



Parent e-Bulletin

Wednesday 14th September 2016

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. Also included is a brief summary of just some of the many activities and headlines that have taken place at the Academy recently.

A special welcome to our new Foundation and Level 3 parents

Amendment to a Previously Published Planning Day

Previously, we have published a staff planning day on Tuesday 29th November 2016. This date will be changed to a later date in the half term. We will confirm this date in the next parent bulletin. Apologies. Please see all other planning day dates at the bottom of the newsletter.

Important Upcoming Dates and Events

Thursday 22nd September – Foundation Athletics Day

All Foundation Level students will be taking part in Athletics day off site on Wednesday 22 September. More information will follow in a letter.

Thursday 22nd September – Medical Careers Event – L3/3+ 4.30pm – 5.30pm

An event for Level 3 and 3+ students interested in applying for medicine. The keynote speaker will be Dr Sarah Bennett, UCL Medicine admissions tutor. We will also have medical students and junior doctors in attendance.

Friday 23rd September – Jeans for Genes day

All students are invited to take part in a charity day "Jeans for Genes". All students will be asked to wear non uniform (must include jeans and denim!) in exchange for a £2 contribution to charity. <http://www.jeansforgenesday.org/>

Tuesday 27th September – 2.30pm Finish for All Students

The academy will close to students at 2.30pm to enable staff to prepare for the open evening

Tuesday 27th September – Open Evening for Prospective Foundation Level Students and Parents

An event for parents of year 6 students wishing to apply for a place in the Foundation Level in 2017. There will be more information to follow next week.

Wednesday 28th September – Late Start for Students

Students will start the day at 9:25am on Wednesday 28 September.

Thursday 29th September – Level 2+ Parent Consultation

There will be more information to follow next week. Please note that there may be an early finish and late start for students. More information to follow.

Tuesday 4th October and Tuesday 11th October – Open Morning for Prospective Foundation Level Students and Parents

An open morning for prospective new students will take place at The UCL Academy from 11:15am – 1:00pm. All parents of current year 6 students are welcome.

Monday 10th Oct – SLT Drop-in for Parents and Guardians 4.30pm – 6pm

An opportunity for all parents to meet with Academy leaders and to ask any questions

Wednesday 12th October – Foundation and L3 Meet the Tutor event

An event for new Foundation Level and Level 3 parents and students. This will be an opportunity to meet with Heads of house and tutors on a more informal basis.

Important Notices

Ofsted

We are very pleased to announce that The UCL Academy has received a highly successful Ofsted report following our inspection in June. The Academy received 'Good' in the four judgment areas, with key aspects of our work identified as outstanding. The report will shortly be published by Ofsted and is currently available to read on the Academy website. <http://bit.ly/2cmII07>

Key aspects identified of particular note include our students' excellent attitude to learning, the outstanding provision for social, moral, cultural and social education, our innovative practice and student progress levels well above national average.

The report also recognises the unique and invaluable relationship we have with our sponsor UCL and the culture of respect that permeates throughout the Academy.

We are proud of the commitment and work of our students, staff, parents, governors and Sponsor which has helped us to achieve such a positive outcome since opening four years ago. This, coupled with our recent excellent A-level results, provides the whole academy community with the perfect platform for the year ahead.

ParentPay

In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from school, pupils are asked to use ParentPay – an e-payment method to pay for dinner money, trips and various items. If you are new to ParentPay, please visit www.parentpay.com to activate your account via the Account Login area of the website.

For those already familiar with ParentPay, please note that there has been a recent update to the ParentPay website, which changes the way that payments are made online. From now on, it is essential that payments onto the ParentPay website are allocated to a specific item eg. school dinner. Also, please note that all queries re allocating payments should be made to ParentPay in the first instance. If you have contacted ParentPay and still need advice, please call the UCL Academy finance department on 0207 449 3085.

UCL IOE Confucius Classroom

We are very pleased to announce that the Academy has been awarded the status of UCL IOE Confucius Classroom. The Confucius classroom is a prestigious accolade which recognises Mandarin teaching and learning at the Academy and provides support and funding through the UCL IOE Confucius institute. This recognises the Mandarin department as a leading centre for Mandarin both locally and nationally.

General Notices

What's Been Happening at the Academy?

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

- We are pleased to say that we had a focused start to the 2016/2017 school year. Students have been making a smooth transition back into their daily academic routines.
- Students received their school photographs last week. Students will be receiving their student ID cards, as well as their own school photographs shortly.
- On Friday September 2, students had the opportunity to visit UCL, where they got to know the pupils in their houses, have lectures from UCL staff, as well as view the campus. More opportunities for students to become familiar with UCL will happen throughout the year.
- The UCL Academy was mentioned on The World at One on BBC Radio 4 by UCL Professor Anthony Smith; Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs). Please click on the following link to view the radio clip: <http://bbc.in/2c9xwBj>.
- Our Self-Directed Learning (SDL) program – a programme where students choose from and participate in a variety of extracurricular activities – began this week. Please click on the following link to learn more about SDL: <http://bit.ly/2c3BOXs>.
- Our Summer School took place at the end of August, where Foundation students had the opportunity to prepare for the new school year.

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 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> where our news and photos are also published

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)

Thursday 1st Sept

Thursday 13th Oct

Planning day to be added in Nov/Dec 2016

Tuesday 3rd Jan

Friday 3rd Feb

Wednesday 29th March

Wednesday 17th May

Thursday 13th July