

FROGNAL

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the newsletter of University College School



**LOVE
IS...**

**OUR VALENTINE
SPECIAL ISSUE**





FROGNAL

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ISSUE 38



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PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

This feature interviews those members of the UCS community who work with us every day, though we may not have the opportunity to get to know them...

Simon Marshall (English, Director of Studies)

What is your idea of perfect happiness? I tend to think that the idea of 'perfect' happiness is problematic. Things that make me happy are: being in the mountains, swimming in the sea, drinking good wine, talking with friends, cooking, gardening, reading, listening to music, running, the scent of old roses... a day involving all of these would be fun (if a little odd).

What is your greatest fear? Losing my mind but not my life.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself? All the usual things: cruelty, meanness, greed, dishonesty...

What is the trait you most deplore in others? See answer to 3.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue? Chastity.

On what occasion do you lie? When answering slightly intrusive questionnaires.

What do you dislike most about your appearance? Obviously my movie star looks – I keep being pestered by fans (of *Shrek*, *Rain Man*, *Fantastic Mr Fox*)

What is your greatest regret? It's too soon to say but the list is growing and there are a number of contenders (answering this questionnaire may be one).

What is your most treasured possession? Health.

What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery? Sadly there seem to be too many different types at that depth: being tortured, being in constant pain, never being loved unconditionally, to name a few. Being forced to watch daytime TV repeatedly would be very difficult to bear.

Where would you like to live? In Oxford, if it had the Alps 5 miles to the east and the Cornish coast began at Didcot. Failing that, in a yurt.



What do you most value in your friends? Wit, recommendations of good books, an interest in walking long distances

Who are your favourite writers? Too many to choose from, though I have found Jeffrey Archer's oeuvre to be a particular source of wisdom and consolation in difficult times, along with Shirley Conran and Dick Francis.

Who is your favourite hero of fiction? Anatole the mouse (and cheese connoisseur).

Who are your heroes in real life? Those who are still fighting for basic human rights and freedoms in too many countries of the world.

How would you like to die? To be vaporised unconsciously and instantaneously leaving no trace behind except for the faint scent of lemon and the far-off barking of dogs.

CENTENARY CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

2 April 7.30 in The Great Hall

The programme will include Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* and John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit*

Tickets available from the UCS Box Office on 0207 433 2219 for £10 (£8 concessions)

Six1

This term saw the beginnings of the new 'six1' slot – a time for sixth formers to reflect on the wider issues of life outside UCS, coming together as a year group to enjoy a range of curriculum-enriching and informative sessions. One of these sessions was a talk by Jonathan Freedland & Jon Soper, both highly respected political journalists, directed towards David Cameron's Big Society:

"If UCS students, along with the vast majority of the British population, were struggling to grapple with the concept of 'The Big Society', John Soper managed to convey its importance in shaping the politics of the future in one immortal sentence: "In Paris, there's dog s*** everywhere because everyone expects the government to pick it up." The real success of the talk was that it stood above party-politics and debated whether the 'Big Society' is just a cover-up for smaller government and expenditure cuts. Both Soper and Freedland took the idea seriously.

Politics students were interested to hear that the origins of the idea can be traced back to the political thought of Burke and Rousseau, but the reason the talk produced such an effect on pupils was because they managed to relate it to the everyday life of a UCS student. At UCS, the relationship between staff and student (a clear parallel to the relationship between government and governed) is far from



Jon Soper & Jonathan Freedland

the one-way, transactional relationship described in Soper's analogy – we do not simply pay fees and expect lessons in return. What makes the school so special is that the students and the staff, exemplified by individuals like Curtis Gallant, organise a wealth of activities, including plays, five-a-side tournaments, and musical performances for one another. Whether or not this sense of community could ever be fostered on a national scale remains to be seen, and questions were asked about the timing of this new project, and even whether it relied on an overly optimistic view of human nature. However, it's fair to say that even the most champagne socialists amongst us came out with a more sympathetic view of Cameron's big idea."

Mikey Blake (Sixth)



Art trip to New York

Having visited a few times with family, I didn't expect the art trip to New York to have the impact it did. Visiting galleries like the Guggenheim and the Met with friends meant we could discuss ideas, and question pieces. Talking about ideas to incorporate into our own work with Mr Gray and Miss Mackie, or friends, meant we all learnt a lot about developing approaches to our work, both conceptually and technically. We focused mainly on visiting contemporary art shows, which gave a clear idea of current trends, techniques and ideas of the American art scene. We were lucky enough to catch a show at the PS1 gallery in Queens that collected together a range of American artists whose work has emerged in the past five years. Despite covering what felt like miles from gallery to gallery, there was some time to relax. We spent the evenings in Soho and Central Park, going for dinner, hanging out and shopping.

Alanna Sargent (Sixth)

Community Action



From cutting off our luscious locks to dying our hair blue; from dressing up as gorillas and collecting money on the tube, UCS has certainly come up with plenty of inventive ways to raise money for Community Action this year. Indeed, our combination of bag packing, superhero calendars, and cross-dressing, amongst other fund-raisers, raised at least £16,230 for charities and organisations including KidsCo and Equatorial College School. Here are a few of the highlights...

The Gorillathon was a mad-cap race across the tube map in which the participants had to visit about 23 predetermined stops in as short a time as possible, in groups led by a teacher. Each team had to raise money

from the other passengers, without explicitly asking for money, since this is illegal on London Transport. To make things more interesting, one member of each group had to be dressed in a gorilla costume!

The **Miss UCS competition**, in typical UCS fashion, showcased the lovely talents of some of our most well-loved male teachers, who competed in drag for the dubious honour of winning the Miss UCS pageant. Miss California, reigning champion, defended his/her title admirably, yet just lost out to Miss Bavaria, after a tie was broken by the audience's higher appreciation for Miss Bavaria's charms.

The **5-a-side football** competition for the Transitus

and Sixth Form proved to be immensely popular, with some very interesting team names. The winning team was "*Outsourcing Company Serco Cancels Plans To Pass On The Impact*", and the goal of the tournament belongs to Adam Doffman, though it was Max Brackenbury who scored in the final, in which O.C.S.C.P.T.P.O.T.I. won 4 – 2 against Hakim's Lads.

Charity or no charity, the mood before November's **Battle of the Bands** was extremely tense and competitive. Hearsay and hot gossip (neither of whom were actually performing) suggested, amongst the technical crew, that The Joe Gees (Transitus) and The Ya Ya Yas (Sixth Form) were



the frontrunners before the event. Both bands put in strong performances; The Joe Gees' fronting partnership of Jamie Maier and Georgia Bruce displayed serious harmonic and instrumental control, especially on their set-closing R'n'B medley – itself almost as much of a BOTB tradition as a Maier family victory. The Ya Ya Yas (Sam Ereira, Mischa Frankl-Duval, Ryan Zaman, Charlie Bostock), however, also had an ace up their collective sleeve; their climactic punk-rock cover of school anthem *Paulatim* driving the older and more nostalgic Frognal faithful wild.

