



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS

Guidance on
admissions for
11+ entry.

ucs.org.uk

UCS
HAMPSTEAD





UCS Hampstead is a leading London day school that combines the highest standards of academic achievement and pastoral care with outstanding facilities for all-round education with a distinctive liberal ethos.

Founded to promote the Benthamite principles of liberal scholarship and education, UCS believes that intellectual curiosity, breadth of study and independence of mind combine to achieve academic excellence; they are not subordinate to it.

Selecting children with no regard to race or creed, UCS fosters in them a sense of community alongside a tolerance of and a respect for the individual. It is a place of study, but also of self-discovery and self-expression; a school that places equal value on learning with others as on learning from others.



Mark Beard, Headmaster

Welcome to UCS

We hope that this brochure will give you an insight into our outstanding pastoral care, broad curriculum, application and assessment processes, as well as a flavour of what pupils at UCS love about their school.

The Admissions Team

Phil Miller
Assistant Head
Director of Studies and
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Admissions Officer

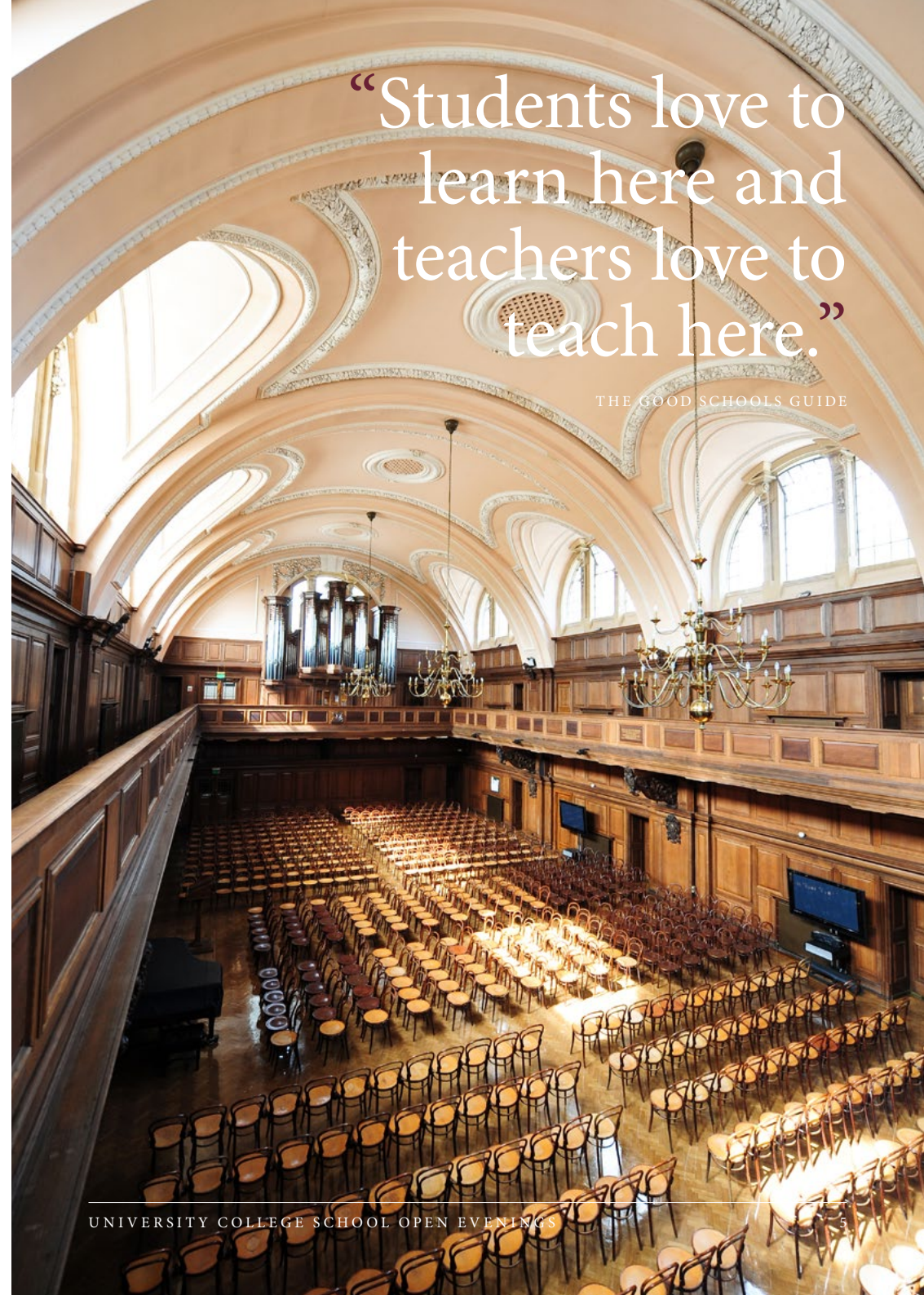
*“We love
the soul of
this school.”*

TATLER SCHOOLS GUIDE

For further information contact
Admissions on:
020 7433 2117 or 020 7433 2118

“Students love to
learn here and
teachers love to
teach here.”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE





JAKE

"I joined UCS in Year 7 from a nearby primary school. No one from my old school came to UCS but I settled in very quickly and made friends easily. At the welcome day in June I met my new classmates and my form teacher – everyone was really helpful and very friendly. I was given a form mentor who helped me find my way around and this made things even easier.

Every class is assigned some Sixth Form mentors and it was great getting to know some of the older pupils. I have tried so

many new things since joining UCS. Last year a group of us in Year 7 volunteered on a weekly basis at a nearby school for children with SEN. This was terrific fun and I learnt so much from doing this. In my first term here, I was taught to play hockey and I have played for the school team in fixtures. My favourite subject is Latin which I had never studied before and last term we went on an outdoor pursuits trip to Devon. Trying surfing was brilliant!"



SAMIR

"Right from the start, the lessons have been amazing. At my previous school, everything seemed to be about preparing for exams but it's not like that here. We have regular tests but lessons are fun. We are all encouraged to express ourselves and get involved in discussions which are always lively. The teachers treat us as individuals and seem to know how to get the best out of us, even though we are all different.

