



Teacher of Design and Technology

UCS Senior School

Candidate Brief

*Required for September 2023*







## UCS HAMPSTEAD

University College School was founded in 1830 to promote principles of liberal scholarship. That remains our first and overriding 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 Pre-Prep (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 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.

UCS remains true to the liberal traditions of its founders and continues to work hard to foster independence of mind among its pupils and to value their individuality. Academic results are excellent. Music and drama are very strong at UCS and the school offers an outstanding range of co-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities. The school has a fine record in team games, with shared endeavour and good sportsmanship held in high regard.

# THE ORGANISATION OF UCS

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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 Pre-Prep has its own Head.

Sixty boys each year transfer from the JB to the Senior School and are joined by sixty 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 join the Middle School and are allocated to the five Demes (or houses) which form the basis of the pastoral structure of the school until pupils leave at the end of the Sixth Form. Each Deme is managed by a Deme Warden and a team of Form Tutors. 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 applications and other matters specific to pupils of this age.

Pupils from The Pre-Prep 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.

Admission at all entry points is heavily oversubscribed. 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, PSHE, PE and sport as well as to the more traditional academic curriculum. Boys study General Science in Year 7, and the three separate sciences from Year 8 onwards. There is no setting or streaming. This approach continues into Year 9, where the other language options are added to the curriculum. Mathematics is set by ability in Years 9, 10 and 11. All boys currently study ten subjects to GCSE (IGCSE in the case of a number of subjects), including English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, at least one science subject and at least one modern language. All pupils study four subjects in Year 12. They may choose to drop one of these in Year 13 when a number of pupils choose to take an Extended Project Qualification.

# SPORTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL

The school offers outstanding facilities and opportunities exist for a number of different sports and activities, including Rugby, Netball, Football, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis, Athletics, Badminton, Cross-Country, Basketball, Swimming, Fives, Table Tennis, Fencing, Aerobics, Dance, Yoga, Bouldering, Karate, Rowing and Squash. All pupils are required to play games as part of their normal curriculum and a large number represent the school.

There is a wide range of co-curricular activities and school societies. Music is particularly strong, with multiple choirs, Orchestra, Wind Band, Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band, jazz and rock groups, as well as many smaller ensembles. 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 pupils to direct as well as to act and provide technical support, and an annual production is performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Over 60 clubs and societies meet on a weekly basis, often run by pupils. Gender Politics Society, Wellbeing Society, Cultural Awareness Society and Green Impact Society, the environmental action group, are all currently popular. Debating and Model United Nations, Young Enterprise, Chess and Robotics regularly send teams to competitions with great success. Pupil journalism thrives at UCS, with pupils editing and producing the school magazine, The Tortoise, as well as Bocca, a Classics and Art History journal, Interlingua, the modern languages journal, and others. School trips are arranged on a

regular basis and UCS has close links with schools in France, Germany, Spain, Uganda and India. UCS has partnerships with Westminster Academy, UCL Academy, Michaela Community School and the London Academy of Excellence Stratford, as well as a number of primary schools. Pupils currently raise roughly £20,000 per year for a range of charities that they select themselves as part of a Community Action initiative. Academic Enrichment Weeks, Women in Sport Week and the non-curricular Activities Week annually broaden and embellish the UCS educational experience.







# THE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Design and Technology Department at UCS comprises 5 full-time teachers, including the Head of Department and a Designer-in-Residence, who also has some timetabled teaching. The department is also supported by a full-time technician. Design and Technology is part of the core curriculum for all pupils in years 7 and 8 with most of the year choosing it for year 9.

Pupils undertaking courses within the Design and Technology Department work within a variety of material areas (e.g. wood, metal, plastics, etc.) incorporating control systems (e.g. electrical, mechanical) and appropriate forms of graphic communication within a strong Product Design framework. This work is underpinned by environmental, cultural, historical and theoretical contexts.

The philosophy of the department is that “design thinking” should be at the core of all work undertaken. This is supported by a strong spirit of cooperation between the DT and Art Departments.

Design and Technology is well-established at UCS, and in 2007, a new building was constructed to accommodate both the DT and Art Departments. Facilities for all forms of practical work, and for computer-aided design and manufacture, are excellent. The department also has an outstanding Robotics Club and we are always looking for opportunities to develop our provision in this field.

Educational visits are undertaken by years 10 to 13 both locally and further afield. Destinations have included the Design Museum, the V&A, The Barbican Centre and studios and the factories of various designers and manufacturers - including Brompton and Unto This Last.

We follow the Cambridge Pre-U Design Specifications (this will change to OCR for pupils Year 12 pupils starting in September 2022). Approximately 40 pupils a year take GCSE (85% 9 - 8 in 2019) and we currently have 11 pupils undertaking the Pre-U in year 13 and 14 pupils in year 12.



# THE PRESENT VACANCY

The successful applicant will be a highly organised individual, fully prepared to immerse themselves in the work of this energetic, successful and supportive department. Applicants should be skilled in working with a variety of materials and processes, have a strong intellectual interest in the subject, be imaginative and adaptable with a facilitative approach to classroom teaching, as well as being enthusiastic, whether teaching Design to Year 7 or the Pre-U in years 12 and 13.

Knowledge of electronics, systems and control and CAD/CAM techniques is advantageous, but a willingness to learn and a commitment to professional development are also of great importance.

Although the precise balance of teaching for the successful candidate will depend upon his/her experience it is sure to involve teaching throughout the age range, including pupils at GCSE level and above.

The successful candidate will be committed to developing an independent and experimental mind-set within his/her pupils, as well as fostering an iterative approach to design thinking, while preparing pupils to achieve top results in public examinations.

This is an outstanding opportunity to teach Design and Technology to sharp and creative pupils, in a highly demanding and stimulating setting. It should, therefore, be attractive to both an ECT (UCS offers full statutory induction) or to a serving teacher seeking wider experience.

A willingness to contribute to the extra-curricular life of the school will be an additional and important recommendation. We expect all of our teachers to be Form Tutors.







## SALARY AND BENEFITS

UCS has its own competitive salary scale. The payment for this post will be dependent upon qualifications and experience, but will 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. 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.



## CHILD PROTECTION

University College School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced check for Regulated Activity from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) before a formal offer of employment is made. This is a requirement as the position is within a school working with children aged under 18. UCS will also undertake its own recruitment checks through contact with previous employers, referees, and others, to confirm applicants' 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:

**Thursday 01.12.22 at 12pm**

However, please note that we reserve the right to interview and appoint at any stage during this process; early applications are therefore very welcome.