But the Ya Ya Yas and The Joe

Gees finished 2nd and 3rd respectively: BDB, the event's well-supported, unofficial headliners snatched the crown with their set of boyband-framed modern classics. Special congratulations must go to Faadil Dawood, who tempted pariah status by rapping in front of the best part of the Upper School.

Though they were not eligible for victory (due to controversy over suspected lip-syncing) incalculable praise must be heaped upon Evie's Boys. The five Sixth Formers were impeccable dancers, and even better dressers. Fronted by the supremely charismatic Ben Brodie (backed

ably by Isaac, Phillips, Blake and Gould), the group's short set encompassed 5ive's *Keep On Movin'* and The Backstreet Boys' *I Want It That Way*: modern classics if ever there were. The group were, by some considerable distance, crowd favourites. Special mention should go too to Anonymous, whose set of rock sing-alongs showed real communicative nous; lead vocalist and guitarist Cole Basta's takes on *Smells Like Teen Spirit* and *Use Somebody* were phenomenal, and far better than anyone could possibly have expected from – would you believe it – an eleven-year-old. Thanks again to Joe Grabiner and Benji Kriss, organisers of this year's event; thanks also to Mr Hind's monumental efforts.

Community Action remains a great tradition at UCS, one in which all of us band together, working our way through endless (but delicious) bake sales, strange fixations on gorillas and battles between highly competitive bands, for the greater good of our community, both local and global.

Maddy Bennett & Mischa Frankl-Duval (Sixth)

DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS...

Snow once again settled across the busy pavements of Hampstead however, despite our best efforts to create mini-drifts in and around the school using snowball fights, the school was unable to justify a Snow Day. This writer, having struggled hardily (or was it the other way around?) from Kilburn knew that the chances of a day planning curriculum developments from the comfort of the Holly Bush pub were slim when the stream of 4x4s appeared to find their traction up Arkwright Road. And then, oh the tragedy of it, snow finally does fall in great waves of white goodness...on Saturday 18th December, one day after the end of term!





Fame

the Musical

When I first took on this project, I asked a colleague, 'Could we pull off a musical here in ten weeks?' He replied, 'Yes, without a doubt.' Right he was....

It has been an absolute joy to direct this year's musical, *Fame*. I have worked with a team of dedicated staff and very enthusiastic and talented students. A show on this scale takes a team of people to make it happen. On this note I would like to thank, Mr Bradbury for his support and for playing through those long rehearsals, Stephen Mulley for the choreography and dedication to the show, Martin Hutchings, Theatre Technician for his hard work in making the set come together and for rounding up students to help with set, lighting and sound, parents who have done a lot of fetching and carrying to the rehearsals over the past two months and finally to the cast and crew, to a job well done.

Gillian Rabie (Drama & Theatre Studies)





Middlesex Cup Final

Fog lay over the deserted muddy pitches at Finchley Rugby Club as UCS stepped out onto the field in pursuit of the much-longed-for Middlesex Cup. Déjà vu lurked from the previous year's final when UCS went 25 points down in 15 minutes, and within the first 5 minutes UCS were 5-0 down and on the back foot to what seemed like a strong St. James side. Mr Wilkes stood grimly with his wind-lashed face deep in the palms of his hands: was he about to, after a glorious campaign, fall into the final losing trap just like his predecessor, Mr Sawtell? This History teacher clearly didn't respect the past. A tight huddle bound together whilst St. James took their early conversion.

The second half started in similar fashion to the end of the first, UCS battling hard in defence, with memorable tackling by Barney Macintyre, and aggressive rucking from Julian Smilg leading to more attacking opportunities. By the final whistle UCS had completed a stunning victory, taking the trophy by 36-10. Knowing, from the previous year, how the opposition were feeling UCS graciously clapped the vanquished players from the field and then headed to the changing rooms to pop a little champagne! The U16 squad became the first UCS rugby team ever to win this prize. Mr Wilkes and Mr Greany's managerial techniques cannot be omitted and nor can the night when the UCS team made their way to a celebratory dinner at TGI Friday's. School night or not, the celebrations went on and UCS were the champions.

Levi Levenfiche (Upper Remove)



The U14 Rugby squad also took home the Middlesex Cup in their final against Latymer Grammar School.

Fred Isaac interviews...

MR DURHAM

Just as Hogwarts has Dumbledore, so UCS has Durham, however whilst the likes and dislikes of JK Rowling's famous headmaster are common knowledge, details of our own beloved leader are harder to come by. We see him emerge from his oak-panelled study, catching only a brief glimpse of his leather bound books, before the large wooden door swings shut. A few poignant words from the podium follow before he steps down, preceding a flurry of announcements; upon the final message, he strides back into his office, the claps of bewildered UCS pupils who have not yet had time to register his arrival, ringing in his ears.

When I emailed Mr. Durham requesting an interview my aim was to find out about the man behind the myth, to discover the personality behind the legend, we know he is the headmaster of headmasters, we know he teaches philosophy but where is his favourite watering hole, how does he maintain such perfect order with his facial hair (upon close inspection you realise every individual strand is immaculately placed) and what's his favourite aspect of UCS life? In short I aim to give you the real Kenneth Durham, scratch away the legend and do you have a man with the same passions, hates and ambitions as the next person?

If you weren't a teacher what would you be? Oh God, a rather boring answer I'm afraid but civil service, I like the idea of being close to power but not a politician, would be good fun.

Out of your college experience which one do you think or rate as the funniest one? I can't remember anything from college but in my childhood I did quite a lot of acting and one of the most embarrassing experiences of my life was playing the devil in a Stravinsky play; I was dressed as the devil (I have also played God) and we were performing in a leisure centre in Stevenage, I had to make a back entrance through the leisure centre, who were hosting the final of the bowls championship, and had to walk through numerous old men and women dressed as Satan himself.

If I take a look inside your refrigerator what would I find? A disappointing collection of food past its sell-by date

How do you tackle stress and define stress? Stress is something that comes from you, I'm good at relaxing and switching off – I like listening to music, classical and jazz ..

Any Oasis? I have some on my iPod yes, I also read every day.

What is the best book you have ever read and why? I am a huge fan of Evelyn Waugh, I've read them all of course, my favourites are *A Handful of Dust* and *Scoop* but I haven't read them for 30 years. Also, *Worst Journey in the World*, give that a





plug – a great book about Antarctic exploration.

During your child hood what was your favourite comic character? We used to have comics, I read the Beano and the Eagle, I loved Dan Dare, the backstreet kids and, rather depressingly, Lord Snotty and all his pals.

What would you do if you had million pounds cash on you? Right now? I would buy myself a nice house in London and go on holiday, preferably somewhere sunny.