I love DT. The workshops are fantastic and I enjoy learning how to use all the equipment. Sport is also great here – the swimming pool is brilliant. However, my favourite subject is French. The teacher is so helpful and I can't believe how much my French has improved since I joined. The plays here are also amazing. The last one, which was only for boys in the Lower School, was Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. It really was brilliant."



AMAN

"I was a little nervous joining UCS as it is so much bigger than my primary school. I didn't need to worry. Everyone is so helpful. The induction day in June was particularly useful as I got to meet my new Form Teacher and Year Warden. I have really enjoyed the lessons since I joined UCS. I like solving problems so Maths has always been enjoyable but this year we have been studying Physics which has been fantastic. We have done so many practicals in the laboratories and some of the demonstrations are

amazing. In Year 9 we get to choose some new subjects, like Computer Science for example, and take up a new language. I'm looking forward to this!

Outside of lessons, I have joined the LAMDA group and I also play electric guitar in the rock band. I am not particularly sporty but playing football against other schools for the D team was great fun. It's great that everyone gets involved – it doesn't matter how good you are."



ORI

"It was a big change for me joining UCS but I have loved it. It was so easy to settle in and the lessons are enjoyable. Everyone is keen to learn and we do work hard. However, things are very different at break and lunch. It's so relaxed and the food is amazing! There are lots of clubs and as a keen sportsman, I have joined the cricket and swimming clubs. I have represented the school A team in rugby, football and cricket and last year my cricket team reached the London Cup final. I also enjoy music.

I have performed with the UCS chamber choir and I am a member of the rock group.

In the autumn, we raised thousands of pounds for charity in Community Action. It doesn't matter whether you are in Year 7 or the Sixth Form, everyone gets involved in running and taking part in events. Last year we raised over £40,000."

Application and Assessment

The main points of entry to the UCS Senior School are at 11+ (for Year 7) and 16+ (for Year 12). Boys are admitted at both points whilst girls are admitted only at 16+. Parents interested in their son or daughter applying for a place should, in the first instance, discuss the matter with the School at the very start of the academic year prior to entry for 11+ and 16+. We pay no regard to whether candidates are applying from state or from independent schools and we do not give preferential treatment to siblings.

