

THE JUNIOR BRANCH

AGE 7-11

"A distinctive education focused on the individual"





"ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IS
A GIVEN, AND THE CHILDREN
HERE ARE SPONGES WHO
MOP UP EVERYTHING
INTELLECTUAL, CULTURAL,
ESOTERIC THROWN AT THEM"

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Everyone who visits the UCS Junior Branch comments on the 'special atmosphere' within our school; there is a warmth, a vitality and a sense of energy that stems from the excellent relations that exist between staff and pupils and between the boys themselves. We are an academically selective school and we have high expectations of our boys, but, above all, this is a caring community, characterised by good manners and open, honest dealings with everyone. Our pupils are well supported, both by each other and by their teachers, and, as in all the schools within the UCS Foundation, are encouraged to be themselves. We have extremely high academic standards but, at UCS, we emphasize the individual.

The curriculum at the UCS Junior Branch is broad, creative and academically stretching. Our dynamic teachers help our pupils to appreciate the value of learning as a lifelong process which enables them to thrive when they join the UCS Senior School in Year 7. Our high staff-to-pupil ratio ensures that our pupils are given the attention they need and we warmly invite you to visit our school so that we can share with you our 'special atmosphere'.

Lewis Hayward



UCS FOUNDATION

WE WELCOME BOYS AT 4+, 7+, AND 11+, AND GIRLS AND BOYS AT 16+ TO UCS. AT WHATEVER STAGE PUPILS JOIN US, THEY WILL ALL QUICKLY FEEL THEY ARE FULL AND VALUED MEMBERS OF THE UCS COMMUNITY.

UCS PRE-PREP

The Pre-Prep on the Finchley Road site provides a happy, supportive and stimulating environment for boys aged 4-7. Children join in Reception at 4+.

UCS JUNIOR BRANCH

In the heart of Hampstead village on the Holly Hill site, the Junior Branch educates boys aged 7-11. Pupils develop academic and personal disciplines, self-confidence, thoughtfulness, and public spirit. The Senior School is a short walk away and pupils have the opportunity to access the impressive facilities there. Every pupil transfers to the Senior School at age 11 and the strong links within the Foundation ensures this is a seamless transition.

UCS SENIOR SCHOOL

The largest single element of the UCS Foundation is the Senior School on the Frognal site, which provides education for boys aged 11-18 and girls aged 16-18. The Senior School delivers education with an emphasis on supporting individuals to develop knowledge, experience and understanding, a strong sense of values, personal integrity and compassion.

UCS SIXTH FORM

As part of our Senior School on the Frognal site, the co-educational Sixth Form offers an education which is intellectually stimulating as well as personally satisfying, where pupils progress to university with the confidence and motivation of independent learners. The enormous majority of our GCSE pupils choose to stay on into the Sixth Form, where they are joined by pupils from other schools to study over two years for A level. This includes around 50 girls per year group in the Sixth Form.

“WE LOVE THE SOUL
OF THIS SCHOOL”

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“EVERY BOY SHOULD FIND SOMETHING TO APPEAL TO HIM AT THE JB: FROM MANDARIN TO GARDENING, LEGO ROBOTICS TO FENCING, KARATE TO DEBATING, OUR EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES DELIVERS AN EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL OF CHOICE”

“THIS SCHOOL TURNS BRIGHT CHILDREN INTO INDEPENDENT THINKERS AND DOERS”
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BREADTH OF STUDY

The aims of the UCS Junior Branch mirror the ethos of the whole Foundation; intellectual curiosity and independence of mind are developed, and self-discovery and self-expression are fostered. From the age of 7, boys follow a broad curriculum that includes English, Mathematics, Science, French, History, Geography, Art, Music, Drama, DT, PSHEE, Wellbeing, PE and Games. Homework is set to reinforce learning but it is not excessive; a proportion of homework is currently set using an AI learning system.

The use of iPads and laptops is blended into the curriculum but ‘written work’ remains just that.

In Sport, boys play rugby, hockey, football, cricket and athletics as major sports and they have choice from Year 4 upwards. They also participate in a range of minor sports such as golf, tennis, swimming, running and table tennis. The standard of Music, Drama and Art is exceptional throughout the school. Nearly every boy plays an instrument and all boys participate in our fantastic Drama productions which occur throughout the year.

“VIA OUR TEACHING METHODS AND BREADTH OF CURRICULUM, WE AIM TO STIMULATE EVERY BOY AT UCS JB TO FIND HIS OWN LIFELONG, INTELLECTUAL PATH”

INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY

The UCS Junior Branch is an environment where boys are encouraged to develop a lifelong passion and thirst for learning. Our varied, enriching curriculum inspires pupils to explore and appreciate their environment and to develop the academic confidence to solve problems in a creative and sophisticated manner.

