

UCS

March 2010



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# End of Term Newsletter

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## Term Dates & Holidays

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Included with this mailing, you will find notice of term dates until the end of the Autumn Term 2011. Please try to arrange family holidays and other trips to fall within the published holiday periods.

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## Beginning of Year Arrangements: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010

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There is a large amount of essential preparatory work that we must complete with students in certain year-groups at the very start of the school year. We have reviewed our arrangements and, for September 2010:

- Boys currently in the Shell (next year's Lower Remove) must attend at school (in uniform) on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 11.00 am until 2.30 pm. Lunch will be provided.
- Boys currently in the Upper Remove (next year's Transitus) must attend at school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 9.30 am until 11.30 am.
- Students currently in the Transitus who are intending to apply to Oxford or Cambridge next year must attend at school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for meetings that commence at 11.30 am.

For these students, this is an important school day. The sessions are necessary and practical. All students must attend. Unavoidable absence should, therefore, be reported (or requested) as on any other school day.

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## News from Oxford & Cambridge

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Congratulations to the twenty one UCS students who are currently holding conditional or firm offers of places to study at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. This is an improvement on last year's figure and represents an encouraging series of results. The most striking achievement was surely the success of all six of our candidates for PPE at Oxford.

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## Summer Term Activities Week

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Plans are virtually complete for next term's Activities Week. It will occupy the last full week of the term, beginning on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June and running until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. All students in the Entry, Shell, Lower Remove, Remove and Transitus years will be occupied in a programme of educational activities, trips and visits of a kind we are unable to accommodate in the normal school week. Draft arrangements are included with this mailing. We believe that this will not only make far better use of the summer post-examination period, but will also enrich UCS education in a significant and imaginative way. Involvement in the activities week is compulsory for all students. None of the activities will involve any further financial charge to parents.

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## Public Examination Timetables

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Personalised timetables for students involved in public examinations next term are included with this mailing. Though still in draft form, we do not expect that significant changes will be made. Candidates should examine them closely for any errors or omissions (incorrect subjects, missing modules etc.), which must be communicated to Mrs Lisa Powley (Exams Administrator) as soon as possible. The most efficient means will be by email to [lisa.powley@ucs.org.uk](mailto:lisa.powley@ucs.org.uk).

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## Public Examination Results

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AS and A-level results will be received by the school on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and can be collected by candidates (in person) from the School Office between 9.00 am and 11.00 am on that day.

As a one-year trial, we are permitted by the exam authorities this year to publish GCSE results to candidates by email on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Our intention is to send personal emails to all candidates at 8.00 am on that day. We have collected addresses from all members of the Upper Remove, and will be operating a trial mass email at the start of next term in order to identify any inaccuracies or problems. Paper copies of GCSE results will be posted on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August. So, this year, GCSE candidates will not need to visit the school in order to pick up any information about results.

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## Sport

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Despite dreadful weather in the first half of the term, we have managed to fit in a great deal of competitive sport.

The football season was distinctly successful. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI managed notable wins over KCS and Forest School. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI lost only one match throughout the season. The U15Bs also lost only once and the U15As were almost as successful. Our combined Lower School team finished as runners-up in the annual Belmont Tournament and were most unlucky to lose on penalties in the final.

UCS hockey players' have also done very well, with more fixtures than ever before, and with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI beating Merchant Taylors', Harrow, Mill Hill and Westminster to become Middlesex champions.

Basketball continues to thrive, thanks to the support of a number of members of the academic staff and some particularly enthusiastic Transitus pupils. Our U14 team reached the final of the Independent Schools Cup, losing only to a very strong squad from Alleyn's School in Dulwich.

UCS swimmers competed in and won their second competitive gala – this time against The American School (who take their swimming extremely seriously). We have also managed our first ever competitive girls' netball fixtures, losing (sadly) to South Hampstead but (rather more happily) beating Highgate School twice.

Congratulations finally to Will Laing and Tristan Goodman on their selection to represent London Schools in the National Schools Cross-Country Championships.

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## Music & Drama

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It has been an equally busy term for drama and music. Holly Aston directed a stunning successful series of short plays by Neil Labute, called (collectively) *Autobahn*. Actors from the Transitus and Sixth produced performances of extraordinary maturity, confidence and range in an evening that will be remembered for a very long time. Later in the term, such qualities were once again on show in Peter Stancliffe's production of Sean O'Casey's *The Shadow of a Gunman*. This often overlooked play's ability to expose such stark contrast between emotional simplicity with political cruelty was most striking.

It has been a very varied musical term. The brilliant UCS salsa band starred in a fund-raising evening for our charitable projects in Romania and Goa. The annual jazz concert was as brilliant as ever. The joint UCS/SHHS Symphony Orchestra performed memorably in the Great Hall earlier this month and the Spring Concert (perhaps the biggest UCS musical event of the year) was a particular triumph with outstanding work from the UCS Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, the Concert Band (now numbering almost 70 players) and the Choir. Finally the Centenary Choir gave a lovely concert of Haydn and Bernstein on the last Sunday of term.