Ibiza? Possibly and in summer either China or Vietnam.

What would you like to ask from the god? If I ever prayed for one thing, it would be health for me and my loved ones – I have a terror of debilitating disease, especially those that affect the mind, my first wish would not be for money or beautiful women but health...however I do want to live forever.

If you could be a bird, which bird would you be and why? I'd be a reasonably impressive bird of prey, like an eagle or a hawk.

How often do you shave? Every day of course (*motions to his impressive beard*), look at this cut line.

What are you hoping to get for Christmas? I'd love a holiday – a big present, I'm too old for presents but I am going to Mauritius. My brother is getting me a Kindle, I don't know if I should get excited to be honest.

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, whom would you like to see play the lead role as you? I'm not going to have Denzel, I'd have George Clooney – the resemblance is uncanny.

What are the first three things you'd do on your first day at work here? I arrive at 7.30, talk to the early bird staff – Mr. Wilkes is usually around and so is Mr. Reynolds, and then generally drink far too much coffee before a day of meetings and lessons.

Cooke or Mcsherry? I couldn't possibly comment, I would say a stalemate.

What is your favourite aspect of UCS life? Surely the banter.

Fred: There is banter in the staff room? Yes of course, of all the schools UCS banter is second to none.

What is your favourite drink? Non alcoholic I would have to go for iced tea. Alcoholic however depends on the situation, with a meal it would have to be red wine, although I like a pint of beer.

Fred: Favourite pub? The Holly Bush.

Fred: Not The Flask? No I am a man of firm views.

What is a typical Kenneth Durham evening? By the time I get home it is very late so I am tired, I usually change out of my school clothes and put on jeans and a tee shirt, pour a drink, read the paper and watch TV before talking to the wife if she ever comes home.

Berlin, Krakow & Auschwitz



Our recent school trip in October to Berlin and Poland proved to be one of the most educational, interesting and enjoyable trips that I have ever gone on at UCS. The contrast between Berlin and Krakow, and the chance to experience the two cities, was brilliant. Many of us had never been to Berlin and it proved to be an exciting few days filled with museums, walks and the occasional *bier* to keep us going. We didn't confine ourselves to the main part of the city, but also spent a day at Wannsee, home to the infamous Wannsee Conference of 1942.

Krakow was almost the polar opposite to Berlin. A city in the heart of Poland with a small-town feel, but with the edge one would expect of a cosmopolitan city: its cafés and restaurants sprawling onto the main square; a young population due to its high number of universities and a westernised feel with the occasional McDonalds on a few corners. Krakow did, however, come with one negative: it is the gateway for tourists to Auschwitz, and this feeling could not be shrugged off despite our numerous activities.

There are no words, phrases or expressions that can truly describe Auschwitz. To fully understand it one must go see it and be in it, only then can the true impact of what happened there and the consequences of the events be felt. Everyone who goes feels a different, unique set of emotions and reacts in their own way. The experience is a deeply personal one, yet brought together everyone on the trip in a way that I had never seen before. Many of us, even the non-Jewish or non-religious Jews and those who had no ties directly, were affected so massively by the trip that we were brought to tears. Going on a school trip with friends, as opposed to family, allowed many of us to see a side of people we

had known for years that we had never seen before, and even those of us who spoke for the first time on the trip came together and supported each other. To stand in the grounds where, 65 years ago, 1.1 million people were killed, and for no reason other than for being Jewish, or not part of the so-called "Aryan race", was indescribable. Many of us walked slowly in shock and tried to absorb as much as we could, others banded together and prayed, and some had to walk out of several rooms because of the horror.

Auschwitz II presented the scale of what passed and the freedom to walk around and look into the old barracks where people were kept was extremely powerful. Also a memorial had been set up which had the same phrase in every language from where all Jews, who were killed in Auschwitz, originated. The phrase read: *"For ever let this place be a cry of despair and a warning to humanity, where the Nazis murdered about one and a half million men, women and children, mainly Jews from various countries of Europe"*

Many of us gathered at the memorial, each standing in front of the language that best represented our heritage. Most stood in front of the English, but some stood in front of the Hebrew, one or two in front of the Russian plaque and I stood in front of the German version. It really was here that our experiences on the trip came together and I think that, as a group, all 40 of us who went on the trip, including the teachers, share a special bond, which can only be created by a place like Auschwitz.

Auschwitz I, for many had the most impact, and I know it did for me. We were led through room after room, each showing and telling us something different about the camp. In some rooms were photos of the camp, and in others evidence of the people who had been through the camp. In one room around 10,000 pairs of shoes were behind glass windows piled up high, each pair of these shoes belonged to a person who got off the train at Auschwitz and subsequently had all their possessions taken away. The exhibitions got worse and I soon found myself unable to enter rooms because they affected me so badly. I felt the main cause of emotion at Auschwitz I was not the scale because this is not so well represented here unlike Auschwitz II, but the fact that each person who passed through had their own identity, their own life. Pots and pans that had been taken by the Nazis, used in the houses of Jews as far away as Greece, were on display. I never imagined I would feel what I did.

Felix Weiss (Sixth)



Subject Seminars

UCS has hosted three subject seminars this term. The idea was for our sixth form students to learn and discuss with students from other schools. Boys and girls came from Hampstead School, Westminster Academy and Henrietta Barnett; they all really enjoyed their visits. Below are some of the reflections of our students.

HISTORY

hosted by Miss Lodato

I found the History session to be a very rewarding experience. Despite the fact that we may attend very different schools and come from different backgrounds, it was wonderful to see that we were united in our passion for historical discussion. We both learnt a lot from each other and I would definitely recommend that all students discuss their subject with students from other schools in order to get an alternative perspective. Whether it was about the rise of Fascism under Hitler and Mussolini, or the current political situation and the recent swingeing cuts, the discussion was always lively and I certainly got as much out of it as they did. A very worthwhile and enjoyable programme - I am very glad to have contributed to it."

Curtis Gallant (Sixth)

ENGLISH

hosted by Mr Hartley and Mr Thomson

The annual English symposium gave certain sixth form volunteers the chance to discuss pieces of literature with English students from other schools. All the extracts chosen were interesting, and the students' passion was evident, making for an illuminating and enjoyable session.

SCIENCE

hosted by Miss Hudson, Mr Tear and Mr Roberts, ably assisted by the lab technicians

UCS played host to several other schools, including our neighbours Hampstead School, to attend a lecture given by our own chemistry department, complete with demonstrations and explanations centred on enthalpy. From the subtle endothermic to the flamboyant and fiery exothermic reactions, the lecture succeeded in its aim to inform and engage us on the complicated and vital topic of enthalpy changes.

