



# THE REVIEW

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Achievements, Events and Celebrations of  
UCS Senior School in 2023-24





## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

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It is with much pride that I look back at another year of exceptional growth, both academically and personally, for UCS pupils. While each young person's journey is unique, this chronicle showcases some of the collective pursuits and achievements that contribute to their individual development.

Our rich and diverse curriculum is designed to nurture pupils' keen intellect and critical thinking, preparing them for lifelong learning. Our pupils' academic progress is evident in their outstanding performances in public examinations and university placements. Our A Level cohort did us and, more importantly, themselves proud with 93% A\* -Bs and our GCSE pupils hit a new school record with a historic 51% of grades at level 9.

At UCS, education extends beyond the classroom. Our vibrant co-curricular programme encompasses over 90 clubs and societies, plus numerous sports teams, all providing pupils with myriad opportunities to explore their passions and develop valuable life skills. This last year, for example, our Rugby teams demonstrated exceptional performance, with our 1st XV securing the 2023 Middlesex Cup championship without conceding a single point.

Beyond academics and athletics, innovation and creativity flourished among our Young Enterprise team. Their 3D-printed fidget toys captivated audiences at the prestigious Samsung KX in King's Cross, earning them the coveted Digital Skills Award.



*M J Beard, Headmaster*

Towards the end of an academic year, Year 12 pupils take a more active role in the leadership of the school - beginning with the Sixth Form Union, mentoring year 7 forms, starting their own clubs and societies, taking over the school magazine - and then taking on the more significant roles of Monitors or Deme Captains as the Year 13 students focus on impending exams. Over half the year group applied for such positions, a testament to this cohort's appetite to develop leadership skills, experience teamwork and a desire to commit to the school community.

Choosing the right school is a significant decision and, at UCS, we are confident in offering a distinctive and enriching environment for young minds to thrive. This review provides a glimpse into the vibrant tapestry of achievements and experiences defining a UCS school year. Each accomplishment, both individual and collective, reflects the unwavering dedication of our teachers and the supportive network we foster within the UCS community.

I invite you to explore this review further and discover the spirit of excellence that makes UCS truly special.

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## Academic Results

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This summer's GCSE and A Level cohorts have enjoyed considerable success in their public examinations. Our talented Sixth Form leavers are now embarking on exciting journeys to study at prestigious universities and institutions both in the UK and overseas.

At A Level, 30% of grades awarded were an A\* and 72% of grades an A\* or A, with 93% of all grades at A\*–B.

At GCSE 51% of grades were grade 9s, 79% were graded at 9–8 and 93% of all grades were 9–7. Twelve pupils secured exclusively 9s, and forty-eight pupils obtained grades 8s and 9s.

Amongst the many excellent subject-area results, Modern Languages, Biology, and Maths are particular standouts. 90% of all pupils who took Biology obtained grades 9 or 8, whilst 83% of all Maths grades awarded were 9 or 8. All Modern Languages; French, Spanish, German, Italian and Mandarin averaged an impressive 88.5% - German scoring as the best-performing language with 100% of all grades being a 9 or 8. When excluding the pandemic years, these represent the best set of GCSE results in the history of the school.

This year the vast majority of our leavers are going on to undergraduate study either in the UK or abroad, 92% of whom are headed to their first or second choice university. Our destinations include some of the most renowned institutions in the world; 23 of this year's leavers secured offers at Oxford or Cambridge and the courses they will pursue include Experimental Psychology, Spanish and Arabic as well as more traditional courses such as Engineering, Maths, Geography and History. Our Medics will be taking up places at Oxford, UCL, Kings and Bristol to study Medicine.

This year we also saw a resurgence in students taking up offers in London; 37 of our students are headed to LSE, UCL, Imperial and Kings and a number are taking up places at SOAS. We also have students excelling in the Creative Arts - one of our students is heading to the Royal Academy and two will be completing Art Foundation courses at Kingston and UAL.

Additionally, 14 pupils are heading to prestigious overseas institutions, taking up places at Penn, USC and New York University. We also have several pupils going to McGill and the University of Toronto in Canada; and one leaver even farther afield to Australia!

A natural byproduct of the school's emphasis on intellectual curiosity and academic enrichment is that UCS pupils go on to pursue a wide range of undergraduate courses that align with their academic passions. This freedom to explore their interests empowers them to make informed choices about their future academic paths.





