



UCS Newsletter

Summer Term 2, 2021



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



School has been awash with excitement and hard work since our last newsletter and I'm delighted to announce that we will have the biggest Year Group in our history starting with us in September, as 125 students join us in Year 7. In readiness for their arrival, we have made a number of key staff appointments and I have arranged for some of them to give you a brief introduction in this edition. We have fully embedded the use of Century Tech for independent study, developing the idea of student agency at The UCS, allowing our students to have a working knowledge of their strengths and areas for development. The platform provides bespoke learning opportunities to support student growth outside of the classroom. Thank you to all of our parents and guardians for your continued support, encouraging your children to develop their knowledge, skills and concepts independently using their iPad devices. We are running the '28 Days to Raise' programme throughout May and I look forward to seeing the impact that this is having across school. As always, thank you for your support of the school... By working closely with you and all of our key stakeholders, we are helping to secure the very best futures for all of our students. In such a challenging year, that is something to be very proud of.

Mr G Whiting

28 DAYS TO raise

**Century Tech...
in Practice**

As you will be aware, all of our students have iPad devices to support their learning at school and at home. Throughout May, students have been working to ensure that they are spending at least one hour a day learning independently, performing diagnostic assessments that the platform then uses to provide personalised learning experiences for each student. The response has been incredible, with usage soaring, and more importantly, the improvements in performance have been amazing! The highest performing students are in line for Amazon vouchers... the winners will be announced in our next newsletter!

UCS GOT TALENT

Can you play an instrument, sing, dance or do you have any other talents/skills?

- 1) Join on the UCS Talent Showbie class using the code: **VNFTU**
- 2) Once registered film your performance and upload it **before June 18th 2021.**
- 3) The winners will announced on **Friday 2nd July**

Any questions see Mr Fisher in B41 or join the Showbie class and send a message.

Meet the New staff...

ENGLISH Mr Jones

Mr Jones joins our
English department in
September

What did you do prior to joining The UCS?
Before joining UCS, I worked in film and TV for five years!

Outside of your subject, what are your hobbies?
Outside of my subject, I enjoy reading, watching old films and writing my own stories.

What was the last book you read? Can you give a ten word review of it?
The last book I read was 'Ready Player one' by Ernest Cline. My 10-word review would be: "An outstanding blend of pop culture and science fiction!"

Why do you love teaching your subject?
I love teaching English as I adore stories and the conversations that they create with students. I love hearing students' unique ideas and original thoughts on books written years ago.

How excited are you about teaching at The UCS?
I cannot wait to get started at UCS! It feels like a huge opportunity and a wonderful place to work, learn and grow!

What three words would your colleagues use to describe you?
Caring
adaptable
funny

How do you plan to bring your subject alive for our students?
I plan to bring the subject alive by linking the stories we read in English to modern-day life. I believe the plays of Shakespeare and the novels of Dickens are just as relevant and important today as they've ever been.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Mr Snow

Mr Snow joins our Computer Science team in September

What did you do prior to joining The UCS?
I have been gaining my qualifications as a Computing teacher, and before that I spent 14 years in Digital Manager jobs in Manchester and London, including at the Financial Times!

Outside of your subject, what are your hobbies?
Unsurprisingly, I like geeky stuff! Games, films, music, TV... And enjoying the beautiful countryside of North Bolton.

What three words would your colleagues use to describe you?
Helpful, friendly, computer-y

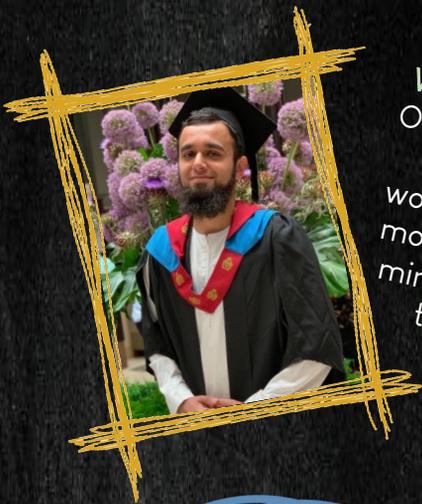
How do you plan to bring your subject alive for our students?
So much of ICT and Computer Science impacts the world around us, from smart TVs, cars and home security to Tik Tok, video games and Netflix. Relating the curriculum to the real world will make sure that the students will have engaging and relevant lessons, which will hopefully increase their passion for the subject.

What was the last book you read? Can you give a ten word review of it?
I have been reading a lot of Dr Seuss to my daughter, who loves 'Green Eggs & Ham'. My review would be 'I would read it in a box and with a fox'

Why do you love teaching your subject?
It is easy to be passionate about the many aspects of computing, from creative ICT tasks to programming software. All the skills and understanding taught in this subject can be used in many other subjects such as Science and Technology, and also in the future workplace.

Mr Patel joins our Maths department in September

MATHS Mr Patel



What did you do prior to joining The UCS?
Once completing my degree in Mechanical Engineering, I spent a couple of years working with industry experts. I decided to move into teaching to pursue a passion of mine and have loved every second of my training year. I look forward to this continuing at the UCS.

What was the last book you read? Can you give a ten word review of it?
The Ride of a lifetime, by Walt Disney Chairman Robert Iger.
A leadership book with valuable insight on the importance of building strong relationships.

What three words would your colleagues use to describe you?
Friendly, Reliable and Approachable

Why do you love teaching your subject?

I love the puzzling nature of mathematics. Every problem has its own unique method and helping students find these methods gives me a unique sense of satisfaction.

How excited are you about teaching at The UCS?

I believe the UCS is the perfect place to start my journey into teaching. I can't wait to start working with the fantastic staff and amazing students at our school. I hope that, over the coming years, I can fulfil the expectations of parents, pupils and staff alike.

Outside of your subject, what are your hobbies?

As a qualified engineer, I love designing and building things. In addition to this, I am an avid traveller who enjoys learning and experiencing different cultures. Obviously, this past year hasn't been ideal for that hobby!

How do you plan to bring your subject alive for our students?
When teaching maths, I always strive to contextualise my lesson content using topics that are accessible and exciting to all pupils. This allows students to imagine problems and model solutions using logical reasoning combined with learned skills.

Focus: The UCS Library

The Library at UCS is a hive of activity and fun this term.

To mark Refugee Week, from 14th -20th June, students and staff will share their experiences and stories of migration, asylum and refuge – from personal experience, friends and family or from the news – to contribute to a shared social history. Our librarian, Mrs Hussain, will curate the contributions, with prizes for words and artwork.

Year 7 Pupil Librarians are launching a Book Club from Wednesday 16th June and they invite any interested Year 7 students to join them. By popular demand, the first books under discussion will be the Harry Potter series. Whether you are a die-hard fan or just dipping your toe into Potter-world, you're welcome to join us every Wednesday lunchtime. We promise not to spoil the ending.

This term sees the launch of the Summer Challenge. Will you step outside your reading comfort zone and try a new genre? Could you recommend a book that will change someone's life? Might you even join forces with other book-loving friends to write your own stories and poetry? Set your own challenge! Stay motivated with prizes and certificates galore, and the support of the keen reading and writing community at UCS!

