
Welcome to our 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 schedule changes, general notices and news updates. Also included is a brief summary of some of the many activities and headlines that have taken place at the Academy recently.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRINCIPALS

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

We hope you find this recent bulletin a helpful update on all things happening at the Academy. Please note, in particular, the reminder about the Academy being a nut-free school. Also, do take the time to complete our short [comms survey](#). You will see that we are currently reviewing our telephone system across the Academy as well as our use of emails.

Most importantly, we would like to wish our Level 2+ students the very best as the exam period begins. They and their parents have been working diligently and passionately, and they all deserve to do so very well. The national picture for GCSE is a complex and changing one, and schools and students across the country are working in areas of uncertainty as the process for GCSE goes through unprecedented change. Whatever happens this summer, we will forever be proud and grateful to all of them for being the pioneers who have helped build The UCL Academy community, and we wish them all the luck in the world. This message of good luck has been sent from the Governing board and the Sponsor to every one of our students.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Street
Co-Principal



Mr S McBride
Co-Principal

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

Wednesday, 17 May — **Staff Planning Day**

The Academy will be closed to students.

Wednesday, 24 May — **UAPA Coffee Morning**; 8.45am – 10.00am

Theme: Student mental well-being. Please see below for further details.

Wednesday, 24 May — **Level 2 Parents Consultation**

A letter will be sent out shortly with instructions on how to book appointments.

w/b Monday 29 May — **HALF TERM**

Monday 5 June — **First Day of Term**; Late Start (9.25am)

w/b Monday, 5 June — **Assessment Week**

A letter will be sent out shortly regarding both Assessment Week and Festival Week.

w/b Monday, 12 June — **Festival Week**

A letter will be sent out shortly regarding both Assessment Week and Festival Week.

Thursday, 15 June — **Sports Day**

A letter will be sent out shortly regarding Sports Day.

Thursday, 15 June — **Social Evening** (see *General Notices* for more)

June 2017 — **International Student Conference**

We are currently exploring dates as we work with input from UCL academics. Watch this space!

GENERAL NOTICES

Reminder

In light of recent events in the news, we would like to remind parents that the Academy is a **nut-free school**. As we employ staff and educate students with significant allergies, we do our best to ensure that risk is kept to a minimum as per health and safety guidelines.



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Comms Survey

The Communications team at The UCL Academy are conducting a short survey in order to support continuing improvements. Please fill in your response below:

<http://go.uclacademy.co.uk/comms-survey>

UAPA Coffee Morning

Wednesday 24 May

We're happy to invite to our last coffee morning for this school year on Wednesday 24 May from 8.45-10.00am. This time, the focus of the morning will be on **student mental wellbeing**.

Mental wellbeing is crucial to every student's academic outcome and we believe that students need and deserve support. Some of the questions we'll be asking—and hopefully answering—include:

- What are some great ways to assist your child during exam periods?
- What support is available at the Academy for your child?
- Why is self-esteem so important to managing workload?

Relevant members of the Academy involved in such matters will be present at this event. We hope to see you there!

Social Evening

Thursday 15 June

We are pleased to announce that on Thursday 15 June, the Academy is hosting an informal social evening for any parent interested in meeting and catching up with fellow parents and carers. It is also a chance to introduce you to and have a chat with the recently appointed Co-Principals of the Academy.

Please come and join us and chat with other parents from all year groups.

A brief summary from the last Parent Coffee morning

Summary of UAPA Meeting 8:45 – 10:00am on Thursday 30th March:

On Thursday 30th March from 8:45-10:00am, a group of approximately 15 parents and staff met to discuss current events at the school and enjoy some cakes and tea. The meeting started and ended on time, but parents and staff came and went as needed based on their schedule, so please join next time even if you can only join for part of the meeting.

Mr. Bowen first shared about the possible option for parents to volunteer for school trips in the near future. The school would like to organise more outings for the students and having parent volunteers would provide more opportunities for such trips. There will be more information coming soon about this parent volunteer opportunity, so look for sign-ups to be on the list, as it will require a DBS check prior to participating.

Further, Mr. Bowen is planning an international conference for approximately 180 students from the area in and around Camden on 16th & 17th of June. The idea is to offer several free places to Academy students and to invite students in the area to participate as well for a small fee. Look out for the upcoming flyer for details on the conference, but the idea is to share about big life issues of concern to students.

Mr. Street briefly discussed the change in leadership for next year, as Ms. Davies takes a step back, stating that more information will be provided in the near future. Further, other staff changes will be communicated to parents soon. He also stated that the staff information on the website will be updated as soon as possible. He indicated that they are still working on improving methods of communicating such matters to parents, as well as acknowledging the need to update the phone system which is currently overloaded. He discussed how the school is now at its anticipated full capacity of students; hence, this coming Autumn will be the first

year since opening that there will not be an influx of a new year group of 180 students. He further indicated a relief that everything is flowing smoothly in that regard with more stability going forward, as in not having to add large numbers of new staff each year.

Mr. Bowen discussed the ongoing uncertainty as to how the new GCSE grading system will relate to the old system, etc. The school continues to receive and review the same information as every other school, so the uncertainty exists for every UK school. Parents and students will be updated on an ongoing basis as more clarity is provided.

The upcoming focus groups for Parent's View of Sex and Relationship Education was discussed. An interesting and vibrant discussion among all parents and staff followed! If you would like to take part in the study, which involves an hour and a half confidential discussion group, please contact Yoan Reed at yoan@teachinglifeskills.co.uk for details.

