates are TBC.

UAPA Coffee Mornings

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:

Wednesday 7th December, 2016: 8.45-10.00

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

Wednesday 24 May, 2017: 8.45-10.00

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.

Important Upcoming Dates and Events

Monday, 31 October 2016 – Late Start at 9:25am

Thursday, 3 November 2016 – Early Finish at 3:35pm

Thursday, 3 November 2016 – Level 3 Open Evening, 4:00 – 6:30pm

All students in Level 2+ and their parents are warmly invited to the Level 3 Open Evening, introducing you to the Academy's Sixth Form program and giving you the opportunity to ask any questions. We are delighted to announce that we have dedicated 4.00 - 4.45pm for a short presentation and then time with subject leads, solely for current Academy students.

Please be aware that there is plenty of time after this to continue exploring subject options, and that external candidates interested in the Academy will start arriving from 4:45pm.

See the attached letter from Co-Principal Simon McBride for further details.

Friday, 4 November 2016 – Late Start at 9:25am

Thursday, 10 November 2016 – Information Evening for GCSE options, 17:00 – 18:00pm

This will be an opportunity for parents of Level 1+ students to explore GCSE options. Further details will be provided shortly.

Tuesday, 22 November 2016 – Level 3 Open Evening, 4:00 – 6:30pm

All students in Level 2+ and their parents are warmly invited to the Level 3 Open Evening, introducing you to the Academy's Sixth Form program and giving you the opportunity to ask any questions. We are delighted to announce that we have dedicated 4.00 - 4.45pm for a short presentation and then time with subject leads, solely for current Academy students.

Please be aware that there is plenty of time after this to continue exploring subject options, and that external candidates interested in the Academy will start arriving from 4:45pm.

See the attached letter from Co-Principal Simon McBride for further details.

Thursday, 24 November 2016 – Level 1 Parent Consultations, 4:30 – 6:30pm

You will be receiving a letter shortly to book appointments.

Friday, 2 December 2016 – Staff Planning Day

No school.

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

TBD

Level 3 Open Evenings

[A Letter from Co-Principal, Simon McBride](#)

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians of students in L2+,

Re: SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING, THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2016, 4PM

When I spoke to students last week, I explained how significant the next school year will be, both for them and for the Academy. For them, it marks the next step in their academic career and an opportunity to really focus on the subjects they are particularly passionate about and strong in. To support students in preparing for this, I wanted to draw your attention to two things:

- I am very pleased to invite you and your children to the first of 2 Sixth Form (L3) Open Events, on Thursday 3rd November. **We have reserved 4.00-4.45pm for a short presentation and then a Subject Fair for existing students.** Only after 4.45pm will external students start to arrive. At the presentation we will explain the entry requirements, courses, application process and opportunities that exist in the Academy's Sixth Form. The Subject Fair allows you and your children to ask more detailed questions about the nature of each course to help them start to narrow down their choices.
- Each student will also have a guidance briefing with a senior member of staff after half term. This is to discuss individual strengths and aspirations, and to support them in choosing appropriately if the Academy is not the most suitable Sixth Form for them.

Next year will also be a significant year for the Academy as a whole, as students who began their school life here in Foundation will be progressing into the 6th Form and shall have the opportunity to contribute to its shape and direction. Much exciting work has already set up a great range of experiences and university destinations for our 6th Formers, but we look forward to the ideas that our own students will contribute. Given the academic nature of the 6th Form the entry requirements of 6 Bs or above at GCSE are relatively high, but nonetheless we look forward to welcoming as many students as possible into L3 next September.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 3rd.

Yours faithfully,



Simon McBride
Co-Principal

General Notices

What's Been Happening at the Academy?

Just a brief list of key headlines at the Academy:

- The English National Opera visited the Academy last Friday 21st October for an engaging and interactive performance, introducing students and teachers alike to the world of opera. Visit our Twitter page for photos!
- On 19th October, our Foundation Girls team won the Camden Shield for the first time!
- On 12th October, the Level 1 Girls won the Camden Shield, retaining their Championship status – well done, team!
- On 11th October, we hosted over 200 prospective students and parents for our final Foundation Open Morning event of the year.

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

The UCL Academy's Digital Citizens

A Letter from Co-Principal, Simon McBride

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. Today, via tutors, I have reminded all students of two key points regarding E-safety and the responsible use of ICT. I should be grateful if you would reiterate them with your children.

First, that in using any online system, and especially their Academy email, students must ensure they have amended their password from the default they were issued with. Where students don't take this simple step they make their account potentially vulnerable to hacking.

Second, I have reminded students of their obligations to use ICT responsibly. This particularly includes refraining from sending anything offensive, especially if attempting to use Academy systems. It also includes attempting to send messages in the name of another person. Doing so or attempting to do so is a serious breach of the Ethical Behaviour Policy at the Academy and in some cases may be a police matter in the area of cybercrime or fraud. Any students found to be in such a breach should expect part of their sanction to include suspending their rights to access Academy systems altogether.

It may come as no surprise that I am writing this because we have detected an increase in incidents of students attempting to use systems inappropriately. Therefore I am also reviewing our own protocols to prevent such things, and have made some adjustments already.

Finally please remind students that mobile devices are not allowed on site for students in Foundation through to Level 2+, except where specific teacher permission is given. We certainly cannot be responsible for their security, and if seen, they will be confiscated. Parents will then be invited in to collect them from the school safe. Neither do we ignore inappropriate use of mobile messaging apps, even outside school, when it affects the

wellbeing of others in, or the smooth running of the school. If necessary we do involve the police in such situations.

For further guidance on e-safety you may wish to view [this guide](#) and the THINKUKNOW website [here](#), which includes a guide for parents.

Thank you for your support in this area.

Yours faithfully,



Simon McBride
Co-Principal

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.

Start and End of the Day

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that all students from Foundation to Level 2+ must arrive through the Harley Road entrance by 8:30am every morning (8:40am Mondays), unless there is an agreed late start.

Students have also had it made crystal clear to them that at the end of the Academy day they must leave the area directly outside the school on Adelaide road immediately and not wait around on the pavement. If they want to wait for friends they can wait on site. We ask parents and carers to reinforce this message to students as the space on Adelaide Road is very tight and students must adhere to this guidance or they will face an appropriate sanction.

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.

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-17:00pm 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 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

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

Term Dates and Holidays 2016/17

Autumn Term 2016

Thursday 1st September to Friday 16th December 2016

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

Winter 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 2016/17 (Non-student days)

Friday 2nd Dec

Tuesday 3rd Jan

Friday 3rd Feb

Wednesday 29th March

Wednesday 17th May

Thursday 13th July