## Pupil Wellbeing

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Pupil wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do, from the care our pastoral teams provide to pupils' experiences in lessons, to their co-curricular activities. Underpinning all of this work is a commitment to ensuring that all pupils have opportunities to flourish, understand the multiple factors that contribute to mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing and feel comfortable seeking support when needed.

Over the course of the year, there are multiple initiatives which run to support pupils and ensure their experiences match our objectives. Throughout January, all year groups participated in 'Heart January'. This programme, curated by our PE department, encourages pupils to explore new things and learn more about themselves across five areas: Helping family, friends and community; Eating & hydrating; Activity & challenge; Resting, recovering & recharging; Thinking & developing. Pupils experimented with cooking meals for their families, made efforts to prioritise a healthier sleep schedule by going to bed earlier, tracked their daily water consumption, where possible; walked to school, practised gratitude and other fantastically creative endeavours.

To support the well-being of our youngest pupils, we integrate a multitude of initiatives into the Lower School's programme. This term, We hosted the second Life Values Week for our Year 7 and 8

pupils, creating a space for pupils to discuss the core tenets of the Lower School - Aspiration, Bravery, Compassion, Decision-making and self-reflection.

Year 7 pupils additionally benefit from the five-week Peer Education Project which is taught by trained Sixth Formers. Year 7 boys take a great deal from the lessons taught by fellow pupils and we are looking into further ways of involving the Sixth Form in delivering such important lessons to our younger pupils.

Year 8 participated in our annual Wellbeing Symposium. The boys spent the morning meticulously researching diverse factors that can influence mental health, before presenting their findings in short talks. It was an intense couple of hours but the quality of the presentations was outstanding.

One pupil commented, "I enjoyed working with a partner and we learned about how money can affect your mental health. Presenting the talk to my class boosted my confidence."

## Celebrating success in the Lower School

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The UCS experience should extend beyond the classroom, empowering pupils to develop the strength and breath of character to flourish in life and improve the society around them. In recent years, the Headmaster's Lower School Award and the Young Leaders Award have provided a unique opportunity to fulfil this ambition. This year, the Lower School Diploma was launched, with the aim of further broadening study and research opportunities available to pupils.

The Headmaster's Award requires pupils to monitor, assess and plan their development in five aptitude areas: academic, adventure, co-curricular, community and sustainability. It gives a framework for aspirational pupils to engage in constructive self-reflection and make decisions that lead to a broader, richer set of skills and experiences. The adventure section of the Award is completed by pupils who undertake a residential bushcraft trip to Kent. The pupils build shelters, build and light fires, and prepare and cook meals over open fires and love being immersed in the Kent countryside.

The Young Leaders Award, meanwhile, consists of three modules focused on communication and teamwork; problem solving and critical thinking; and conflict resolution and management. There are limited places on this course, which, though externally designed, overlaps strongly with the UCS learning values: resilience, responsibility, relationships and resourcefulness. Assistant Head (Head of Lower School), Edd Roberts, explained:

"Young Leaders is undertaken by around 20 Lower School pupils, it is quite an undertaking with about 40 hours of lessons on leadership. The boys have weekly seminars; it is not easy but the participants are always very engaged. The group also undertake three projects as part of the Award and these projects give them a chance to test their skills whilst also contributing to the local community. The work our groups have carried out with Heath Hands is extremely impressive."

In January this year, we introduced the Lower School Diploma. Twenty pupils embarked on this course, attending a series of lectures held on a Friday lunchtime which looked at subjects not included in the Years 7 and 8 curriculum. These enriching talks were suitably broad and included architecture, psychology, sociology, computer science amongst many others. Following a final lesson on research skills, the pupils then thoroughly researched and wrote an essay over the Easter break on an area which particularly interested them. "The number of pupils who volunteered to be part of the inaugural diploma, and the sheer enthusiasm for learning that these boys exhibited, has delighted me and will inspire me for years to come. The talks were truly fascinating and the quality of the essays was remarkable," added Mr Roberts.