Sam Mackinnon (Transitus)

The Fleming Lecture Theatre was not only filling up with eager Chemistry students from all over London, but also a vast array of exciting – and possibly dangerous – substances, much to the delight of our lecturers. In lieu of the traditional 'I-talk-you-listen' approach, Michaela Hudson, Edd Roberts and Richard Tear provided the spectators with a more palpable insight into the world of temperature change, with various demonstrations igniting, illuminating and exploding. The most invigorating was the famous 'Jelly Bean' experiment, which results in a jet of powerful flames billowing out of a conical flask which proceeds to slowly melt.

The end of the talk brought a highly appreciative round of applause, and when the crowd demanded experimental equivalent of an encore, the teachers happily obliged and performed one last experiment. Overall it was a hugely enjoyable and educational experience, and will be a fond memory for years to come."

Sky Kang (Transitus)

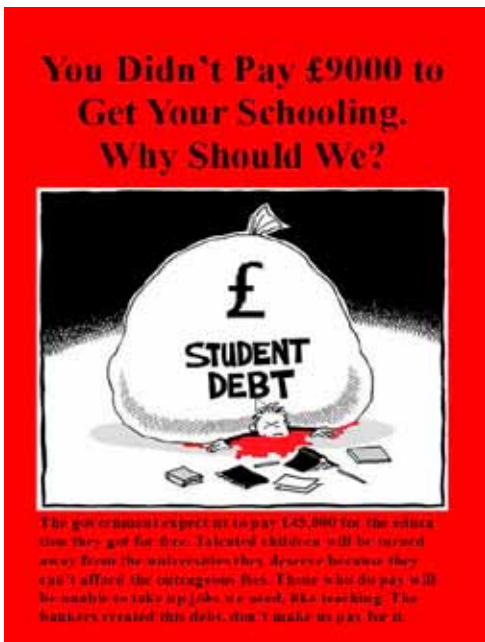
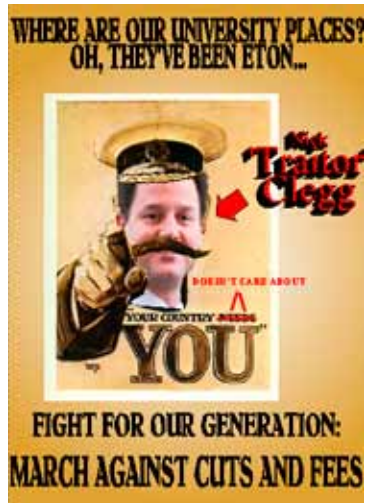
Here is a selection of posters produced by Lower Remove students relating to the recent riots across the UK against the charges being applied to university places. Opinions at UCS were divided about the action taken by student groups and these posters reflect the complex reactions of future students.

**Teddie Levenfiche,
Leo Rousseau, Neil Clarke, Joel Silverstein and Jesse Parsons**



The recent Government decision in the UK to raise tuition fees means that thousands of children won't have the chance to go to university and get the job that they dreamed about. They could really make a change to the world. After all, the future is in their hands.

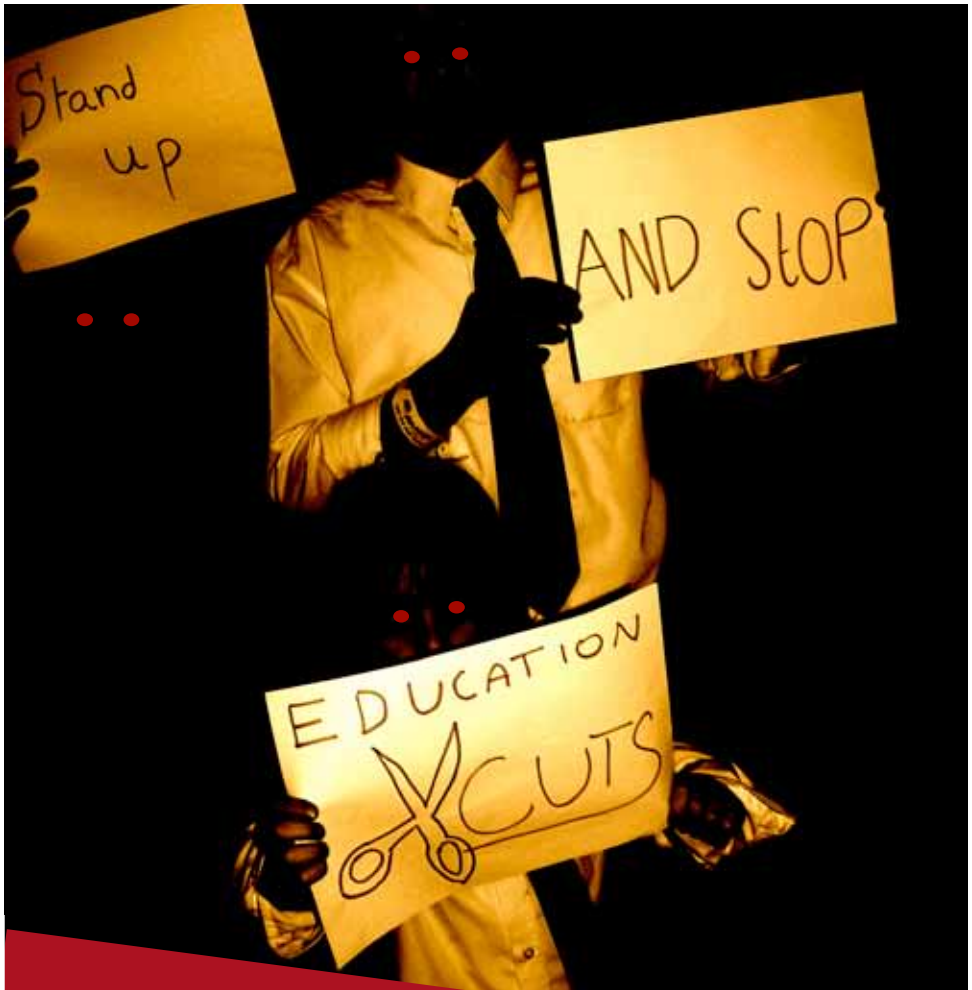
End the madness. Visit: www.campaignleo.co.uk



English
Literature BA:

£27,000

Who's buying?



**WE ARE NOT
INVISIBLE**

PROTEST WITH US

date

9 DEC 2010

location

10 DOWNING ST

time

1:30 P.M.

We are promoting non-violent protest and therefore can't be prosecuted for demonstrating using violence. You can't silence the voice of the future.



LOVE IS...

