



University College School (Hampstead)

University College School was founded in 1830 to promote principles of liberal scholarship. That remains our first and over-riding aim. Intellectual curiosity, breadth of study and independence of mind combine to achieve academic excellence; they are not subordinate to it.

Initially located in Gower Street, as part of University College London, the School was revolutionary in its approach to education, having as a fundamental principle that religion, in any form, should neither be an entry requirement nor a taught subject, believing rather that faith is a matter for the family and the individual - a tradition that continues today. The UCS Foundation, now independent of the University, comprises three schools: the Senior School (850 pupils: 11-18), the Junior Branch (250 pupils: 7-11) and The Phoenix School (130 pupils: 3-7).

All three schools are set in attractive locations. In 1891 the Junior Branch was established at Holly Hill, Hampstead, followed in 1907 by the School's separation from UCL, and the acquisition of the Senior School's current purpose-built accommodation in Frognal, opened by King Edward VII. The pre-preparatory branch, The Phoenix (acquired in 2002) is based nearby. All three Schools have full use of the extensive playing fields (including a large all-weather pitch and two pavilions) in West Hampstead.

The Foundation has just completed an ambitious programme of redevelopment. The Sir Roger Bannister Sports Centre was opened in December 2006. It comprises a Sports Hall, Swimming Pool, Dance Studio and Fitness Centre. The *UCS Active* commercial Health Club (with over 1,000 members) uses the facilities outside school hours. In late 2007, construction was completed of new Centres for the teaching of Art and Technology and of Modern Languages. In September 2008, girls were admitted to the UCS Sixth Form for the first time. The coeducational Sixth Form now numbers about 300 students (of which roughly 70 are girls). Alongside all of these developments, we have run a fund-raising Appeal which has succeeded in raising over £2 million, enabling us to reach our target of doubling the availability of fee assistance for pupils from less wealthy families.

The school has always been forward-thinking. Our most recent Development Programme follows in an impressive tradition. A Sixth Form Centre and Theatre were opened in 1974. In 1993 extensive new facilities were added: a Library, Music School, Lecture Theatre and ICT Centre. A similar programme of continuous investment at the Junior Branch and at the Phoenix School has created excellent educational facilities on those two sites. We established a new Visitors' Reception Office and created an Art Gallery with additional teaching spaces at the Senior School in 2011 and are already planning future improvements at all three of the Foundation schools.

UCS remains true to the liberal traditions of its founders and continues to work hard to foster independence of mind among its students and to value their individuality. Academic results are excellent: 93% A*/A/B pass at A-level in 2011, with 76% at A*/A and over 30% at A*alone; roughly 80% A*/A at GCSE. Approximately 20% of the Sixth Form progress to Oxford or Cambridge each year.

Music and drama are very strong at UCS and the school offers an excellent range of extra-curricular activities. The school has a fine record in team games, with shared endeavour and good sportsmanship being held in higher regard than eventual match results.

The Organisation of UCS

Whilst the Headmaster of UCS is in overall control of all three schools in the Foundation, day-to-day management and planning at the Junior Branch is in the hands of the JB's own Headmaster and his deputies. Similarly, The Phoenix has its own Head who reports to the Headmaster of the JB.

Sixty boys each year transfer from the JB to the Senior School and are joined by twenty-eight boys from outside feeder schools who win places through competitive examination. In Years 7 and 8 (Entry and Shell), these boys are supervised by a team of pastoral Year Wardens and form-teachers. In Year 9 (Lower Remove), they are joined by a further twenty-seven entrants from Preparatory Schools and are allocated to the five Demes (or houses) which form the basis of the pastoral structure of the school until students leave at the end of the Sixth Form. Each Deme is managed by a Deme Warden and a team of form-teachers. In September 2008 a sixth Deme was created to accommodate the female students who join the UCS Sixth Form. Boys and girls in the Sixth Form are supported not only by their Deme Warden and form-tutor but also by the Head of Sixth Form, supported by a Deputy and a team of Assistant Heads who, between them, manage the Sixth Form Centre, university application and other matters specific to students of this age.

Pupils from The Phoenix School who wish to gain entry to the JB must sit the standard 7+ Entrance Examination. Transfer from the JB to the Senior School is not dependent upon a further examination hurdle. Similarly, there is no formal GCSE condition placed upon promotion from the Middle to the Upper School.

Admission at all entry points is heavily over-subscribed. Whilst UCS operates within a highly competitive market-place, our reputation as a happy, well-balanced environment that respects the individuality of each pupil allows us to retain the advantages of a highly selective school. We are particularly proud of our reputation for pastoral care and for extra-curricular activities, as well as our high academic standards.

The Senior School Curriculum

In Years 7 and 8, boys follow a full core curriculum with time devoted to Drama, Art, Technology, ICT, PSHE, PE and sport as well as to the more traditional academic curriculum. All boys study Latin and French. There is no setting or streaming. This approach continues into Year 9, where the options of a second modern language and of further classical study are added. Maths and French are set by ability in Years 9, 10 and 11. There is no further setting or streaming. All boys currently study ten subjects to GCSE (IGCSE in the case of an increasing number of subjects), including English, English Literature, Mathematics, at least one science subject and at least one modern language. All students study four subjects to AS-level. They may choose to drop one of these in the second Sixth Form year. A number of students choose to take an Extended Project qualification in addition to other AS and A-levels.

Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities at the Senior School

The school's principal sports are Rugby (Autumn Term), Football and Hockey (Spring Term) and Cricket (Summer Term). In addition, facilities and opportunities exist for Tennis, Athletics, Badminton, Cross-Country, Basketball, Swimming, Fives, Table-Tennis, Fencing, Aerobics, Dance, Netball, Karate and Squash. All students are required to play games as part of their normal curriculum.

There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities and school societies. Music is particularly strong, with Choir, Orchestra, Wind Band, Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band, jazz and rock groups. The school has a fully equipped theatre that is heavily used for our own productions as well as by visiting professional actors and musicians. A large number of plays and musicals are staged each year, with opportunities for students to direct as well as to act and provide technical support. The Debating Society, Chamberlain Society (politics & current events), Comedy Club, Gunn Club (literature & creative writing), Film Club, Maths Puzzle Club, Fantasy Football League, Jewish Society, Chess Club, Voluntary Service Unit are all currently popular. School trips are arranged on a regular basis and UCS has close links with schools in France, Germany, Spain, Africa and India. UCS has a partnership with Westminster Academy and works closely with the London Borough of Camden on a number of projects. Students currently raise roughly £20,000 per year for a range of charities that they select themselves. There are regular overseas sport and music tours. Enrichment Week, Science Week and Activities Week annually broaden and embellish the UCS educational experience.

The Physics Department

In Year 7 Physics is taught within a general science course. From Year 8 onwards it becomes a separate subject. In Year 10 it becomes an optional iGCSE. We do not offer Dual Award Science. Students choose between the three sciences; a number choose to study all three. Roughly 100 boys choose to study Physics in each of the iGCSE years. They are taught in five groups. We follow the Edexcel iGCSE specification. In years 12 and 13 we follow the WJEC AS/A2 course. Examination results are very good. 31 students took AS exams last summer of whom 15 achieved an A grade. 30 completed the A2 course with 21 of them achieving at least an A. 75% of our IGCSE students gained an A* or A grade.

There are five members of staff teaching Physics. All are specialist Physicists. There are four fully equipped laboratories, and two full-time technicians. The Department has its own study room, dark room and prep room. Each of the four Physics laboratories has its own PC with a LCP system enabling lessons to be computer-generated. A small computer suite in the dark room allows our A level students to process and write up their lab reports.

The Present Vacancy

The current vacancy arises from the expansion of the department as the subject grows in popularity at IGCSE and A-level. The successful applicant will join an experienced, successful and supportive department at a time of interesting developments both within the department and the school. He/she will be capable of teaching throughout the age range, and will be equally enthusiastic about General Science in Year 7 as about A-level Physics in years 12 and 13. The precise balance of teaching for the successful candidate will depend upon his/her interests and experience. It is sure to involve teaching throughout the age range with some work at IGCSE level and above. We expect to appoint a teacher who combines a strong intellectual interest in Science, and, particularly in Physics, with an imaginative and flexible approach to classroom teaching, wise and sensitive in their planning of lessons, rigorous and friendly in their delivery. The successful candidate will be personally committed to developing a true appreciation of scientific method (with its emphasis upon practical investigation) in his/her students, as well as in preparing them for exam success.

This is a really good opportunity to teach Physics to a high level in a congenial and stimulating setting. It should, therefore, be attractive to an NQT (UCS offers full statutory induction), but could equally be of interest to a serving teacher seeking wider experience.

A willingness to contribute to the extra-curricular life of the school, and to be involved in pastoral care will be an additional and important recommendation.

Child Protection

University College School is fully committed to all steps that are necessary for the support and safeguard of the welfare and safety of children. The school is a Registered Body with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) for the purposes of obtaining access to criminal record checks for employment and voluntary appointments. All positions involve regular contact with children aged under 18 years in education and therefore any successful applicant for this position will be required to apply for Enhanced Disclosure from the CRB in respect of this position before the School can make a formal offer of appointment. Appropriate steps will be taken, through contact with previous employers, referees, and others, to confirm candidates' identities and their professional records.

Salary and Benefits

UCS has its own competitive salary scale. The payment for this post will be dependent upon qualifications and experience, but is likely to be above the National Scale.

While the school does not offer accommodation, schemes are in place to assist members of staff with loans for house purchase or to purchase property jointly with them. The school is similarly prepared to offer loans to help with daily travel expenses. In all cases, eligibility for financial assistance is carefully and independently scrutinised and every effort is made to assess the needs of individual applicants.

If admitted to the school, the sons and daughters of UCS staff may be educated at reduced fees.

All members of staff are entitled to membership of *UCS Active* (the private Health & Fitness Club based in the Sir Roger Bannister Sports Centre) at a heavily reduced rate.

The school also offers a relocation package.

Arrangements for the Appointment

In addition to completing the accompanying form, applicants should provide a full Curriculum Vitae and a supporting letter. The closing date for applications is Friday 17th February 2012. It is hoped that the appointment process will be completed within the following two weeks..