## School Trips: learning and growing outside the classroom

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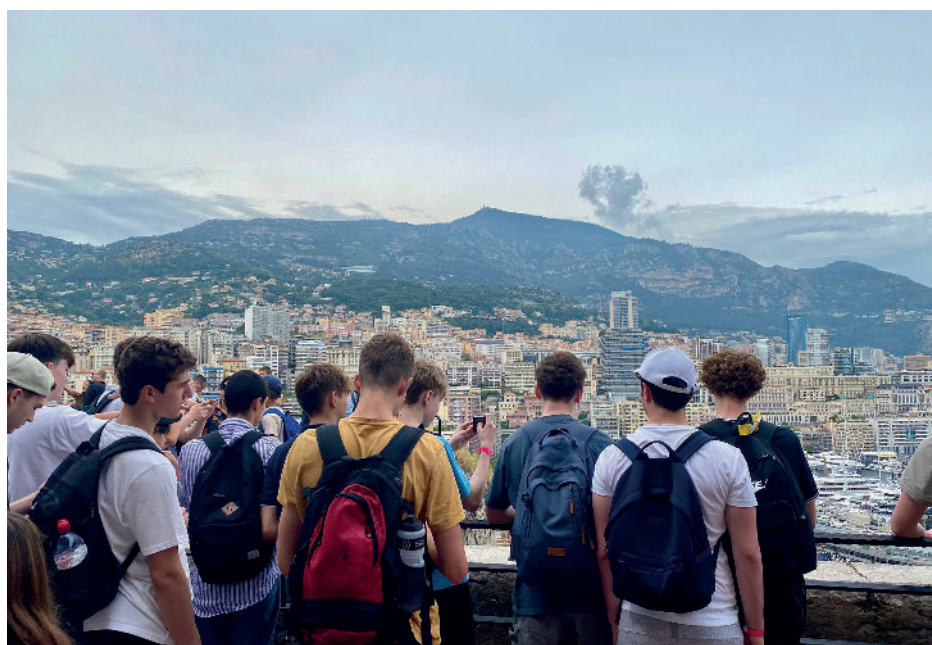
School trips are an inherent feature of the UCS experience, enjoyed by pupils and teachers alike. Their provision is as expansive and ambitious as a UCS education aspires to be and this academic year was no exception. We look to subject departments to create rich and vibrant experiences that serve as a vital extension of pupils' co-curricular learning.

Sophie Bennett, Assistant Head (Co-Curricular) commented "I have been privileged to work with a number of colleagues to run a huge number of school trips this year, by the end of the academic year, the Senior School had sent out 123 trips!"

Many took advantage of all the things London has to offer. Year 10 and 11 Art pupils explored the vast collections of modern and contemporary art at the iconic Tate Modern, while budding thespians from Year 7 enjoyed a captivating performance of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" at the historic Globe Theatre, perfectly complementing their summer term studies. Year 9 geographers delved into the vibrant street markets of Brick Lane, providing them the opportunity to conduct first-hand urban fieldwork. A visit to the British Museum's Legion exhibition brought Roman history to life for Year 9 Classics students. For our aspiring politicians in Year 12, a visit to the Houses of Parliament provided them with an educational tour of the heart of British democracy.

But our trips are not limited to just the M25! Highlights of this year include trips to the rolling hills of Surrey for Biology students to collect ecology data in woodland and river areas, the Year 8 Classics expedition to Bath and the Year 10 Computer Science venture to Cambridge for a tour of a variety of old computers.

And of course, there is an impressive range of international residential trips. Highlights included the annual ski trip, which saw Years 8-11 pupils carving fresh tracks in Gressoney, Italy. Year 9 embarked on an inaugural STEM adventure to Iceland, where they explored the wonders of geothermal energy, volcanic landscapes, and unique ecosystems. Finally, the very exciting Geography and Mandarin collaboration, which saw pupils travel to Malaysia and Singapore, offering a unique opportunity to combine intercultural understanding and language skills.





## Supporting pupils and their future choices

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The journey towards life beyond UCS begins as early as Year 9, with the first of many crucial decision-making processes that shape pupils' academic and career pathways. At this stage, pupils contemplate their higher education aspirations, aided by significant choices and subjects such as 'Additional Maths' and 'Triple Science'. This year we have developed a 'Life in Sixth Form' event for Year 9 students which aims to inspire these young minds, featuring talks from key members of the Sixth Form team and external consultants Oxbridge Applications, aiming to provide a tangible vision of the future.