Applications for entry into Year 7 are received, and places are offered, during Year 6. There are approximately 40–45 places available at 11+ for boys from other schools, and they will join the sixty or so boys who transfer from the Junior Branch to the Senior School.

To apply for a place at 11+, please use the online application form on the UCS website. You will find this on the Admissions pages, within the Senior School section. We estimate that the application process will take approximately 20 minutes. In some cases, you may wish to attach additional information (as directed on the form) in which case the application may take longer. There is a £150 registration fee payable when you submit your application; you will be directed to our online payment facility when you have completed the form.

The initial assessment takes the form of an Entrance Examination, which is then followed by an interview for the successful candidates. A confidential report is requested from each candidate's current school and plays an important part in the assessment procedure.

The 11+ examination is held over the course of one day in early January and involves two "pen and paper" tests devoted to Mathematics (calculations and problems), and English (a passage for comprehension and an essay). If required, we can arrange for the entrance assessment to be sat overseas but we much prefer to meet candidates and their families face-to-face at the interview stage.

Candidates with SEND are treated equally with other candidates. For 11+ candidates, we refer to currently applicable JCQ guidelines to determine the eligibility for laptop usage and/or extra time, based on the evidence of need provided as part of the application. Please contact us for further information including full details of our SEND policy.

For further information contact
Admissions on:
020 7433 2117, 020 7433 2118
or ssadmissions@ucs.org.uk





Interview Day

Those candidates who are successful in their Entrance Examination will be invited to interview. The interview day consists of two parts. Initially, the boys are put into groups of around eight and take part in a 50-minute lesson led by two members of our teaching staff. The boys are then each given a 10-minute solo interview. This is an opportunity for them to talk about their learning, their view of UCS and their interests. This is also an excellent chance for boys to ask the interviewer any questions they have about life at UCS.

Offers of places are sent out by post and the date for this will be confirmed at interview. We are often asked about what we are looking for in the interview. Successful candidates have shown throughout the process that they are bright, sparky boys who are engaged and engaging, and who possess the self-motivation to pursue their interests, contribute to the life of our school, and thereby gain most from their place here.

For further details please refer to:
www.ucs.org.uk/Admissions-Overview-Sixth

Pastoral Care

Lower School

The Lower School consists of Years 7 and 8 named Entry and Shell. Our priority when boys join the Lower School is that they are happy. Their form teacher, Year Warden and the Head of the Lower School all take responsibility for your son's well-being. For the two years of Lower School we foster and expand their love of learning. As well as developing their work habits, pupils are encouraged to make the most of the vast array of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities on offer, in order to enter the Middle School with a broad range of skills and a balanced approach to school life.

Middle School

The Middle School consists of Years 9, 10 and 11 named Lower Remove, Remove and Upper Remove. Each boy moves into a Deme (House) and remains within this for his UCS career. A team of Form Tutors, Deme Wardens and the Head of Middle School take responsibility for academic and social happiness; the boys and parents will get to know these key people well. A focus in these three years is examinations; however we believe intellectual curiosity,

breadth of study and independence of mind combine to achieve academic excellence; they are not subordinate to it. Examination achievement is a by-product of rounded learning, and thus we are keen to help all boys develop out of the classroom as much as within it. We work hard to prepare the boys for life in the Sixth Form so that they are ready to tackle the academic challenges that lie ahead. Furthermore we also seek to broaden their horizons with an air of purpose and maturity. We want all of the boys to be curious, confident and kind. These are principles that underpin all aspects of school life.

All boys in the Lower and Middle School will have a timetabled lesson of PSHE every week as we seek to prepare them to be positive members of society. One afternoon a week is devoted to sport and fitness using the School's outstanding facilities for indoor and outdoor sports. There are plenty of opportunities for the boys to engage in community service and charitable endeavour, building on the array of co-curricular opportunities that are in place in the Lower School.



Curriculum

Lower School Curriculum

UCS was founded to promote liberal scholarship and education. To that end, we aim to provide a broad and rich academic curriculum and wide range of subject choices. This allows pupils to keep options open for as long as possible, as well the ability for focused subject specialisms when appropriate. Our subject content seeks to stretch, challenge and engage all of our students.

