

Friday 2nd September 2016

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian

I am delighted to share with you the Ofsted report. Please follow the link to the Academy website <http://www.uclacademy.co.uk/>

Finally, we shed the Requires Improvement judgement, the 'mantel of shame' and have been given 'Good' judgements across the board. However, the text of the report is a joy to read and I encourage you to take time to read and savour the wonderful things said about our Academy.

Professor Michael Arthur, UCL President and Provost, said 'Clearly heading for 'outstanding'. Well done to all at the school, 'and Professor David Price, Chair of Governors and Vice Provost for Research at UCL, commented 'This report is truly excellent ... Congratulations to the Principal and all the team on a great outcome. I look forward to the next stage of the Academy's development'.

The Inspection team fully recognised the wonderful ethos and culture we have developed and the behaviour, progress and achievements of the students and staff were praised. It has been difficult to select just a few of the comments to highlight for you. Everyone will have their own favourites but here are my top 11 (sorry I couldn't keep to 10):

1. Information from the school and a review of pupils' books indicates that a greater percentage of pupils in the school are making good progress when compared with other pupils nationally. In addition, the percentage of pupils making more than expected progress is also above national figures.
2. The school expects outcomes to be well above the national averages, when the first cohort of pupils take GCSE examinations in 2017. Evidence seen by inspectors supports this expectation.
3. ...disadvantaged pupils make better progress than non-disadvantaged pupils over time.
4. There are high expectations for pupils' conduct in the classrooms. Pupils generally settle to their work quickly, and continue to work hard during lessons. This means that pupils and teachers use every available minute for learning in class.
5. 'Leaders set high expectations of pupils and staff. This has resulted in a culture of respect, which is evident across the school and 'There is an excellent climate for learning.'
6. Pupils told inspectors they are guided well by the staff, particularly in their learning. Pupils are very articulate about their learning journey and the support they receive from the school. They said that the teachers support different ways of learning and 'they don't let you give up'. These positive attitudes have an effect on the pupils' progress.
7. 'Pupils are proud of the school. They are keen to come to school because they are well cared for.'
8. 'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.

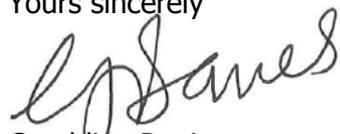
9. 'During the inspection inspectors did not hear any discriminatory or inappropriate language.
10. The **academy sponsor** provides a range of academic opportunities for pupils through the development of the 'Encounters with Excellence' programme. This offers pupils exciting exposure to university life.
11. Pupils are very positive about the extra-curricular provision, especially the opportunities to visit and work with **University College London, the academy sponsor**. This enables pupils to develop and use a range of social skills and to investigate moral and ethical issues.

There only two areas for us to work on to improve further and both had already been identified in our development plan for 2016-17.

No two day inspection can fully capture all the wonderful things that make our Academy special but I am happy that against the Ofsted criteria, the quality of work and standards achieved by the Academy has been recognised. I have my own category which describes this Academy and that is fabulous!! But I'm not sure that will ever be adopted by Ofsted. I thank all of you for your on-going support and challenge, which makes the Academy better and better each year. On your behalf I thank students and staff for the amazing work and for providing the powerhouse of talent that enables us to continue to innovate and improve.

Well done the team!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Davies', written in a cursive style.

Geraldine Davies
Principal