Understanding students' interests, ideas and aspirations early in their school career helps us guide their decisions and ensure the opportunities open to them are as expansive as possible. We plan to introduce the UCAS system to students earlier in their academic journey.

This proactive approach ensures that by the time students reach Year 10, they are well-versed with the UCAS framework, easing the transition into more focused decision-making about A Level subjects and future career paths. This year's 'Introduction to Sixth Form' evening offered additional guidance to Year 10, ensuring students make informed choices that align with their aspirations.

In February this year, we hosted the Careers in Media Networking Evening, which was a great success thanks to the participation of pupils, parents and notable industry figures who committed their time and energy to the event. The evening, organised by the Careers Department, alongside our Alumni network; Old Gowers, was an exclusive networking event hosted by Alex Mahon; Chief Executive of Channel 4.

## Partnerships

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The idea of community resonates deeply within the UCS ethos and the school continues to prioritise robust connections with neighbouring institutions, particularly local state schools. Each partnership is meticulously designed to benefit all parties involved. We work closely with our partner schools to ensure collaborative planning of events and initiatives, maximising the impact for both students and staff.

UCS pupils gain invaluable experience by working on collaborative projects with students from different backgrounds. They also have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills by acting as teaching mentors to younger visiting children in language and classics workshops.

A prime example of such collaboration is the initiative undertaken by our Art department. Partnering with Westminster Academy's art department, they focused on facilitating a smooth transition into GCSE studies. The collaborative effort aimed to cultivate intellectual curiosity within the students. They explored innovative methods to enhance literacy and communication skills through the artistic lens. This involved a strong emphasis on engaging with both contemporary and historical artists through analytical exploration, fostering deeper understanding and critical thinking.

In the Spring Term, we were delighted to welcome pupils from LAE for a Year 12 French debating competition. The motions for the debates were drawn from the AQA French A Level syllabus, which both schools use.

During the Summer Term, we partnered with Rhyl Primary School in Camden for a five-week playwriting workshop. Year 5 pupils at Rhyl Primary honed their creative writing skills, crafting short plays about disagreements between household objects. The culmination of this project came on Wednesday, June 5th, with an "Art-Felt" evening at the UCS Lund Theatre. A select few of the student-written plays were chosen for a special London premiere, performed by talented UCS actors fresh off their success in the Lower School production of *James and the Giant Peach*.



## Clubs and societies

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This year, the rich program of clubs and societies available at UCS has flourished even further, driven in large part by the commendable enthusiasm of our pupils. Beyond the core curriculum, pupils have the opportunity to delve into a vibrant selection of clubs offered before school, after school and during lunch times. This allows them to explore new interests or further any existing talents and skills.

Pupils are actively encouraged to establish new clubs if they identify unmet interests within the school community. Clubs and societies give pupils the chance to lead their peers, try something new and crucially to work with pupils in different year groups from across the school.

You could start the week with Classics Society and finish it with Running Club. Some clubs exist for leisure such as Board Games and Puzzles club. Others relate specifically to an academic subject and sometimes for a specific purpose or age range within that remit e.g. Japanese club, Chess Coaching or Maths Boost. Others provide opportunities to learn beyond the curriculum like AI Society or to stretch oneself in a context such as debating or Model United Nations.

As ever, this year saw the addition of new clubs reflecting the evolving passions of our pupil body. We are delighted to see the emergence of F1 Society which is led by Year 10 pupils; their meetings involve analysis and dissection of recent Grand Prix races. We also set up Trains and Planes Club this year, led by Year 10 pupils. This club meets to look at trains and planes (as you would expect) and works on model trains and aeroplanes. Two of our new joiners to Year 12 this year established the Charity Crochet Club, which is a very popular club open to all year groups and staff included. They meet to crochet items of baby clothing and blankets which are donated to be sold by the Royal Free Charity.

It has also been wonderful to see some of our clubs embarking on school trips this year. For example, the ever-popular DT club for Year 8 and Year 9 named Makerspace ventured out to the Warner Brothers Harry Potter studios where they saw some incredible set, prop and costume designs in real life.



