



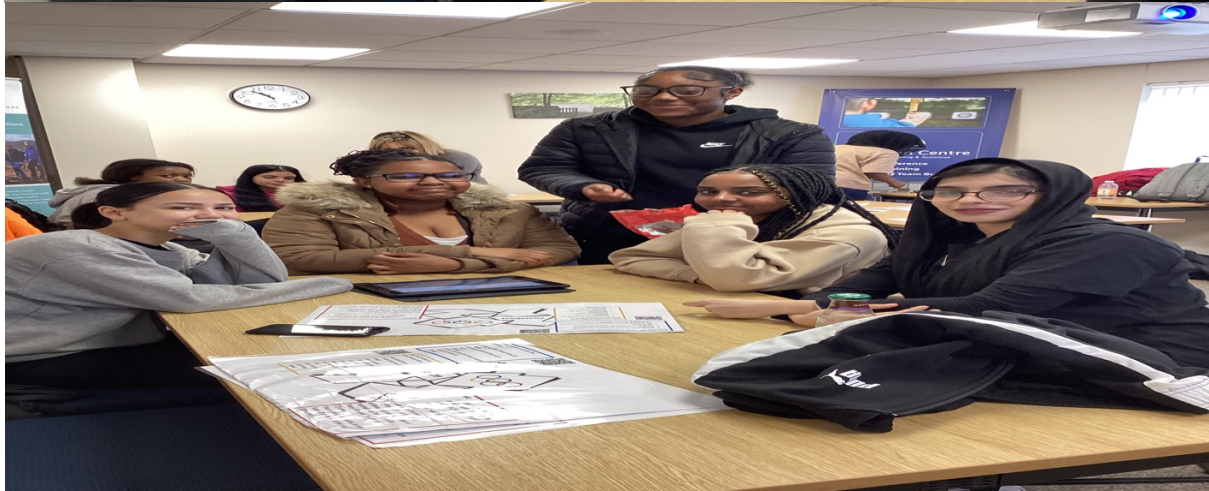
University Collegiate School - Interim Head of School Newsletter 5

Dear Parents and carers

Update

Thank you for supporting our Y11 / 13 Parents Evening on Thursday this week- it was great to meet parents and students to discuss progress and next steps after school.

Huge credit is also due to all our Y11 students and staff that attended the study support sessions at the Anderton Centre this week following intensive revision units in core subjects.





The feedback about Y11 was fantastic and augurs well for their success in the forthcoming GCSE's. I hope to see all our students continue their hard work and revision over the crucial next weeks and run up to the examination season.

Parental Engagement Forum 2 – Tuesday 28th March 6-7pm

I look forward to welcoming you to the second of our parental engagement forums on Tuesday next week. It will be an opportunity for myself and senior staff to outline the changes being made both in the short and medium term to improve provision for young people at UCS. Appointments are not necessary and light refreshments will be available in the Bistro area.

Culture of Respect

This week and next, our assembly focus is on re-establishing the school's core values with all students so that everyone is very clear about what is expected of them. Again, Mr Bramwell and I would like to thank you all for your comments and suggestions via the recent survey.

Our students have also inputted into the new code of expectations:

The UCS Way: Behaviour Principles

Rationale

Our values

We are:

- Destination focused – we support students to make informed choices about their career pathways after they finish school.
- Professional – we offer a professional work environment with dress codes and behaviour expectations that mimic the workplace of the employers our students are preparing to join.
- Work ready – we help students develop all the skills and attributes required for progression into a productive technical career.
- Engaging with employers – to give students real-life experience of the world of work.

At the UCS, we believe that our values inspire the following key ideas:

1. Every student has the right to learn

2. Teachers have the right to teach

3. Every student has the right to feel safe at school



Therefore, we have distilled our school expectations and rules into 4 four important sets of "Behaviour principles". These are clear, unambiguous, and easy to both learn and understand:

1. Behaviour in lessons

Value strapline: *"Destination focused – we know where we are going."*

- Show respect to teachers and each other.
- Do not shout out or talk when someone else is talking.
- Use IPADs only when directed by a member of staff.
- Complete all work to the best of your ability.

2. Movement around school

Value strapline: *"Work ready – to learn the knowledge and skills we need in the future."*

- Take the most direct route to your lesson.
- Arrive at your lesson on time.
- Walk safely and quietly.
- Respect others' personal space
- Follow staff instructions immediately.