As February 14th flies towards us on Cupid's wings, some of us may be ready with open arms: others might be reaching for a hunting rifle. Members of the *Frogna!l* Editorial team decided to get out and about, asking students to define love in one word. Typically, this being UCS, most understood that to mean a phrase. Anyway, it is another of life's enduring mysteries, so here we have some answers to help you through the affectation of mid-February:

Now, some of you might need a little encouragement when it comes to *les affaires de couer* so Rosa and Fred have very helpfully compiled the following list of chat-up lines to secure that first drink. You may end up wearing said drink if you use them, but here they are anyway:

"You had me at Halo..."; "Did it hurt...when you fell to earth from heaven?"; "I've lost my phone number, can I have yours?"; "If I said you had a beautiful body would you hold it against me?"; "Do you believe in love at first sight? Or would you like me to walk by again?"; "If I could re arrange the alphabet I'd put 'U' and 'I' together..."; "Are you Jewish? 'Cos you Israeli hot..."; "Do you have any raisins? How about a date?"; "Do you know what would look good on you? ...Me"; "Are you from Tennessee? Because you're the only ten I see."

Rosa Schierenberg & Fred Isaac (Sixth)

LOVE IS... too perfect; ...compromise; ...uncompromising; ...frivolous; ...blind; ...futile; ...Roger Federer; ...Oasis; ...the drug; ...irrational; ...all you need; ...me; ...the new black; ...overrated; ...inspiring; ...Cheryl Cole/Tweedy/whatever she's currently going by; ...innate; ...unpredictable; ...in the air; ...a crazy little thing; ...endless; ...a gamble; ...flawed; ...dying; ...lost more easily than it is found; ...out of date; ...the one that got away; ...Fred and Rosa; ...an ideal; ...a four-letter word; ...Mr. Finch; ...trust; ...the irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired (*R. Frost*).

Frognal Lonely Hearts

Voice of the modern youth, aka Stefani Germanotta, said it best when she cried: "I'm not loose I like to party, let's get lost in your Ferrari." Who can argue with sentiments like that? Certainly not me (F, 18). Boys, boys, boys I'll go gaga if you call me "legs" and in the morning buy me eggs. It's gotta be boys in cars and free drinks in bars at box no. 1986

By day I teach Humanities, by night I am the scourge of humanity. Slightly asthmatic roué (mid 30s) seeks female sidekick with unlimited access to bronchodilators and a penchant for low-level crime. They call me Mr. Tibbs, but you can call me The Wheeze. Let's take my dog for a walk and leave the poop scoop at home. I wish that was a euphemism. You can reach out to me at box no. 1975

Gentleman-farmer type (M, 11): you know the sort, all good judgment and high moral character seeks female companion psychologically marooned in the 19th century. A love of darning is a pre-requisite, as well as having silly relatives that we can close the door to and laugh at as the credits roll up. You bring the costumes and I'll provide the drama at box no. 1816

I'm here to ride your wild horses. Alternatively, I could haunt the empty parking lot of your life. If that doesn't appeal, you can take your gypsy heart and go drive in the dirty rain. Do the metaphors of Paul David Hewson leave you crying out for more? Let your salt-water kisses rain down on me at box no. 1991

Ever walked up to a girl and

said, "I wanna know what love is. I want you to show me. I wanna feel what love is. I know you can show me. Aaaah woah-oh-ooh?" I have. And now I also have a restraining order against me. Power ballads worked for Foreigner, but just go to show something gets lost in translation. In my life, there's been heartache and pain. And lawyers. Read between the lines at box no. 1984

Let's be honest, girls: give it a few years and you'll be climbing over each other to date a younger guy. So why not start now? Eager student of love (Entry) is ready to learn under your wise and alluring tutelage. I may not have the years, but I also don't have the mileage at box no. 1998

Slavery was abolished in Britain in March 1807, you know, so don't take that tone with me (M, Upper Remove). Publically I'm my own lad, free spirited and foot loose: privately I'm willing to wear your love manacles. All aboard the Trouvadore at box no. 1841 and let's set sail for Ile d'Amore.

Rosae ruberae sunt, Violae caeruleae sunt. I love reading Homer, but not as much as I love you. Write to the Rhymeminister, preferably in any language no longer spoken, and it'll be epic at box no. 3456

With the lights down low I could easily pass for Robert Pattinson. With the lights turned up you'd probably just say, "Pass." Guide me into the sunlight (M, should know better) and watch my skin sparkle: it'll be my sudoriferous glands working overtime. It's not easy being over a hundred

years old and craving the company of teenage girls – just ask Edward Cullen. I won't bite hard at box no. 1901

Do you spend your nights dreaming of romantic assignments in exotic destinations, where evenings are lit only by the moon? Do your fantasies contain a few well-placed candles and a delicate violin bow stroking taut strings? Is it, in your mind, all melodious harmonies and sweet little nothings whispered on the breeze? Well, pull yourself together and get out more, woman. Pub, pints, kebab and then home – that's me (Shell M, 12). Ready, willing and able – that's you (F, everything else negotiable). Box no. 1992

Massive South African: M, 17/18 – that's my weight in stone – seeks Lebanese Kitten. I would bench press the world for you. Find what you seek at box no. 2654

Heathcliff: It's me! Your Cathy, I've come home – let me in at your window because I've locked myself out. Picture me, unfussy Transitus F, 17: winsome, lithe-some, and then some. Picture you: Dylan Holmes-Williams meets Benny Gur by way of Mr Hitchcock. BTW Only reply to this advert if you are Benny Gur, Dylan Homes-Williams or Mr Hitchcock (preferably all three) and I'll be your Zillah at box no. 1847

Lonely heart requires pneumatic defibrillator – sparks are likely to fly with the right connection; M mid-40s looking for an arresting vision (F), without handcuffs. Take me home, or preferably to your second home, via a major airport and box no. 9636

Here at the ever-helpful *Frogna!* we're dishing out advice on any topic that catches our interest. We don't let our ignorance hold us back, in fact we look to share it with you! So, for this special Love Edition we have prepared an indispensable 'How to...' guide:



How to snare a UCS Boy

Lily Grant (Sixth Form)

- Be a girl – many of the boys have never before seen a girl in three dimensions, with the possible exception of Neytiri in *Avatar*.
- Be aware that Arsenal and Tottenham are completely different football teams – find out which one to hate before expressing an opinion.
- Be aware that Tottenham and Spurs are exactly the same football team – you can't like one and hate the other.
- Get in with the year above – they are marginally more sophisticated (i.e. they are willing to pay for your bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken).
- Adjust your timetable until you're in at least 4 all-boy sets (even if this means destroying your chances of a higher education).
- Get used to vile smells, but don't be averse to introducing such concepts as 'cologne', 'deodorant' and even (gasp!) 'soap'.
- Pretend to be interested in Xbox games, particularly those featuring ninja zombies.
- Try to appear interested whenever they express opinions, no matter how risible.
- Be aware that techniques such as hair pulling, destroying your stationary and calling you juvenile names represent the peak of sophisticated chat-up techniques to the average UCS boy. You may have thought you'd left them behind at nursery... reacquaint yourselves.