## Drama

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The co-curricular drama provision throughout the year has been varied, challenging, and ambitious in both scale and engagement. Throughout the year, four full-scale productions, our second-ever dance show, a Trinity Showcase, a partnership performance, and an improvisation evening have taken place in the Lund Theatre. This year, over 300 pupils have engaged with the performing arts as performers, theatre technicians, and stage managers. This breadth of opportunity is a testament to our pupils' relentless enthusiasm and dedication to drama and dance.

This year's Senior School Production marked a momentous achievement for the Drama Department. Each term, the different schools here at Senior School host their own productions at the Lund Theatre.

In November, our Sixth Formers adapted Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal*, delving into themes of gender inequality within a capitalist framework, making it a particularly relevant choice for contemporary audiences. Pupils displayed remarkable awareness, sensitivity and maturity in their portrayal of these themes. The design concept, spearheaded by Theatre Manager Martin Hutchings and designer Carys Bedford, was a feat of technical ingenuity. Working alongside the pupil stage crew, they utilised projection mapping to create a visually stunning experience.

The Middle School production of *Macbeth*, staged in March, was superbly mature. Our young actors reminded audiences of the challenge that comes with any young company performing a Shakespearean play given his language is 400 years old and his mastery of complex rhythms!

In May, it was the Lower School's turn with their unique and highly creative take on *James and the Giant Peach*. The cast of Year 7 and 8 pupils dazzled and delighted audiences with their wildly inventive staging and characterisation of Road Dahl's familiarly wacky characters.

And finally, the company of our Edinburgh Festival Fringe production, *Penny and Forever*, performed a preview performance in June, ahead of its run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. This production marks the Drama Department's first-ever collaboration with a professional playwright. Glyn Maxwell, an Olivier Award nominee, developed the script with the pupils in the *Transitus*, providing the cast with an opportunity to understand the process of professional playwrighting.



## Music

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The concert diary at UCS is a repository of calendar highlights, whether in the Autumn, Spring or Summer term. The 28 events curated by the Senior School Music Department reflect the monumental efforts and musical passions of over 230 pupils involved in ensembles, bands and choirs. End of term concerts can feature over 100 pupils, and there have been over 160 solo performances in lunchtime concerts and performance platforms over the course of the year.

In total UCS hosts 30 ensembles and choirs, including a full Symphony Orchestra, a 50-piece Concert Band, separate ensembles for string, woodwind and brass, and an extensive Chamber Music programme.

Large-scale ensembles are thriving, with the Symphony Orchestra boasting a formidable string section that enabled us to programme large-scale works including Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony and Holst's Planet Suite, and provide luxuriant support to Sixth concerto soloist Bice Sharp (Sixth) in Elgar's Cello Concerto. The 50-strong Concert Band continues to pack a punch, delivering a string of thrilling performances.

Chamber Music remains an area of significant strength, with 10 groups operating across all year groups, and we were delighted to celebrate the success of the Zhong Piano Trio and Senior String Quartet in reaching the finals of South East Schools Competition at St George's Hanover Square.

Rock music is firmly established as a key component in our provision and The Rock Concert was a particular highlight of the musical year, exploding with energy and boasting 12 bands, formed of over 80 guitarists, drummers, and keyboardists.

The musical calendar culminated in the ever spectacular Summer Concert with eight ensembles and over 120 performers. The first half showcased a kaleidoscope of musical voices - woodwinds, brass, strings, guitar, and vocals. Big Band's rendition of "Sway" pulsed with infectious Latin rhythms, Flute Ensemble displayed remarkable cohesion in Boismortier's "Adagio and Allegro," while the Brass Ensemble's rich, rounded tones filled the Great Hall with Elgar's "Salut D'Amour." The Symphony Orchestra treated the audience to a vibrant performance of Haydn's "London Symphony," whilst the concert concluded with an electrifying performance by Senior Jazz of Tower of Power's "What is Hip".

In a year of such spectacular collective endeavour, it is also appropriate to spotlight some individuals for their outstanding achievements. Following his success in last year's BBC Young Musician of the Year competition, viola player Jaren Ziegler, appeared as a soloist with distinguished ensembles, including the London Mozart Players and Northern Sinfonia, and won a top scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music. Equally impressive, violin player Finn Kjaergaard has become a key player for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and has performed at the BBC Proms and Barbican Centre.