Years 7 and 8 are grouped together as the Lower School. In Year 7, the curriculum consists of English, Mathematics, French, Combined Sciences, History, Geography, Latin, Music, Drama, Art, Design & Technology, PE and Games. In Year 8, the Combined Sciences course splits into the three individual sciences. ICT skills are developed throughout the curriculum, in subject contexts where they make sense and with which the boys are familiar.

In addition, in Year 7 pupils study Dialectics, which explores a wide range of topics from political issues to ethics and philosophy for children. In Year 8, pupils study a combined PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) course.

Middle School Curriculum

The curriculum in Year 9 is broad, covering English, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages, History, Geography, separate Sciences, Art and DT, Technology and PSHE. There are two areas of choice, relating to classical and modern languages, and to the creative subjects (Music, Drama and Computer Science). Boys may subsequently opt for any of the three creative subjects at GCSE, regardless of whether they have studied them in Year 9.

All boys at UCS are then required to study ten subjects to GCSE or IGCSE. Three of these (English, English Literature and Mathematics) are 'core' subjects, and are studied by all boys.

In addition, to help and encourage boys to discover, develop and pursue their own talents we allow a virtually free choice of seven additional subjects from the options available. These subjects are: Art, Biology, Computer Science, Chemistry, Design and Technology, Drama, French, Geography, German, Greek (Ancient), History, Italian, Latin, Mandarin, Music, PE, Physics and Spanish. All boys must include in their programme of study at least one science subject and one modern language, the latter of which will have been studied in Year 9.



Bursaries and Music Scholarships

From its beginning in 1830, UCS has had at its core a commitment to access, with a pledge that religion should be no bar to entry. In the 21st century, we add a further commitment – that the education we provide will not be restricted solely to those who can afford it.

UCS is firmly committed to promoting and increasing access to our distinctive education through fee assistance and consistently ranks as one of the best independent schools in London for the number of 100% bursaries awarded each year. Typically, £1.2 million is provided in bursary support every year.

Bursaries and Fee Assistance

Around sixty pupils in the Senior School at UCS receive fee assistance through the bursary programme and the vast majority of them receive at least a 75% reduction in fees. Funds are available to assist with the payment of fees and to pay for extracurricular activities that have a direct bearing on a pupil's education.

Potential recipients apply for this programme when applying to join the school using the Admissions Registration Form. A Financial Disclosure Form will then be provided to collect information about the family's circumstances. These details are treated in complete confidence and do not influence any admissions procedures. Fee assistance through bursaries is assessed by income bands available to household incomes up to £100,000. Each application is considered on an individual basis and includes allowances for housing costs (annual rent or mortgage), siblings and capital assets to determine the fee assistance.

Applying for financial assistance, or bursary, does not have an impact on whether a pupil is offered a place or not. The offer of fee assistance is only made to pupils who have satisfied our entrance requirements – both in academic examination and at interview.

Music Scholarships

Music Scholarships are awarded each year for exceptional musical contributions, following auditions in the Spring Term. These entitle the holder to a reduction in the annual school fees of between 10% and 25%. In exceptional cases, an award of up to 50% of fees may be made. The precise value will depend upon the standard of applicants and, therefore, the competition in any one year. Music Scholarships entitle the holder to free instrumental tuition at school on an instrument (including voice) of the candidate's choice.

For further information, please see:
www.ucs.org.uk/Senior-School-Fee-Assistance

Admissions Dates and Deadlines

Please be reminded that the deadline for 11+ applications is during early November of the year that the candidate is in Year 6. Application forms are online and available for completion for up to one year before this date. Please check the admissions pages of the UCS website for the most up to date information on application deadlines.

Please note that we provide parents of prospective pupils with information about the School and the educational services we provide in good faith. This information may be contained in the School's prospectus, website, promotional literature and/or in statements made by staff or pupils during a visit or an open evening. If there are any details that are particularly important to you when deciding whether to accept this offer of a place at UCS, please do seek specific confirmation from the School that the information is accurate before returning the completed acceptance form.

For further information contact
Admissions on:
020 7433 2117 or 020 7433 2118

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