How to snare a UCS Girl

Various male members of the *Transitus & Sixth*

A note from the Editor: “*Many of these were unprintable. What we are left with represents the current thinking of UCS boys in regards to romance. Rudolf Valentino it is not...*”

- Be persistent, even if some courts in England might consider it stalking.
- Create derogatory nicknames for your love interest: there's nothing like reverse psychology.
- Get a blackberry so you can BBM them.
- Walk them to school.
- Serenade them in assembly.
- Wear a monitor's badge.
- Add them on Facebook before you've even seen them.
- Don't do sciences, opt for Art History instead.
- The pool room is the worst place to go looking for girls.
- Invite them to play BMTron with you.
- Be in the school play.
- Be mean: keep 'em keen.

Music to listen to whilst loving

Compiled by Mischa Frankl-Duval

REBECCA LANDER

1. **God Only Knows** by The Beach Boys – I like this song because it reminds me of the last scene in *Love, Actually*, which in turn reminds me of CHRISTMAS!
2. **All The Small Things** by Blink 182 – I probably would have found a way to work this in to any playlist; Blink 182 are my life.
3. **Such Great Heights** by Iron & Wine – Nothing says romance like an acoustic guitar. This is on the soundtrack to *Garden State*, one of my all-time favourite romantic movies.
4. **What a Wonderful World This Would Be** by Sam Cooke – This is such a feel-good song, and a reminder that you don't need to be academically gifted to find love.
5. **No Letting Go** by Wayne Wonder – So cheesy, but so good. I can't listen to this song without smiling.
6. **For Lovers** by Wolfman & Pete Doherty – Pete Doherty is the ultimate romantic, addictions and all.
7. **21 Questions** by 50 Cent – Because he loves her like a fat kid loves cake, and if that's not love, I don't know what love is.
8. **Us** by Regina Spektor – There is nothing I don't like about this song; Regina is my ultimate girl-crush.
9. **Say Yes** by Elliot Smith – More acoustic guitars, I'm a creature of habit.
10. **Do You Remember** by Jack Johnson – This song is adorable, particularly because it's written about his wife. Almost any Jack Johnson puts me in the best mood.



MR ROBERTS, MAESTRO OF CHEMICAL LOVE.

1. **Afternoon Delight** by Ron Burgundy – This is the greatest love song ever written. If you disagree, I will fight you.
2. **You're So Great** by Blur – Graham Coxon does the lyrics and sings. This is quite a lonely song, the vocals are very fragile.
3. **Do you Realize??** by The Flaming Lips – What a celebration of women! [*This is also my favourite love song...how bromantic! MFD*].
4. **Houseboat** by Camera Obscura – A really beautiful duet; not wholly appreciated by my friend Rick, who attempted to throw this tape out of the window when I played it in my car.
5. **If You Don't Want Me to Destroy You** by Super Furry Animals – I remember listening to this track off their bizarre first album at 17. I was impressed by their 'wiggyness'. I have to mention the amazing Welsh accent here, too.
6. **Standing Here** by The Stone Roses – This one's very personal. One Valentine's Day, many years ago in my second year of teaching, I got sent a Valentine's card with a drawing of a flower growing twelve Ian Browns. "I really don't think you know I'm in heaven when you smile", a lyric from this song, was at the top of the card. Most confusing package ever.
7. **If You Find Yourself Caught in Love** by Belle & Sebastian – Reminds me of dancing at Latitude on a hot, sunny day with my girlfriend. The band was so good, and it was just such a great day. I like the bit at the end of this: "if you're going off to war, I wish you well/I prefer to give the inhabitants a say".
8. **Patio Song** by Gorky's Zygotic Mynci – This is a lovely song. Reminds me of my summer after A-Levels, meeting a certain girl at an 18th...
9. **I Love You, I Don't Think You Care** by the gUiLLeMoTs – This is a song about liking someone but not understanding how it could possibly be mutual. I went to see these guys at King's College and again at Hop Farm, dancing around in the rain in my cagoule.
10. **Tongue Tied** by Red Dwarf – Tongue Tied is about seeing a girl and being unable to talk. What a genius song! Pure silliness. People should be covering this at Battle of the Bands, not Paulatim!

LOVE IS...



Loving Films, Books and Songs

Ever wondered what UCS students and staff listen to when they're feeling romantic? Of course you haven't! Why would you? You're not insane... Anyway, here is a snapshot of how various members of the UCS community deal with the ebb and flow of love. Perhaps you will see a kindred spirit (films first, then books and, finally, songs):

Mischa Frankl-Duval – *Notting Hill (Michell)*; *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernieres & *Do You Realise??* by The Flaming Lips.

Maya Biegun – Baz's *Romeo & Juliet*; *Atonement* by Ian McEwan & *Close to Me* by The Cure.

Ali Sargent – *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down (Almodovar)*; *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy & *All You Need is Love* by the Beatles.

Mr Rynkowski – *1900 (Bertolucci)*; *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert & *I Got You, Babe* by Sonny and Cher.

Sam Ereira – *Wall-E (Stanton)*; *The Torah* by unknown & *Wicked Game* by Chris Isaak.

Mr Mee – *Brief Encounter (Lean)*; *Testament of Youth* by Vera Brittain & *I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing* by Aerosmith.

Mr McAra – *Singin' in the Rain (Donen & Kelly)*; *As it is in Leaves* by Nile Williams & *Move Closer* by Phyllis Nelson.

Hunter Evans – *Anchorman (McKay)*; *Tender is the Night* by F. Scott Fitzgerald & *Let's Get it On* by Marvin Gaye.

Mr Orchard – *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (Gondry)*; *Dangerous Love* by Ben Okri & *My Chosen One* by the gUiLLeMoTs.

Leah Lazar – *Once (Carney)*; *Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling & *Only Love Can Break Your Heart* by Neil Young.

Oliver Chapman – *Life is Beautiful (Benigni)*; *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck & Suzanne by Leonard Cohen.

'Celebrity' Fight Club – McSherry vs. Cooke

Alongside which pupil will be named Captain of Monitors, the grading of teachers according to attractiveness and which team will triumph in five-a-side, the one great question that has plagued the minds of UCS students for years has been the continuous debate as to who would triumph if the schools mightiest pedagogues went head to head in the most anticipated fight since George Foreman and Mohammed Ali rumbled in a jungle. I write, of course, of Mike McSherry vs. John Cooke.

As part of this *Froggnal* edition it is my aim to lay to rest this endless argument by presenting the facts and seeking expert opinions from a number of prominent figures at the school. Perhaps the reason this tussle has captured the minds of students for years is the manner in which it transcends student debate and becomes a matter of nature vs. nurture – McSherry represents the Physics Department, his body honed by years of specially designed workouts in some of London's darkest gyms and diets that frequently include live animals; many believe him to be truly indestructible; his recent characterisation as the Hulk for the superheroes calendar only fuelled the legend of his endurance. John Cooke is his polar opposite: born and bred in the north and rumoured to have been raised by bears, Cooke has Physical Education as his trade and experience as his style. There is no doubting McSherry's biceps – the product of hours of gym exercise – but one would be hard placed to bet against the experience of the man named 'Cookie'. Who wins? Well, make up *your* minds...