# SPORTS FOR ALL



## Table Tennis

Building on their 2023 National Championship win, the UCS U16 Boys' Table Tennis team served up another dominant victory at the 2024 London Youth Games, cementing their position as Camden Borough's official Table Tennis Team.



## Hockey

This season was our most successful in over half a decade, losing just four out of 14 games our XI Hockey team managed to reach the London Finals.



## Tennis

UCS Tennis enjoyed unprecedented success in 2023-24. Triumphant, two students clinched the ISTA U13s title. The crowning glory came with the U13's National Championship win, solidifying their position as the country's best school tennis team.



## Netball

The netball team awaits their first international tour to Malta in January 2025. Mr Sawtell, the Director of Sports says "These girls are as brilliant as they are fun, and supporting their love of team sports is a privilege and joy"

Sports are a cornerstone of UCS's co-curricular life. The extensive selection of athletic activities encourages participation and enjoyment, while also providing opportunities for growth and development for all skill levels.



## Rugby

Rugby continues to gain more popularity with each passing season, with nearly 300 fixtures played in the autumn term. UCS 1st XV were crowned U18s Middlesex champions and U12B were awarded team of the season, having won all of their 17 fixtures this season.



## Cricket

U12s are the most enthusiastic group of cricketers our coaches have had, reaching the coveted "finals day" of the London Schools Cup.



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## Junior Guildhall Voice Prize

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UCS is rightly proud of its musical provision, a key area of the school's co-curricular life, which brings joy in terms of both performance and those moments when pupils achieve success in their pursuit of excellence. The UCS community celebrated the remarkable achievement of Tyler Bennett (TUN3) who won the prestigious Junior Guildhall Voice Prize 2024.

Tyler's musical journey began with a successful audition for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama's renowned Junior Department. Alongside his vocal studies at UCS, Tyler diligently attended additional Saturday classes, honing his skills and preparing for the next challenge. His dedication

paid off as he progressed through the preliminary rounds, ultimately securing a coveted spot amongst the three finalists in the Voice Prize Final, which took place in June.

The adjudicator, Stephanie Corley, was particularly impressed by Tyler's diverse song selection, featuring works by Handel, Schubert, Britten, and Tosti. She specifically commended his captivating stage presence, praising him for his confident delivery and ability to connect with the audience through his storytelling.

Congratulations to Tyler for such a fantastic achievement.



## Oxford University Computing Challenge

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The Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC) is an invitation-only event designed for students with a top 10% score in the UK Bebras Challenge. Its goal is to develop their skills further and encourage them to produce programmed solutions to computational thinking problems.

Two UCS pupils finished third and ninth in their respective age groups at this prestigious challenge over the Spring Term. This was a remarkable achievement given that one pupil faced over 117,000 other junior contestants and the other impressively competed amongst more than 209,000 intermediate challengers in November's preliminary round. The pair earned top 10% rankings to enter January's

Oxford Computing first round where they secured places among the top 20 pupils in their categories to reach March's final test of their computational and logical thinking.

Overall, UCS pupils gained six distinctions and nine merits in the Oxford University Computing Challenge.



## Young Enterprise Team wins Digital Skills Award

Innovation and perseverance were on display this summer term at the second round of the Young Enterprise Competition. Our Young Enterprise team showcased their 3D-printed fidget toys at the prestigious Samsung KX in King's Cross, facing off against eight other top London teams. Our team impressed the judges with their creativity and dedication, securing the coveted Digital Skills Award!

While they may not have progressed to the next stage, the team's unwavering commitment throughout the year shone brightly. Their presentation, delivered with poise and confidence

in front of a 100-person audience, captivated the panel, which included leading figures from Samsung and Amazon. The subsequent interview provided a platform for the team to delve deeper into their concept, further demonstrating their exceptional work ethic and innovative spirit.

This recognition by industry leaders is a testament to the tremendous growth and valuable skills the UCS Young Enterprise team possesses.



## Back-to-Back Victories for UCS Table Tennis

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The UCS Table Tennis program continues to smash expectations. Building on their 2023 National Championship win, the U16 Boys' team cemented their dominance by clinching the 2024 London Youth Games title. This victory not only adds another prestigious trophy to their collection but also solidifies their position as Camden Borough's official Table Tennis Team.