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## Holiday Trips

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A number of school trips are planned for this holiday. The Classics Department are leading a trip to Rome. Our Further Mathematicians are off to Barcelona. An Art History group will be visiting Paris. Spanish and German students will enjoy study trips, to Salamanca and Salzburg respectively. The English Department are taking a party of Sixth Formers to study war poetry in the battlefields of the Somme. And there are two Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. Meanwhile, the Headmaster and Russell Chapman will be visiting Equatorial College School in Uganda.

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## Staff News

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Always a quiet time of year for staff turnover, the only news is that John Bradbury will be taking sabbatical leave next term, to take the opportunity of further keyboard study. Tim Ward (already known to many as our teacher of singing) will join the Music Department to teach some of John's classes. Ian Gibson and Simon Walton will share the responsibilities of Director of Music.

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## Higher Education Advice & Study Arrangements for the Transitus

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This is an important time of year for the boys and girls of the Transitus. Not only do they face AS modules, but the process of advice and preparation for Higher Education application also gets under way. The arrangements are as follows:

- The Higher Education Forum for all Transitus students took place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March
- There will be a presentation for all Transitus students and their parents on all aspects of University and Higher Education applications on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. It will begin at 6.30 pm in the Great Hall.
- Study leave for the Transitus begins on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May.
- Each member of the Transitus will have a private interview regarding higher education decisions during the course of next term. Feedback will be communicated to parents.
- Normal teaching for all Transitus students resumes on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Attendance at school is compulsory from this date until the end of the Summer Term.
- Within the Summer Term Activities Week one day (Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June) will be devoted to further UCAS preparation, including the finalisation of draft Personal Statements for Higher Education application. This will be followed on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June by a Conference for all Transitus students (run by UCS in collaboration with a number of other local schools). Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June (Make-a-Difference Day) will be devoted to charitable and fund-raising activities.

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## Points for Parents

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### *Parking in Frogna*

- Once again, I must ask parents to be considerate and sensible when delivering or collecting students by car in Frogna. In particular, please do not obstruct access for our neighbours, and please observe the Highway Code in respect of the pedestrian crossing outside the school. Stopping on the zig-zag hazard lines is an offence, and more seriously, is a danger to the boys and girls who are using the crossing.

### *Nuts*

- I must also remind parents that, because of the grave risk to a number of students with serious nut allergies, UCS must operate a 'no nuts' policy. Please do not allow your sons or daughters to bring food items containing nuts into the school, and please do not give them such items in packed lunches. The risks are great and cause significant anxiety to the families who are affected.
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## Important Dates for the Holidays, the Summer Term and Beyond

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- The School Library will be open between from Wednesday 7th April to Friday 16th April 2010 between 10am to noon and 1pm to 4pm for public examination candidates who would like to use the library for quiet private study.
  - Parents of the Transitus and their sons and daughters are invited to a presentation on University Applications at 6.30pm on Wednesday 28th April 2010 in the Great Hall.
  - The Orchestra of St Paul's will perform in the Great Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 15th May 2010. For tickets please call 0774 898 7514.
  - Study leave for GCSE candidates begins on Monday 17th May 2010.
  - Study leave for AS candidates begins on Monday 17th May 2010. Normal school for these pupils resumes again on Wednesday 16th June 2010. **Attendance is compulsory until the end of term.**
  - Study Leave for Sixth Form students begins on Tuesday 25th May 2010.
  - Entry Internal Exams commence Tuesday 25th May 2010.  
Shell Internal Exams commence Monday 24th May 2010.
  - Speech Day will be on Thursday 27th May 2010 at 7.00 pm in the Great Hall. **Attendance is compulsory for Lower Remove and Remove pupils.** We hope that parents and students from the other year groups will choose to attend. A Reception for the Sixth Form parents and students will be held in the Refectory from 6.00pm.
  - The school will be closed for staff training on the Friday 28th May 2010.
  - Lower Remove & Remove internal exams commence Monday 7th June 2010.
  - 'An Evening with the Lower School' at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th June 2010 in the Lund Theatre.
  - Tea-Time Concert in the Great Hall on Thursday 17th June 2010 at 5.00pm.
  - Jazz at the Field will be held at the UCS playing fields in Ranulf Road on Tuesday 22nd June at 6.00pm.
  - A Summer's Evening with The Music Department in the Great Hall on Wednesday 23rd June at 7.30pm.
  - Deme Drama will be at 6.30pm in the Lund Theatre on Thursday 24th June 2010.
  - AS & A2 Level results will be published (and will be available at school) on Thursday 19th August 2010.
  - GCSE results will be sent by email on Tuesday 24th August 2010. Statements of Results will be posted on Thursday 26th August 2010.
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