John Cooke

Weight – 110 kg
Height – 6ft
Favourite Move – Left
uppercut
Nickname – Cookie

Mike McSherry

Weight – 125 kg
Height – 6ft 1
Favourite move – 'the
bear hug'
Nickname – McShezza

OPINIONS FROM THE FANS

Jonathan Blausten – Cooke tekkers!

Art Sejdiu – Cooke, he has northern grit

Ben Brodie – It will inevitably end in deadlock – in such a heavyweight battle muscle would cancel muscle.

Charlie Gould – Must surely be the Cookie Monster, McSherry has the muscles but I can see Cooke being a dirty fighter (biting and possibly scratching).

Mischa Frankl-Duval – Cooke has been weakened & distracted by the birth of his daughter, whilst the focussed McSherry retains his bloodlust.

Mikey Blake – McSherry was raised by the descendant of she who raised Romulus.

OPINIONS FROM THE EXPERTS

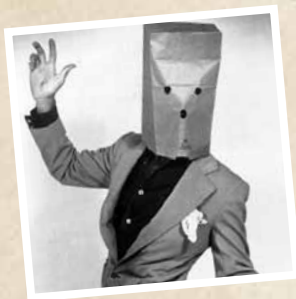
Mr. Mee – They are inseparable, like Coriolanus and Aufidius, Cooke would hold his own on endurance and agility but if I had to plump for anyone it would be McSherry by the slightest margin, by virtue of his tactical prowess and skin-tight vests, he has muscles in places Cooke could only dream of – he's a beast.

Mr Marshall – The good Cook(e) drinks (Mc)Sherry for breakfast, Miss Bavaria beasts the jolly green giant, butch prop beats ripped gym-bunny – in a word: Cooke.

Mr. Chapman – I would have to go for McSherry, he would just hug Cooke and that would be it.

My term

AS I WRITE THIS, Christmas is upon us, along with the end of our first term of our final year as children; would it be more accurate to say it is in fact the end of the beginning? We are letting go of our youth, breaking away from the UCS bubble and, apparently, maturing...although that is somewhat hard to believe: the 6th form centre has reverted back to lunchtimes listening to Blue and war has broken out over fatally competitive games of BMTron...



BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, it's not all literally fun and games: university applications are in, interviews are under way, and offers are dauntingly out of our control. Many can relax in the safe knowledge that, come next September, we will be taken under the wing of a higher authority, shown more ropes (yet again), and given something to focus our fresh adult minds on. However other not so lucky members of the 6th form, are still offer-free. Does this mean we should surrender ourselves to the knowledge that no one will be taking *us* under their wing? That we can prepare ourselves to face the big wide world alone? I guess in our involuntary gap years we can 'find ourselves' and undergo a number of 'life-changing' experiences. But you can't help but feel that university may never be an option for some of us and that we will be cast out into 'a sea of troubles' all in the name of recently outrageous university fees, which the thought of paying off is...unthinkable. But after all, no news from UCAS is, hopefully, good news and I guess professors need paying and what not...

WITH ALL THIS TALK of growing up you'd think we'd be free to express our opinions at our own will, and yet some seem a little behind on today's brutal honesty. We claim to be a liberal school but when a 6th form student attempts to enlighten his peers on the facts of the world of pornography, apparently it's

not acceptable...why pretend topics such as this aren't applicable to our society? Surely

there's no denying the goings on of such a world. After all, art history students are keen to share their recent exploration into the fine line between pornography and art. I can't help feeling as if this is a situation where innocence perhaps shouldn't be bliss; isn't it all part of grim reality? Along with an unfortunate number of other things: Britain's pathetic attempt at a snow day, up-and-coming Valentine's day, rugby results, even against South Hampstead's netball team...the list goes on; perhaps the *most* unfortunate part being that '80s work out theme' was concluded to be appropriate attire for said netball match (only UCS boys...) Although, exasperation aside, an assortment of pink headbands and stripy socks provided a slight alleviation from the woeful outcome and you've got to hand it to them – a consistently positive attitude in the face of destruction and defeat really is something.

I FEEL I SHOULD TAKE this last paragraph as an opportunity to apologise for my constantly unflinching cynicism and sarcasm. There's no denying this term has been somewhat of a relief: the new Transitus fail to live up to last year's worries by a *long* way (perhaps new eye candy isn't so bad after all...) and Community Action has, as always, provided weird and wonderful entertainment beyond any of our wildest dreams (Miss UCS is an inevitably 'curious' phenomenon). Last, but certainly not least, best wishes to you all for the abyss of depression and suffering that is guaranteed to be Valentine's Day, although hopefully this edition of the Froggnal will encourage a more satisfactory outcome...

Anonymous (Sixth)



Celebrating Creativity October 3rd held at the Junior Branch



This was an exhibition, organised by Jo Eggleton Rance in which there was work by staff, boys, parents and extended family of people associated with the school. There was painting, drawing, printing, sculpture, textiles, photography, music and a hand built boat! To make the occasion even better, there were home-made cakes and other refreshments. The affair was a lovely experience and a tidy sum

of money was raised from which payments were made to the School Bursary Fund, The Lighthouse Charity (a home for neglected children in Goa) and the RNLI (to the pleasure of Mike Clark who built the boat and stood out in the rain with canned hornpipe music to raise his spirits throughout the afternoon).





YEAR 6 CELEBRATING REMEMBRANCE

Boys looked at the life of troops in WW1. They drew soldiers, wrote 'letters home' and drew and painted medals. Their artwork was transferred onto fabric which was made up into a double quilt. This was exhibited in an exhibition at the Royal Albert Hall. The event involved the National War Museum, The Royal British Legion and the Royal Chelsea Hospital. Some boys attended the opening of the exhibition. Quilt making was by Miss Waterhouse, Mrs Eggleton Rance and Mrs Trinnaman.



CELEBRATING BRITISH FOOD

We have been treated to a number of special food weeks since the arrival of our new catering manager, Gee. Roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and gravy, followed by apple pie and custard, went down a treat.



FIELD TRIP

Year 6 field trip (September) to Norfolk. Boys studied Science and Geography and tried lots of fun activities.



U9A PLATE WINNERS

U9A were Plate winners at St. Columbus Tournament

FENCERS WIN

JB Fencers won 2 pistes to 1 against St Benedicts



COMMUNITY ACTION



The Phoenix

THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

The children in Year 1 at The Phoenix had a fun and educational day out when they visited the Museum of London. They looked at a selection of historical artefacts and documents relating to their topic, The Great Fire of London. They looked at a fire engine, leather bucket, squirt, fire hook and they even got to try on a leather helmet worn by men putting out the fire in 1666!

