



Parent e-Bulletin Monday 26th 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 Warm Welcome from Professor David Price

Dear parents, carers and guardians,

A warm welcome to all new students and those returning to the Academy from the summer break.

It's been a really wonderful start to the new academic year with our Ofsted report being announced to all. On behalf of the Governing Body, I raise thanks to the staff, students, and leadership team of the Academy in the combined work in achieving such a positive report, which we feel very much reflects the strides the Academy has made since the last inspection.

I very much look forward to the academic year ahead, and in providing the end of term updates on behalf of the Governing Body.

Best Regards

David Price, Chair of Governors

Message from the Principal

Dear parents, carers and guardians

This week you will receive by post my first letter of this academic year through which I look forward to sharing news and important information with you throughout the year.

Enclosed with my letter, will be a hard copy of the Ofsted report for those of you that have not had a chance to read it in full. We are also going to enclose data sheets which we will need you to check /complete and return to the Academy as soon as possible. I thank you in advance for your cooperation with this exercise.

Yours sincerely

Geraldine Davies, Lead Co-Principal

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 19th October, 2016: 8.45-10.00

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

UAPA Social Evenings

Wednesday 12th October, 2016 - Meet the Tutor & UAPA Social Evening

This is an opportunity for new parents to meet their child's form tutor, as well as an opportunity for current UAPA members to meet new parents. The event will take place from 4.40pm to 6.30pm.

December 2016 (date TBC) - Christmas Concert & UAPA Social

We will be hosting a Christmas concert, which will be followed by a social for UAPA members.

March 2017 (date TBC) - International Cultures Celebration Day & UAPA Social (celebrating Founders Day)

One of our most memorable events, International Cultures Celebration Day is when a number of parents and students take part in a celebration of our Academy's diverse cultures and backgrounds. This year, we will celebrate along with Founder's day. We will work with parents to confirm the most appropriate date and time.

Monday 12th June, 2017 - DISCO & UAPA Social

As part of festival week, we have a traditional lower school disco. This is a chance for parents to meet each other and even show off their dance moves! As we work with parents, additional activities may arise.

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

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

This is an event for parents of year 6 students who wish to apply for a place in the Foundation Level in 2017. The event will take place at The UCL Academy from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.

Please note the Academy will close to students at 2.30pm to enable staff to prepare for the open evening. Students will start the day at 9:25am on Wednesday 28th September.

Thursday 29th September – Level 2+ Parent Consultations

The Level 2+ Consultation is an opportunity for parents of L2+ students to meet their child's teacher and to find out more about The UCL Academy's Sixth Form programme. The event will take place at The UCL Academy from 4:00pm to 6:30pm.

Please note that the Academy will close at 3.30 on Thursday 29th September for the Level 2+ parent consultation event. The Academy will reopen again at 9.25am on Friday 30th September.

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

This is 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. Our UAPA social will follow!

Thursday 20th October – Level 3+ Consultations

A level 3+ consultation will be held on this day. More information to follow.

General Notices

What's Been Happening at the Academy?

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

- On Thursday 22nd September, our Foundation Level students took part in Athletics day off site, where Cygnus celebrated the first major house victory of the year.
- On Friday 23rd September, students took part in Jeans for Genes day – a charity event that supports children in the UK born with genetic disorders. The event raises money in schools and workplaces that help to fund 'Genetic Disorders UK'.

- Dr Sarah Bennett from UCL visited the Academy on Thursday, 22nd September to talk to Level 3 students about applying to Medicine and Dentistry.
- New UCL Academy staff had the opportunity to visit UCL, where they became familiar with the campus and met the professors.

UCL Academy Artwork at Tate Modern

The Art Department recently took part in a collaborative project with two professional artists to create Artwork for the Rivers of the World project, which is currently being celebrated as part of the Thames Festival 2016.

If you get a chance you will be able to view the UCL Academy Artwork outside the Tate Modern along the River Thames. Please take advantage of the warm weather and enjoy the work which was created by 14 Foundation Students last academic year. This will be an on-going project for two years and we will have more artwork and collaborative projects taking place with our partner school in Vietnam during this time.

The work will be on display until the end of September.

General Housekeeping

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 0830 every morning. (0840 Mondays).

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.

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

Friday 2nd December

Tuesday 3rd Jan

Friday 3rd Feb

Wednesday 29th March

Wednesday 17th May

Thursday 13th July