



Teacher of Biology

UCS Senior School

Candidate Brief

*Full Time, permanent. 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 who reports to the Headmaster of the JB.

Sixty pupils each year transfer from the JB to the Senior School and are joined by sixty pupils from outside feeder schools who win places through competitive examination. In Years 7 and 8 (Entry and Shell), these children are supervised by a team of pastoral Year Wardens, Form Tutors and Head of Lower School. In Year 9 (Lower Remove), pupils 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 and the Head of Middle School or Head of Sixth Form.

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, pupils 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. Pupils 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 pupils 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.

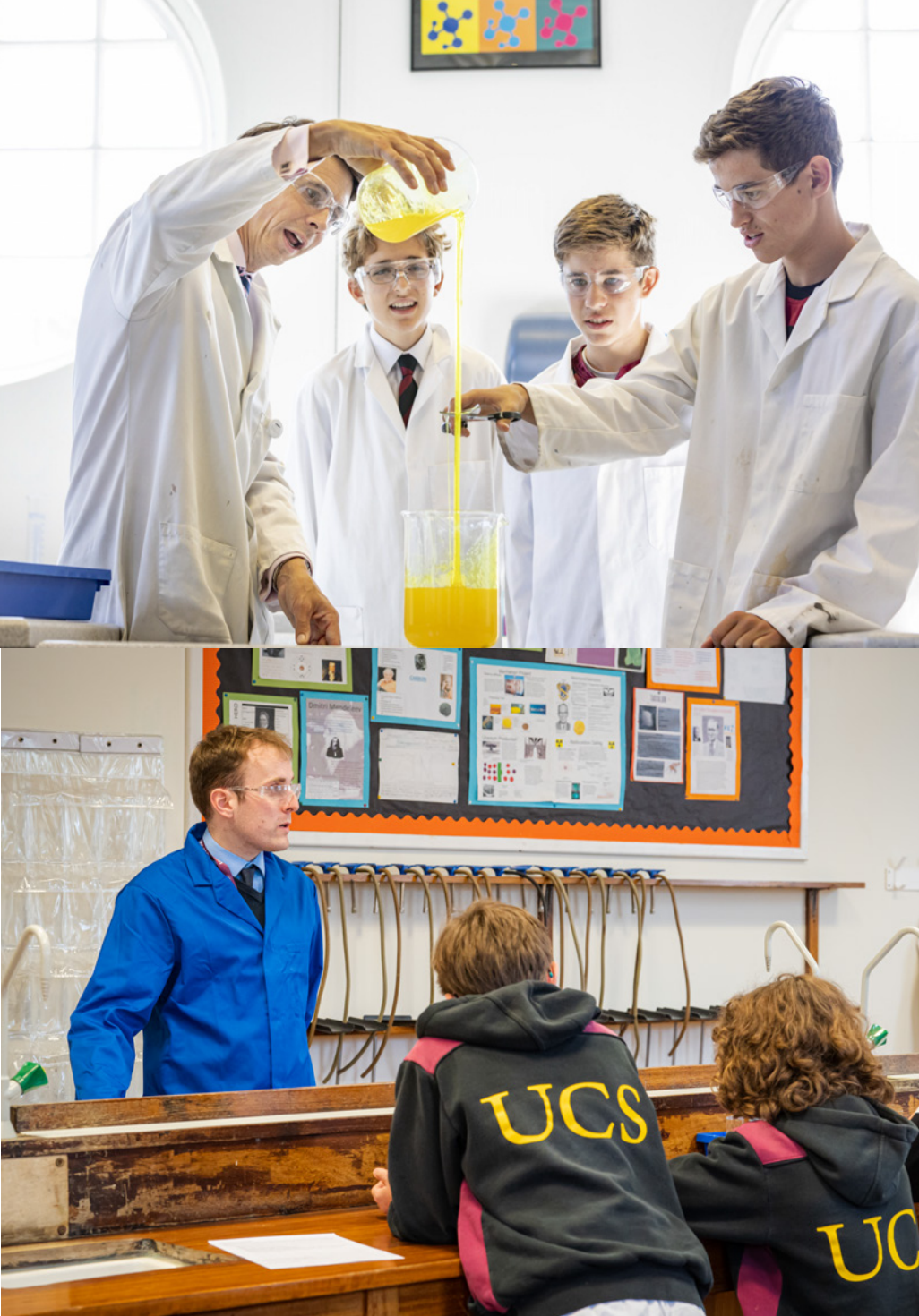
There is a wide range of co-curricular activities and school societies. Music is particularly strong, with multiple choirs, Orchestra, Wind Band, Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band, jazz and rock groups, as well as many smaller ensembles. The school has a fully equipped theatre that is heavily 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 BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Biology Department is a dedicated team of six Biology teachers and two specialist Biology technicians. The department is very well resourced and has its own set of dedicated laboratories spread across the lower floor of the science wing of the school. The department also boasts its own newly refurbished office.

In Year 7, pupils are taught a Science course that combines aspects of all three sciences. Subject specialists teach separate sciences from Year 8 onwards and throughout Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils are taught in their form groups. Uptake for IGCSE Biology is strong and all classes follow the Edexcel IGCSE specification.

The subject is consistently popular at A Level, where we follow the OCR A specification. More than 90% of our pupils have gained grades A\*-B in recent years at A level, with 52% attaining an A\* in 2022.

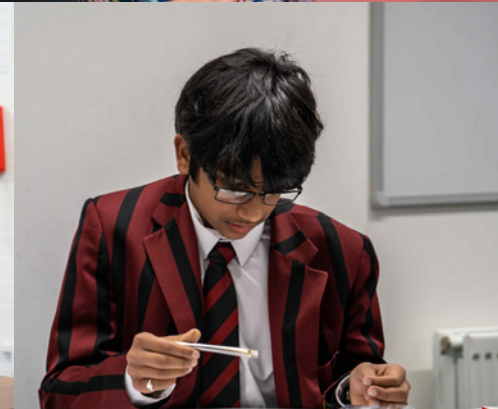
The extra-curricular life of the department is exceptionally rich. We have a pupil-led Biology Society that helps to organise and run weekly Biology clubs and events, including hosting external speakers and running practicals such as dissection. We also encourage pupils to take part in competitions such as the British Brain Bee and The Biology Olympiads. The Department runs a residential A Level Biology Field Trip every summer to one of the FSC's dedicated Field Studies Centres, alongside day trips to places such as Kew Gardens.

# THE PRESENT VACANCY

The current vacancy is a permanent full-time post. It offers an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic teacher to develop, or perhaps to begin, their career in a lively and innovative setting as part of a dynamic, supportive and collaborative department. The successful applicant will be a strong Biology graduate, with a deep passion for their subject, and the ability to convey this effectively to pupils across all age groups, including Biology at GCSE and A level, and science at KS3. They should also have the ability to stretch potential Oxbridge candidates and inspire pupils beyond the curriculum both in lessons and in clubs and societies.

We therefore expect to appoint a teacher who combines a strong intellectual interest in Biology with an imaginative and adaptable approach to pedagogy; informed and thoughtful in their planning of lessons, rigorous and friendly in their delivery. They will be

personally committed to developing a genuine and lasting enthusiasm for Biology in their pupils, as well as in preparing them for exam success. 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:

**Friday 24 March 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.





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