Dina Hamalis



NUMBER DAY

On Friday 12th November the Phoenix School raised money for the NSPCC by participating in Number Day. The children arrived at school with a wonderful array of number costumes and fancy dress. The theme of this year's Number Day was challenges and so the children received a visit from the Happy Puzzle Company who brought some exciting and challenging puzzles for the children to complete.

Chris Thorne

HAMPSTEAD HEATH

A few days before half term the Nursery children went on their first trip out of the Phoenix for an 'Autumn walk.' A short coach journey took the excited group to Hampstead Heath where they were met by the Heath Educational Team. Following a few circle games in the children's enclosure the children walked across the bottom of the Heath to 'the secret garden' where the group found a circle of logs to sit on and where they enjoyed a story about 'Sticky the squirrel'. The group then collected autumn leaves and sorted them into different colour groups. They also explored the wooded area and followed an exciting willow tunnel. Before thoughts turned to lunch it was time to head back to the coach where many of the group managed to have a quick sleep as we travelled back to The Phoenix.



The Phoenix Parent Guild Disco

Held in the Great Hall at Frognaal as a new Parent Guild fundraising event, the Parent Guild disco proved to be a huge success! Many Phoenix families attended and danced the night away whilst enjoying refreshments laid on by the Parent Guild team. The highlight was undoubtedly the parental 'X factor' competition towards the end of the night which saw some real hidden talent on display. The disco is sure to become a permanent fixture in the Parent Guild's fundraising calendar. Many thanks must go to Mandy Tafler and Carolyn Maze for their hard work and fantastic organisational skills.





David Lund Memorial Jazz Concert

On the 4th November we held a Jazz Concert in memory of David Lund, who passed away in May after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease. David had taught English at the School for 28 years and had been greatly involved with Community Action and ECS. His brother, Peter, who sadly died just weeks after the concert, approached us with this idea of having a jazz concert instead of a memorial service. We all thought this was a great idea, as David had organised innumerable jazz concerts throughout his time at UCS and would have wanted it no other way. So with the help of Peter Lund and Dave

Bennett, who organised the musicians, we filled the Lund Theatre to the rafters and had an amazing concert with speeches from five speakers representing different areas of David's varied life. John Couper, who hired David, spoke about his time at the School and reminded everyone of his sweet nature and his dedication to UCS. The great performances from the musicians were interspersed with recorded performances from the Lund brothers and David with his band. It was a memorable night that guests will remember fondly.

Photos by Max Garr



A REUNION WITH A BROKEN STUMP – AFTER 48 YEARS

In 1962 a UCS Rugby team took on a rugby side from Olney in a (very) informal cricket match. The useful scrum-half nicknamed “Trog” clean-bowled Mike Hull (OG 1944 – 47) with a ball which broke the top of a stump. Unknown to Mike, Ian Benson (OG 1956 – 61) – last heard of in the States – rescued the stump and branded it with the words Olney 1962 – M Hull bowled by Trog for 1 Run”. It hung behind the bar at Osterley for many years. In 2010 Chris Beales (OG 1958 – 67) was chatting with a haberdashery contact in Olney and asked if he knew Trog. As he turned out to be that lady's husband, a very pleasant reunion ensued.



Football Celebration

Steve Wells retires after 36 years of teaching at UCS, and when it came time to organise his retirement party he would have none of it. Instead he insisted we organise an Old Gowers reunion to celebrate football at UCS at the end of September of which he's had a huge part, along with Robin Jenks and Tom Youlden. After not being back to the School since he left, Dr Jenks returned to see his old football friends and colleagues. The event drew in the football crowd for a buffet dinner and drinks and speeches from the Headmaster and Steve and impromptu speeches from Dr Jenks and Tom Youlden.

Steve had put together a fantastic slideshow with all his football photos over the years and many Old Gowers spotted themselves in them. He then showered Dr Jenks with gifts thanking him for playing such a big part in starting football at UCS. Everyone enjoyed themselves and gave Steve a good send off.

Photos by Tim Lawrence



MEET GUY LAWRENSON

Guy Lawrenson joined the Development Office in January to cover Helen Sender's maternity leave.

Guy hails from Lancashire and studied Economics at the University of Sheffield, from where he graduated in 2005. He joined the Development Office of his alma mater, Lancaster Royal Grammar School, where he was responsible for handling day-to-day alumni enquiries, co-ordinating the organisation of Old Lancastrian Club events throughout the country, and promoting the Club and School to current students, alumni and parents. He moved from Lancaster to St Catherine's College, Oxford in 2006, where, in addition to assisting with the implementation of the alumni relations programme, he played an important role in the College's fundraising activities. He left St Catherine's in the autumn of 2008 in order to undertake postgraduate study at BPP Law School in London.

He returned to the field of alumni relations and fundraising within education in 2009, to work with the University of East London's Development & Alumni Office. In this role he had day-to-day responsibility for the University's alumni events and communications activities. Outside of work, Guy is studying on a part-time basis for a graduate diploma in legal practice, and also enjoys studying history and following various sports, including American football, which he has played both during and after his time at university.

SPRING TERM EVENTS

The following events will be taking place at UCS over the next term. We would be delighted if Old Gowers, past and present parents, or friends of the School would like to attend. All events are in the Great Hall unless otherwise indicated. To book tickets for any of these events, please contact Jan at the box office on 0207 433 2219.

26 & 27 JANUARY
BE MY BABY
directed by **Transitus**
drama group
Lund Theatre 19.30

SAT 29 JANUARY
ORCHESTRA OF
ST PAUL'S
Great Hall 19.30

1,2 & 3 FEBRUARY
HAY FEVER
directed by
Stephen Powell
Lund Theatre 19.30

SAT 5 FEBRUARY
SALSA FOR INDIA
Great Hall 19.30

TUES 8 FEBRUARY
MODERN LANGUAGES
EVENING PERFORMANCE
Lund Theatre 16.00

THURS 10 FEBRUARY
OLD GOWERS
ANNUAL DINNER
Great Hall and Refectory
18.30

WED 16 FEBRUARY
UCS JAZZ CONCERT
Lecture Theatre 19.30

TUES 1 MARCH
JB PARENTS' GUILD
QUIZ NIGHT
JB 17.30

8 & 9 MARCH
JB PERFORMANCE OF
LORD OF THE FLIES
directed by
Jason Thomas
Lund Theatre 19.00

14 – 18 MARCH
SCIENCE WEEK
Senior School and JB

TUES 15 MARCH
PARENT'S GUILD
QUIZ NIGHT
Great Hall 18.00

29, 30 & 31 MARCH
SON OF MAN
BY DENNIS POTTER
directed by **Alan Steven**
Lund Theatre 19.30

THURS 31 MARCH
SPRING CONCERT
Great Hall 19.30

SAT 2 APRIL
CENTENARY CHOIR
CONCERT
Great Hall 19.30

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