

Tuesday, 25 July 2017

Dear All

RE: Message from the Co-Principals

Thank you for all the support you have shown the Academy over this Academic year, and how you have supported your children with their school life. The past three months have demonstrated repeatedly the importance of community as we have negotiated the impact of so many challenging events. We have certainly been impressed at the concern and togetherness students and staff have shown in challenging times. Closest to home of course many of you are residents of the Chalcots estate and we are aware that in some cases your accommodation is still uncertain at times. We wish you as settled a summer holiday as possible.

Last week we marked formally Geraldine Davies' retirement as Principal. It was a significant moment for the Academy as Geraldine had not just been the Founding Principal but had been key in forming the principles on which the Academy was established. We thank her for all that and more.

We say good bye this year to staff who are moving onto a range of roles and experiences. These include those who are moving abroad, going on to further study and career development or have taken promotions. In particular we would like to bid a fond farewell to one of our founding heads of houses, Sean Davies. He moves with his partner to the UAE and we hope we can all go and visit him and the sunshine!

We have communicated this term around areas of development at the Academy. We are very grateful for those that have responded to our surveys in regards to communication systems in particular. We continue our work to improve our telephony and email systems and we hope for you to see that impact in the new term. We will continue with the newsletters and bulletins and increase the use of text as we know that is valued and helpful for parents.

This term has seen a range of international trips and visits and we look forward to next academic year when we will continue to support student experiences in and outside the classroom. We have also made some changes to how we organise Self Directed Learning, to support the quality of experience and the organisation of it. This information will be communicated in the new term and we believe it will further improve what is already a unique and central part to our students' curriculum experience at the Academy.

Reporting cycles and parent consultations have also been an area we have developed further this year. Foundation and Level 1 parents will be receiving a narrative subject report next week and we look forward to the welcoming parents to the parent consultations next year as part of the annual cycle. Similar to this year, level written reports will be sent out as part of the cycle of the year to best support student progress. We will continue to hold open door SLT evenings and we look forward to meeting more parents and supporting the on-going work of the UAPA with coffee morning and more social events.

We very much look forward to the new term and new colleagues joining us. London schools traditionally face challenges with recruitment, but yet again this year we are absolutely delighted with the quality of the staff we have appointed for September. We look forward to celebrating with our level 2+ and Level 3+ students their results in August and in September welcoming new students to foundation and level 3. It is a first for us that this September the school will not be growing in total student numbers, but it makes it no less exciting to welcome new students and families to the Academy community and more importantly to one of the five houses.

With the understandable impact of the evacuations on some of our students, as well as the hotter weather, the students' uniform in the last few weeks has not been up to our normal high standards. We ask all parents to ensure that students have immaculate uniform on their return in September. In particular we will be focusing on adhering to the Academy's PE uniform expectations which all students are fully aware of.

This term we have started giving out our first Co-principals' Excellence awards. Alongside our system of house points, it is central part of celebrating our students' achievements in all areas of school life. We are delighted that the first Co-principal Excellence Award (CEA) has gone to David Usas in level 2 for excellence in German. We look forward to congratulating David formally in the new term.

Schools are uniquely placed to influence and guide the lives of the next generation. At a time nationally and internationally of uncertainty and change, it is all the more important that parents and teachers work together to give young people an education and experience to help them achieve in all areas of life. We thank all parents for their on-going support for the work our staff do and we both look forward to continuing this work next year as we hope to take The UCL Academy from strength to strength,

With warmest wishes for the summer holidays,

Robin Street & Simon McBride
Co-Principals