

18 December 2012

Dear parents and students

I'm finding it difficult to get really excited about our move to the Adelaide Road site. We have had so many false dawns that getting excited almost feels as if I am tempting fate. But the reality is the boxes have been packed and moved and we are saying goodbye to Brondesbury Park. I am secretly doing a little 'we are moving' dance.

Staff will start training in the Adelaide Road building later this week and begin the process of getting to know the building. The design of our new site is both beautiful and innovative, with demanding targets for energy conservation and generation set by UCL and Camden.

The formal handover and building sign off is complex and the Multi user games areas (MUGAS) will not be finished until February. I anticipate there will be, as with any new building, a period of 'bedding in'. But the facilities are breathtaking and views inspiring. I hope you feel the same when you visit the Academy in January.

What we will not miss includes coach journeys twice a day, rushing between sites to teach, not being able to have the whole Academy together and Level 3 being at Birkbeck on 3 days per week!

But adversity builds character and community. We are stronger for this experience, our L3 students have spent a term working in University labs, and Foundation students have learnt the discipline of punctuality - now we know they can do it, no excuses for lateness next term.

I do have a number of people to thank:

- The Provost and staff at UCL who have driven the building project forward
- The UCL colleagues in faculties and departments who have given practical help and support during the term and moral support throughout the project
- Camden IT Team who have provided an amazing service
- Our coach provider and the teams of drivers
- Birkbeck for providing accommodation and their patience in having L3 students on site when they were used to a much older cohort
- The UCL Academy staff who have been extraordinary. Always putting student needs first and finding ways to make impossible situations work.
- I also must thank the staff at BAM who, although generating the problem, have been determined to find solutions and get things working for us

Finally, I have to thank our students. We are blessed with talented, inventive and caring young people, who have made this difficult situation easy.

Our Christmas Showcase on Monday 17th December demonstrated yet again the depth of talent we have at the UCL Academy.

January 2013 will bring us another set of firsts in the UCL Academy story:

- Tour of the building
- Whole Academy assemblies
- Sessions in our new Superstudios
- First UCL lecture by Professor David Price, Chair of Governors

I wish you all a wonderful holiday and happy and peaceful time with your families.

Yours sincerely



Geraldine Davies  
Principal  
The UCL Academy