The U16 Boys' triumph at the Youth Games is a testament to strategic development. Having learned from their previous experience with a smaller team, they deployed a powerful seven-player squad, allowing for crucial player rotation and ultimately securing the gold medal.



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## Gabriel Magalhães visits UCS

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In early February, Arsenal's Brazilian centre-back Gabriel Magalhães visited the UCS sports fields on Farm Avenue to watch and inspire our Year 7 boys. After training, the boys got the chance to sit down with Gabriel and ask him questions. Here is how that went:

"What emotions were you feeling on your debut at your very first club?"; he replied that he was feeling excited as well as nervous and as if he had just accomplished a dream.

Another question was: "Who do you think is the best player of all time?" In response, he said Brazilian Ronaldo. "Who is the funniest player during training sessions at Arsenal?" Gabriel chuckled and responded that it was probably Jorginho. The final question was "What position did you play growing up?" Surprisingly, it wasn't centre-back but striker!



## Tomorrow's Trailblazers

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In the summer term, we launched the UCS fundraising and celebration campaign, Tomorrow's Trailblazers. Our upcoming 200th anniversary, in 2030, has been the catalyst for the thinking around this campaign and has crystallised our thoughts for the school we want to become.

As we look ahead to the next six years, we invite our Old Gowers, parents, and friends to join us in this exciting endeavour. Together, we can shape a future where UCS continues to inspire and empower generations to come.

Our vision for the future is one where a UCS education is accessible to children of all backgrounds. To achieve this, we have set out three ambitious goals. First, we aim to increase the number of bursary places, ensuring that talented young people have the opportunity to benefit from our exceptional education.

Secondly, we will invest in a new Wellbeing Centre and a dedicated Lower School Hub, providing our pupils with the support and spaces they need to thrive. Finally, we will enhance our performing arts facilities, creating a world-class environment for our students to nurture their creativity and confidence.



## Parents' Guild

The UCS Parents' Guild fulfils a multifaceted role within the school community. Through a diverse range of social events, from casual coffee mornings to festive firework displays, they cultivate a strong sense of community among parents and guardians. Concurrently, the Guild plays a vital role in supporting the school. Their fundraising initiatives benefit both UCS and charities close to their hearts, taking many forms such as sales of pre-loved clothing and uniforms, alongside engaging events like the annual Parents' Guild Supper Quiz.

A prime example of their work was the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, held in the Great Hall in late September.

Beyond the chance for parents to socialise, the Guild organized a Halloween-themed decorate-a-cake/cookie competition judged by none other than Maxy, a finalist from The Great British Bake Off! "They were all fantastic," she remarked. A gently worn uniform sale ran concurrently with the main event, and together these activities raised over £4,000 for Macmillan.

Throughout the Summer Term, the Parents' Guild diligently pursued their £10,000 target for the North London Hospice Owl Trail Fundraiser, held in memory of former UCS student Jack Morgan. Their passion and commitment are greatly appreciated, and we eagerly anticipate their exciting endeavours for the next academic year.



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## Community Action and Partnerships

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Community Action is a pupil-led fundraising program across the UCS foundation where pupils have the opportunity to volunteer, fundraise and make a positive impact.

This program mainly runs during the Autumn Term but what sets UCS apart is that the charities are chosen by the pupils themselves, through year groups and Demes. This allows pupils to support causes that resonate with them, whether locally or globally. Through fundraising projects, assemblies, and events like pizza sales and the Year 7 disco, pupils learn about the impact of their efforts on the chosen charities. Sponsored sporting events are a way to build Deme spirit and community spirit and different groups of pupils have completed sponsored walks and runs, swims and cycles, in addition to the all-too-popular 5-a-side football competition.

With guidance from faculty members, pupils organise and implement their fundraising projects. Whether it's selling cookies, participating in sponsored sporting events, or collecting donations, UCS pupils display enthusiasm and energy for giving back to their community.

Outside of Community Action, UCS pupils take part in a wide range of community programs and initiatives. One notable initiative was a winter coat collection for WrapUp London, showcasing the pupils dedication to helping those in need.

The commitment to community activities at UCS includes a longstanding partnership with organisations such as the North Paddington Food Bank, Bloomsbury Football and the Children's Book Project.

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