3. Taking care of our community

Value strapline: *"Professional – we expect the same as employers."*

- Treat all members of our community with respect.
- Wear your uniform correctly at all times.
- Respect the school environment.
- Bring the correct equipment, including charged IPAD, to school.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in school.

4. Behaviour at break and lunchtimes

Value strapline: *"Professional – we expect the same as employers."*

- Sit down on a chair whilst eating in the Bistro.
- Use good manners when you order your food or speak to Bistro staff.
- Clear up after yourself.
- Stay in the allowed areas.
- Behave sensibly and safely on the playgrounds.



Our key aim is to instill an understanding of what 'professional' behaviours mean in practice and why it is so important to our young peoples' futures.

Again, it is fair to say that the changes that we will bring to UCS will reinforce these clear values until they become embedded as the culture of the school.

I will update you all on our progress and following the implementation of the code of expectations after the Easter Break.

Uniform Code

UCS has a uniform policy that is in place to ensure health and safety of students, personal pride and professionalism. The policy is upheld by the school governing body with both staff and students expected to adhere to its expectations.

UCS is very mindful and respectful of the circumstances of all our young people. Occasionally as a school we need to remind students to wear uniform appropriately.

Students have responded very well when asked to wear the UCS uniform or PE Kit with pride. We will endeavour to keep asking students to rise to all our agreed expectations as time goes on.

Could I respectfully ask all parents and carers to support us in maintaining the uniform standards and to stick to the key items as outlined in the policy without varying.

Allowing our young people to come to school in sports branded training shoes or long dresses for example is not part of the agreed uniform.

Pastoral staff will be contacting a small number of parents and students individually next week to talk through the uniform expectations and gain your much needed support.

Dates for your Calendar and Upcoming Events

28th March - Parent Forum 2. 6:00 -7:00pm

31st March - End of Term at 3;10pm – Easter Holidays begin.

17th April - INSET day for staff training, school closed for all students.

19th April - Online Safety Evening 5.30-7pm

26th April - Year 9 Parents Evening 4-7pm

1st May - Bank Holiday

3rd May - Year 8 Parents Evening 4-7pm



8th May - Bank Holiday King Charles III Coronation

10th May - Study Skills Engagement Evening for Year 10 and 12 5.30-7pm

24th May - Parent Forum 3. 6-7:30pm

26th May - School Closes at 3:10pm for Half Term

5th June - School Reopens

11th July - Parent Forum 4. 6 -7:30pm

20th July - School Closes for Summer

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 until Easter.

National Teacher Strike Days

There has been no further news of any further Teacher Strike Days in the foreseeable future.

Change at UCS

As mentioned previously both the curriculum and timings of the school day will change after the Easter break. New timetables for students and the curriculum offered will be shared w/b 17th April.

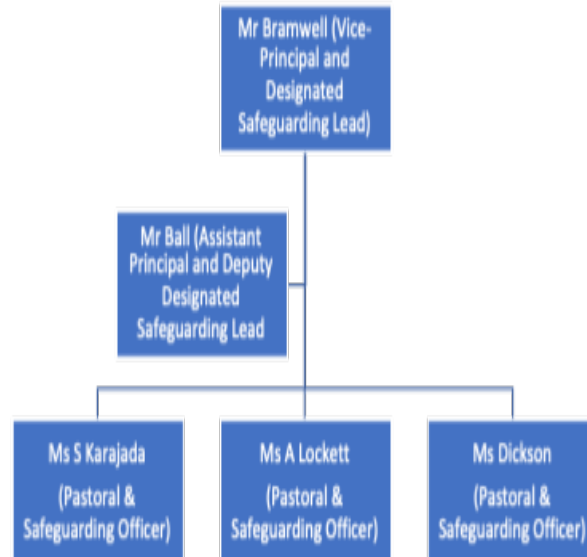
The lunch time arrangements will be phased in and trialled to ensure that extended food outlets and revised dining spaces work efficiently.

We are open to feedback once the new arrangements have been put into place and we hope that the more rigorous structure and disciplined approach to lunchtime will ensure a calmer and safer school environment.



Safeguarding Contacts

Final reminder for this term - that UCS 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.



Report using The SHARP system

Learning & Teaching

Thank you for your suggestions and ideas for the Work Experience preparations that have recently been launched. Year 10 and 12 students are now in search of placements w/b 3rd July.

Last year, I am delighted to hear, all eligible UCS students went out on placement and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Again, if anyone has any potential employer partners, we could contact then please do let us know.

Have a great weekend, as always.

Best wishes

David Terry
Interim Head of School
24.03.23