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 (735 pupils: 11-18), the Junior Branch (220 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 will ultimately number about 300 students (of which roughly 65 will be 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 current Development Programme follows in an impressive tradition. A Sixth Form Centre and Theatre were opened in l974. 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.

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: 94% A/B pass at A-level and 81% A/A* at GCSE in 2008. 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 a small team of Senior Sixth Form Tutors who 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 Maths and Science), 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.

Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities at the Senior School

The school's principal sports are Rugby (Winter 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 and extensive collaboration with South Hampstead High School. 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, Hard Rock & Gaming Club, Maths Puzzle Club, Fantasy Football League, Jewish Society, Chess Club, Voluntary Service Unit are all currently popular. The school has a fully equipped theatre that is heavily used for our own productions as well as by visiting professional actors and musicians. School trips are arranged on a regular basis and UCS has close links with schools in France, Germany, Spain, Africa and India. There are regular overseas sport and music tours. The school hosts its own annual Literary Festival.

The English Department

At present, ten people teach English at UCS; eight are full-time members of the Department. There are seven dedicated teaching rooms, all of which are provided with a computer, DVD, video, docu-cam and projector. The English Department office contains extensive centralised resources, including generous IT provision.

For the teaching of English, the School is divided into four Programmes of Study: Lower School (Years 7 and 8); Lower Remove (Year 9); GCSE (Years 10 and 11); AS/A2 (Years 12 and 13). Within these Programmes of Study, English teachers are free to pursue their own Schemes of Work; typically, they do so in close consultation with other members of the Department and teach as much literature as they can. Weekly Department meetings establish or clarify common objectives and determine ways of achieving them.

The Department follows the Edexcel specifications for GCSE English and GCSE English Literature, and for AS and A2 English Literature. Results at all levels have been outstanding in recent years. English Literature is one of the most popular AS choices at UCS (around 85 students opted for the subject last year), and approximately ten students go on read English at universities each year, including Oxford and Cambridge.

The Department organises theatre trips, cross-curricular trips to museums and galleries, a long weekend at the Cheltenham Festival of Literature, an annual inter-school literary "symposium," creative writing classes, and trips to student conferences; it also invites visiting speakers. One member of the Department organises the week-long UCS Book Festival.

The Current Vacancy

This vacancy arises from the expansion of the school, through the introduction of coeducation into the Sixth Form. The successful candidate will join a highly committed and well-established team. He/she should be equally enthusiastic about the teaching of English at all levels from Year 7 to A-level and Oxbridge entrance. There is much scope for an enthusiastic, innovative and creative teacher. The post might, therefore, be equally attractive to someone seeking promotion or to a new entrant to the profession. UCS is able to provide statutory induction to NQTs.

The successful candidate is sure to be enthusiastic about the opportunity to be involved in the school's pastoral work and to enter as actively as possible into the extra-curricular life of a busy London day school.

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 for the Junior and Senior Schools.

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.

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.

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 30th January 2009. It is hoped that interviews will be held soon after that date.