Finally, help is needed for the planning of the Foundation Week Disco on Monday 12th June from 6:00-8:30pm. Please contact hello@uclcharity.org if you can help with donations of food, time, and/or sponsorship (of food and/or money) from area businesses. Look for details of sponsorship benefits in the flyer available from the email contact.

Have a nice term break!
Connie Rozes

Upcoming RSE Talk

Sex, Identity & The Smartphone Generation – talking with teenagers about sex

Consent, pleasure, respect, body confidence, LGBT+ issues, sex positivity, victim blaming, the gendered impact of porn and “sexting”... kids these days have a lot on their plate.

Meanwhile RSE (relationships and sex education), which will be on the school curriculum from September 2019, increasingly figures in social and political debate.

Outspoken comedian **Sara Pascoe** – author of *Animal: The Autobiography of a Female Body* – targets these challenging topics alongside **Yoan Reed** – RSE (relationships and sex education) educator and facilitator; **Meg Veit** – “near-peer” Young People’s Service Manager for sexual health charity Diverse; and **Curtis Yeboah**, from Brook, the charity which promotes sexual health and wellbeing for under-25s.

Chaired by The UCL Academy parent **Leah Jewett** (SRE Working Group Lead at the Women’s

Equality Party)

Put on by Dartmouth Park Talks, at 7.45pm on 24 May, The Star pub, 47 Chester Road, London N19
Tickets £8 each. Book via email: dartmouthparktalks@gmail.com

What's Been Happening at the Academy?



April 28 | UCL Engineers & Academy Students Designing New UCL Building

Just a brief list of key headlines at the Academy:

- On Monday 24 April, the Academy began its annual **STEM Week** celebrations. Highlights included a lecture by famous architect George Clark at Imperial College, *Tomorrow's Engineers* 'Energy Quest' with our Foundation students, and an interactive exercise on designing a new student building at UCL!

As always, please follow our Twitter account for fresh updates.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are proud to announce that we had 17 Silver and 26 Bronze successful candidates who passed their DofE Award this year. With a total of 43 candidates we came second in Camden Borough. This was a considerable achievement given that it was our first year's attempt.

We would like to thank our very dedicated staff who have given up their time to train candidates and also at least two weekends away orienteering and camping for two and three



nights. They are: Mr Ward, Mr Whipp and Mr Fielden who are qualified Country Leaders and led our Expeditions and Mrs Manning and Ms Barber our qualified Assessors. We are also grateful to have House Ambassadors: Catherine Sandwell (Lyra), Rebecca Knowles (Equuleus), Debbie Barber (Orion), Andy Brighthouse (Vela) and David Edwards (Cygnus) who support pupils in their Houses, pass on information and monitor progress.



'Know Your Onions'

Several of our Foundation students have been taking part in a project called 'Know your onions' run by Food growing Schools. Yesterday we visited the Skip Garden in Kings Cross, where students explored a small, urban oasis growing food organically in large containers which is then served in the local café. The students thoroughly enjoyed feeding the chickens and eating freshly picked carrots. The last stage of the project? For a chef to come into school and cook with some of the produce we have grown here—exciting!

Work Experience

Important information for L2+ and L3 students and parents

It might be helpful to give you an update about the Work Experience activity we are asking your children to undertake at the end of this year. We'd like to share this info in case they may not be telling you everything they get up to!

Dedicated work experience weeks:

For L2+ Students: Monday 26th - Friday 30th June.

For L3 Students: Monday 10th - Friday 14th July.

We ask all the above students to arrange an experience which will be useful to them professionally. The *Internship and Work Experience* Booklets have been disseminated to the respective students, as has the

It would be useful to encourage students to consider how their existing network of family, friends, previous work experience, clubs and extra-curricular activities might be useful for them during this endeavour.

if you know anyone willing to offer work experience to our UCL Academy students, please

contact Mrs E Aliu at: workexperience@uclacademy.co.uk.

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. If you know in advance that your child will be late, please provide the Academy with a medical note, appointment card, note in their planner, letter or email.

Student Punctuality

Our process for dealing with late students in the morning is as follows:

- Students arriving after 8:30am (8:40am on a Monday) will be marked as late, and should enter the gate at the Harley Road Entrance. Sanctions will be given.
- Persistent latecomers will be sanctioned after school.
- Where lateness is an ongoing concern, we will be writing to parents directly.

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.

Harley Road

AM & PM; stopping on yellow zig zags

Local residents have asked us to kindly remind all parents who drop off their students by car in the morning and pick them up in the evening that **stopping on the yellow zig zags is not allowed**. It has been reported to us that number of cars stop and even park in these areas in the mornings and evenings. This is a potential safety risk for students trying to cross the road to get to school and also impacts on local residents. **We wanted to remind all parents that it is actually illegal to stop and even drop off in these areas**. We ask all parents to be mindful of this when bringing students to school and remind you that the local public transport network is extremely quick and reliable for the morning or evening commute.

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 do follow us for regular updates. We also regularly update Facebook with news stories and photos.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/UCL_Academy

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

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2016/17

Summer Term 2017

Monday 24th April — Wednesday 19th July 2017*

Half-term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

Staff Planning Days 2016/17 (Non-student days)

Wednesday 17th May

Friday 16th June

Thursday 13th July

*Thursday 20th July

*Friday 21st July

Additional Planning Days Added

We have added two additional staff planning days in July. These will be non-student days. As such, **Wednesday 19 July** will be the last day of term for all students.

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2017/18

Term dates for the academic year 2017/18 have been finalised and are viewable on our website at <http://www.uclacademy.co.uk/Term-Dates>. Planning days for 2017/18 will be communicated shortly.

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