



University Collegiate School - Interim Head of School Newsletter 4

Dear Parents and carers

Update

Thank you for everyone's support with Year 11 and 13 Mock Results Day last Friday. It was a useful afternoon spending time with students and talking about mock exam results. Most importantly it was an opportunity to look at ways of supporting further study and revision. Students will be spending some time in the next few weeks out of school at the Anderton Centre following intensive revision sessions in core subjects. Again, it is important that we all support our most senior young people as they embark on GCSEs and Post 16 examinations.

Culture of Respect

In assemblies this week and next we will be focusing on introducing our new Behaviour and Code of Expectation Policy. Mr Bramwell and myself would like to thank you all for contributing to the development of the new arrangements through your kind comments and the recent survey.

Again, we are trying to re-establish strongly at UCS why study, learning and positive behaviours are so important for the future of all our young people.

A key aspect of the feedback you gave UCS was an emphasis on rewarding and recognising good and excellent behaviour and not just dealing with instances where conduct falls below expectations. To that aim the new arrangements enable all students to be recognised for a much wider set of skills, attributes, and positives:

Gold achievement points <i>Life skills and character</i> – worth 2 points	Green achievement points – worth 1 point
Excellent independence	Excellent effort in lessons
Excellent teamwork	Excellent piece of work in lesson
Excellent communication	Excellent piece of homework
Excellent resilience	Excellent contribution to class debate
Excellent problem solving	Excellent verbal answer
Excellent community service	Excellent reasoning
Excellent curiosity/imagination	Excellent research
Excellent enquiry and analysis	Excellent explanation/working out
Excellent creativity and ingenuity	Excellent selection of evidence
Excellent synthesis and presentation skills	Excellent recall of knowledge
Excellent digital skills	Excellent application of knowledge
Excellent emotional intelligence	Excellent practical project/performance



Going above and beyond what is expected	Excellent test/exam result
Showing kindness to others	Excellent persistence
Reflecting critically on what you have done	Excellent self-management

Rewards

Parents will be able to see these achievement points on the MCAS application. We would encourage all parents to discuss their student's achievements with them and reward them appropriately at home. Students can also be rewarded by their class teachers with:

- Positive phone call home
- Positive email home
- Reward postcard
- Weekly Vice-Principal award
- Weekly Principal award
- Half termly reward trips and award vouchers

It is these key areas that we will be establishing for all our young people at UCS in class and with a key aim of making students work-ready and employable. In assemblies this week all students have listened carefully and taken onboard these important messages. The changes that we will bring to UCS will emphasise and reinforce the importance of these excellent learning behaviours until they become the culture of the school. UCS will also be making changes to how dealing with unacceptable behaviour will be organised and we will continue explaining the changes in assemblies next week.

I will update you all on our progress and the full 'live' dates in the next newsletter.

Dates for your Calendar and Upcoming Events

Friday 17th March - Comic Relief. Non-uniform day for all students, wearing red if possible for a £1 donation to be collected at the gate, bake sale at break time and karaoke at lunchtime in the SLZ; 50p to watch. Form time activities also to be planned.

Thursday 23rd March - Year 11 & Year 13 parents evening 5-7pm

Tuesday 28th March - Parent Forum 2 6-7:30pm

Friday 31st March - End of Term – Easter

Monday 17th April – INSET Day for staff



May I thank all parents attending the Friday Drop-In taking place on afternoons from 2:00-4:00pm - no appointment is necessary and will continue from 17th March onwards until Easter.

National Teacher Strike Days

We are not aware that there will be any further National Teachers' Strike Days at this stage. As always, we will endeavour to review the situation regularly and update you should the situation change.

Change at UCS

Further to our investigations into curriculum and timings of the school day thank you for all the feedback we have received. We are looking at revising the timetable for students and the curriculum offered, to be fully in place after the Easter break now.

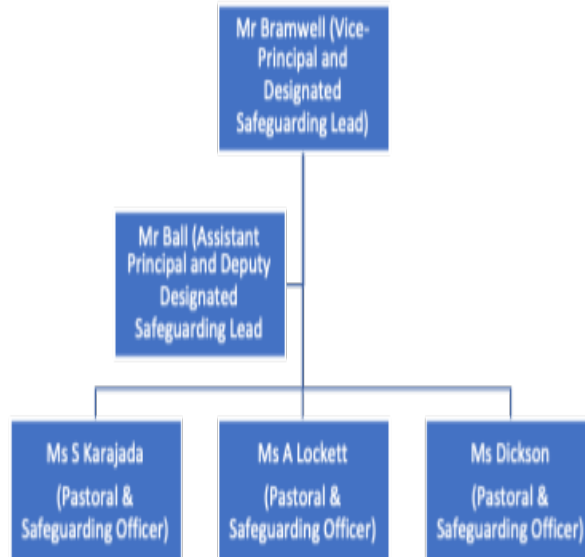
The lunch time arrangements will be phased in and trialled to ensure that extended food outlets and revised dining spaces work efficiently. Although the timings of the start and end of school will not change, the overall day will look like this:

Breakfast Club 8.30-8.40	10 mins	Students arrive 8.30 – breakfast club in Bistro
Registration 8.40-9.10	30 mins	Attendance, Uniform, Messages, Professional Behaviours, Pastoral Intervention, Assemblies each day
Period 1 9.10-10.10	1 hour	Learning – L&T Framework, new classroom code of conduct
Period 2 10.10-11.10	1 hour	Learning – L&T Framework, new classroom code of conduct
Break	20 mins	Staff on duty – Bistro, Sixth Form, External – supervised back to classes – one way system re-introduced
Period 3 11.30-12.30	1 hour	Learning – L&T Framework, new classroom code of conduct
Period 4 12.30-1:30	1 hour	Learning – L&T Framework, new classroom code of conduct
Lunch	30 mins	Bistro, Sixth form,
Period 5 2.00-3.00	1 hour	Learning – L&T Framework, new classroom code of conduct
Mentoring 3.00-3.10	10 mins	Rewards & messages
Enrichment Study Support 3.10-4.10	1 hour	Focus on study support and enrichment



Safeguarding Contacts

Just a reminder again that school has revised its safeguarding contacts, see website for full details:



If you are not comfortable raising a concern in person, then you can do so anonymously via the SHARP system which is on the front page of our website.



Learning & Teaching

Work Experience preparations have recently launched, and Year 10 and 12 students are now in search of placements w/b 3rd July. Last year we had all students out on placement, let's encourage and support our students this year to find opportunities in healthcare and engineering especially. If anyone has any potential employer partner links we could contact then please do let us know.

Enjoy the weekend and, as always, thank you for your support.

Best wishes

David Terry
Interim Head of School
17.03.23