Teaching is routinely differentiated (but there are no sets or streams) in all subjects, and there is also a rich provision of pre-school extension clubs in Maths, English and Science

for boys with a particular gift, talent or interest in a subject. These are open to all, with a style and content which is designed to challenge and engage. French and Spanish are taught as part of the mainstream curriculum, and additional clubs for German and Mandarin are provided. Other popular clubs include coding and robotics, general knowledge, gardening, cooking, karate, fencing, dance and rock bands, to name but a few of the extensive list of extra-curricular activities on offer to all boys.

**“OUR BOYS CONVEY CONFIDENCE AND
CHARACTER WITHOUT A TRACE OF ARROGANCE”**

LEWIS HAYWARD, HEADMASTER

**“THE PUPILS WORK HARD AND PLAY HARD BUT
FEEL FREE TO BE THEMSELVES”**

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INDEPENDENCE OF MIND

Independence of mind is encouraged through the supportive, communicative atmosphere that permeates the UCS Junior Branch. Achievements are celebrated and pupils of all ages are consistently encouraged to ‘think outside the box’.

The Form Teacher is primarily responsible for a boy’s pastoral care and will be the person in closest and most frequent contact with his parents. Each Form has about 20 boys and the pupils build special relationships with their Form Teachers as they progress through the school. With an emphasis on the respect and tolerance of others, pastoral matters are dealt with efficiently and with empathy, promoting an atmosphere where the boys feel safe, supported, are ‘heard’

(through the School Council) and are able to thrive.

Boys are allocated to one of four Houses to provide opportunities for social links vertically through the school and for the purposes of sporting and other competitions, inviting excellent teamwork and comradeship across the year groups. Throughout the school, a Peer Mentoring System exists where older boys offer advice and support to younger boys. All teaching and support staff share responsibility for the social, cultural and moral well-being of the boys and are further assisted by a full-time Nurse, the School Doctor and two part-time Special Needs Teachers.

**“OLDER BOYS MENTOR THE NEWBIES
SO IT’S A BIT LIKE HAVING AN OLDER
BROTHER IN THE SCHOOL”**

PARENT

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

One of our most important aims at the Junior Branch is to provide the boys with a wealth of educational experiences and as such, we place great emphasis on our extensive range of co-curricular activities, which run before, during and after school.

Years 3 and 4 have one Games afternoon per week using our impressive new sports facilities at Farm Avenue and Years 5 and 6 have two Games afternoons per week. The boys are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to sing in choirs, play in orchestras and string ensembles and play a plethora of instruments. Pupils can sample instruments or progress through ABRSM examinations to the highest standards. We are proud of the chess provision and standard of our chess teams; the boys regularly perform and excel in EPSCA chess tournaments. The standard of table tennis at the Junior Branch is extremely strong, with boys regularly participating in national competitions. We are rightly proud of the Music we make and showcase to parents through concerts, assemblies and festivals. Each year all year groups put on a Drama production in our in-house Little Acorn Theatre and the major Year 6 production is performed in the Senior School's Lund Theatre.

Ski trips, sports tours and cultural trips are arranged regularly along with Form outings to museums, galleries, theatres, lectures and exhibitions. The boys at the UCS Junior Branch certainly experience the best that London has to offer!



“AN EXTRAORDINARY RANGE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON OFFER - WE’VE NOT MET ANYTHING QUITE LIKE IT”

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“THERE ARE CLUBS GALORE WITH BOYS ENCOURAGED TO SET UP THEIR OWN”



“UCS IS A STRIKING COLLECTION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS”

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UCS FACILITIES

The UCS Foundation offers outstanding facilities for academic learning alongside Sport, Drama, Art, Music and co-curricular activities. With the close proximity of our three schools, pupils of all ages benefit from the shared enjoyment of our facilities at the Senior School in Frognal.

The Junior Branch is well equipped with bright sunny classrooms, a large Science laboratory, a newly refurbished Library stocked with a wide range of age-appropriate books, a theatre, an Art and Technology block, a large Music room and additional practice suites and a medical suite. The school houses an air-conditioned ICT laboratory and Mac computers are located in every area of the school.

Junior Branch pupils use the iconic Great Hall at the Senior School site for

major concerts and the Lund Theatre for the end-of-year play. At points during the year, they also have access to the Art & DT block and purpose-built Science labs.

Pupils also enjoy using additional facilities across the Foundation. Use of the Senior School site includes access to sports facilities including the 25-metre swimming pool, fitness suite, dance and exercise studio, and tennis courts at the Sir Roger Bannister Sports Centre. The expansive UCS playing fields, which cover 27 acres and are just a short drive away at Farm Avenue, are utilised by Junior Branch pupils at least once a week. The Kantor Centre provides impressive facilities at the fields and was opened in 2019 by Sir Alastair Cook.



THE PRE-PREP

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