



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family are keeping well during this difficult and anxious time. Thank you for your ongoing support for the school. I hope that as many of you as possible were outside your front doors and balconies at 8pm last night to recognise the work of our health workers in the NHS. As we are now a week into the closure period, I wanted to share with you some updates and information that you may find useful.

School closure

As you are aware, Mulberry UTC is currently closed to staff and students, in line with government guidance. Mulberry School for Girls is operating as a hub and remains open for the children of key workers and those in vulnerable groups. Those students who are eligible for Free School Meals can collect a packed lunch from Mulberry School for Girls next week between 10am and 11am. We are hoping to move to a voucher system after the Easter holidays and will confirm this once we have received further guidance from the Department for Education.

Home learning

Students and staff have made a great start to their first week of online learning. Please ensure that you remind students to check in each weekday morning with their tutor between 8.30 and 9.30am, since this is a crucial part of our process for checking on students' safety and welfare.

As explained in my previous letter, students are able to contact their teachers through email and to interact with them through MS Teams when they need any help and/or advice about their work.

Please bear in mind that teachers are not necessarily able to respond immediately to students' queries, as this is not feasible when working remotely. Where possible, students will receive a response within one working day but this is not always possible, as teachers are working with a large number of different students and dealing with a high volume of queries.

Teachers will continue to set work for students to complete during the Easter holidays but, as this is not a time when teachers would usually be working, students are more likely to need to wait before receiving a response. With this in mind, I have included below some additional links to online resources which you may find helpful next week or during the holidays.

If you have any questions about arrangements for home learning, please contact the school using the email contacts given below.

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Year 11 and 13 students

We are still awaiting information from the Department for Education as to the process for the allocating of GCSE, A-level and technical/vocational grades this year. The early information suggests that predicted grades from teachers may be used alongside a formula that enables this to be moderated across the country to ensure a degree of national consistency. The suggestion is that students may then be given an opportunity to re-sit some of their exams in the next academic year if they wish to do so. Whilst this uncertainty remains, students should continue to work on their subjects, since any progress they are able to demonstrate whilst working from home can be taken into account when predicted grades are given. I will write to you again as soon as we have more definite information about the way in which grades will be awarded.

Online safety

Our new way of learning obviously means that students are now spending far greater amounts of time on line than before. With that in mind, the links below gives you a number of tips around online safety which you may find useful relating to social media apps, and advising how to set up parental controls on your computer.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

If you have any safeguarding concerns during this period of closure then please contact the pastoral team using the contact details given in this letter. Our safeguarding team continue to be on duty every day to support students and their families during the closure period.

Wellbeing

The link below is from the World Health Organisation and contains information about healthy parenting in what are obviously unusual times. Again, you may find some of the advice useful.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/healthy-parenting>

Contact during school closure

As set out in my previous letter, your child's wellbeing continues to be important to us. If you need to contact a member of the pastoral team, please do so using the contact details below:

Year 10	Mr Dobbs	ddobbs@mulberryschoolstrust.org
Year 11	Mr Dobbs	ddobbs@mulberryschoolstrust.org
Year 12	Ms Bruce/ Mr Alam	mbruce@mulberryschoolstrust.org nalam@mulberryschoolstrust.org
Year 13	Ms Bruce/ Mr Alam	mbruce@mulberryschoolstrust.org nalam@mulberryschoolstrust.org



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If you have any concerns at all about your child's safety or their well-being during the closure period, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ms Brian	sbrian@mulberryschoolstrust.org
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Contact with the senior leadership team

If you would like to speak to the senior leadership team for any reason, please do so using the following contact details:

Vice Principal	Ms Brian	sbrian@mulberryschoolstrust.org
Assistant Principal	Ms Christofides	rchristofides@mulberryschoolstrust.org

We look forward to seeing your child back in school soon. Thank you for all your continued support for the school.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent
Principal



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Online resources

There are now numerous websites offering free educational content for students while schools are closed.

Startprofile - <https://www.startprofile.com/> is a student friendly website with engaging quizzes and videos about further education and the world of work so that students can continue to plan for their future.

Audible

Amazon are giving free access to books and stories for students of all ages while schools are closed. A very wide range of stories are available through this service and these can be streamed for free on desktops, laptops, phones and tablets. <https://stories.audible.com/discovery/>

MOOCs

We would like to encourage students to look at the MOOCs which have been opened up for schools during this time. This will be most useful for students in Year 13 who are progressing to university in the autumn but may also be of interest to other students. A list of the most relevant MOOCs for each subject area will be sent separately – the full list can be accessed using the following link.

https://www.edx.org/course?utm_campaign=Mooc.org&utm_source=Mooc.org&utm_medium=Mooc.org-Banner&utm_content=CTA

National Theatre live online

The National Theatre, which has the greatest archive of cinema-quality recordings of stage plays of any theatre in the world, is introducing **National Theatre at Home on Youtube**. Every Thursday at 7pm a new National Theatre play released, which will be free to watch for one week along with bonus content including cast and creative Q&As and post-stream talks.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUDq1XzCYONIOYVJvEMQjqw>

Poetry Generation

This is a website and selection of social media that posts videos of one poem a day, read by an older person in isolation due to the coronavirus. It is a way to ensure older people remain visible in a positive way while also creating a library of poetry videos to be enjoyed by all.

<https://poetrygeneration.wordpress.com/>

Some other useful websites:

<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/135609/list-of-education-companies-offering-free-subscriptions/>

<https://theschooltrip.co.uk/59-places-you-can-download-free-teaching-resources>



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https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/update-for-schools/secondary-support.html?utm_source=pardot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GBEDGN0320COVID

Resources from another local school (SPWT): <https://www.spwt.net/secondary/remote-learning-resources>

Daily activities: The timings are for guidance and you would certainly not have to use all of them, but you may find some of them interesting. You may wish to use some of these during the Easter holidays.

9.00am - PE with Joe Wicks https://youtu.be/6v-a_dpwhro

10.00am - Maths with Carol Vorderman www.themathsfactor.com

11.00am - English with David Walliams <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

12.00pm - Lunch (cooking with Jamie Oliver) <https://www.jamieoliver.com/feat.../category/get-kids-cooking/>

1.00pm - Music with Myleene Klass <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQh2wgJ5tOrixYBn6jFXsXQ>

1.30pm - Dance with Darcey Bussell <https://twitter.com/diversedance.../status/1241098264373592065>

2.00pm - History with Dan Snow (free for 30-days) <https://tv.historyhit.com/signup/package>

4.00pm - Home Economics with Theo Michaels (Mon/Wed/Fri) <https://www.instagram.com/theocooks>

Non-daily events include Science with Professor Brian Cox, Robin Ince & Guests

<https://cosmicshambles.com/stayathome/upcoming-schedule>