



**Principal:** Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are keeping well during these challenging times. As we approach the end of the Easter holidays, I am writing to inform you about the arrangements that will be in place during the summer term for students at Mulberry UTC.

### School closure

In accordance with government guidance, Mulberry UTC will remain closed until further notice. Mulberry School for Girls remains open for the children of key workers and those in vulnerable groups with the Mulberry Schools Trust who require provision during this time. The Trust is also operating a weekly Food and Care essentials service, to support families who are in need of additional support during this time. If you require educational provision for your child or support from the Food and Care essentials service, please notify your child's Director of Progress so that they can make the necessary arrangements.

### Remote learning

Remote learning for students will re-start at 8.40am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Form tutors and teachers will be in touch with students directly on Monday morning via Microsoft Teams to inform them about the arrangements that will be in place to enable them to continue with their learning during this time. If your child is having difficulty accessing remote learning for any reason, please notify their form tutor so that alternative arrangements can be made.

### Free School Meals

As stated in my previous letter, we will be issuing vouchers on a fortnightly basis to parents of students who are eligible for Free School Meals through the government's voucher scheme. This scheme provides vouchers worth £15 each week to those families who are eligible for free school meals. The vouchers are issued via 'Edenred', a company that has been chosen by the government for this service. The company has had delays in issuing the vouchers. All vouchers for eligible students at Mulberry UTC have been requested. We will text parents as soon as we are informed that emails with vouchers have been sent out to you by Edenred. If you have any trouble with this service please email info@mulberryutc.org.

If you think you might now be entitled to free school meals, we can provide support for your application. Please contact your child's Director of Progress for more information. Please also refer to the guidance on Free School Meals which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>



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### Summer 2020 examination results

The government has now confirmed that exam results days For Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students will take place in August as previously planned:

GCSE and KS4 technical/vocational results	20th August 2020
A level and KS5 technical/vocational results	13th August 2020

Further details have also been provided about the process that will be in place for calculating grades for students in Year 11 and Year 13. The first stage of this process will involve teachers providing estimates of the grades they believe students would have achieved if they had taken their exams, based on a range of evidence including the external exams they have taken and the coursework they have submitted to date. We are awaiting further details about this and about the arrangements that will be in place for students in Year 10 and Year 12 who were due to take exams in the summer term; I will contact you with more information once this is available.

I will also write to you again next week with further details about how the process for calculating students' grades will be implemented at Mulberry UTC. You can find relevant information on the Department for Education website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-beawarded-in-summer-2020>.

In the meantime, all students will continue with their remote learning supported by their class teachers. The priority for Year 11 and Year 13 students is to ensure that they are awarded grades that reflect their achievement and that they are ready for progression to education, employment or training. Tasks will be set for them which lead to these outcomes, so Year 11 and 13 students must continue to access and complete their work that is set for them.

### Wellbeing

I am aware that some of our families have been directly affected by the current situation. On behalf of all members of our school community, I would like to express my deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones or who are facing serious health issues during this time. Additional support is available for any families would need it through our pastoral team; please contact Ms Brian, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, if you would find this helpful.

### Contact during school closure

We remain a caring and supportive school community, even with the building closed, and your child's wellbeing continues to be important to us. If students or families need to contact a member of the pastoral team, please email them.



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The email addresses of the Directors of Progress are:

Year 10	Mr Dobbs	<a href="mailto:ddobbs@mulberryschoolstrust.org">ddobbs@mulberryschoolstrust.org</a>
Year 11	Mr Dobbs	<a href="mailto:ddobbs@mulberryschoolstrust.org">ddobbs@mulberryschoolstrust.org</a>
Year 12	Ms Bruce/ Mr Alam	<a href="mailto:mbruce@mulberryschoolstrust.org">mbruce@mulberryschoolstrust.org</a> <a href="mailto:nam@mulberryschoolstrust.org">nam@mulberryschoolstrust.org</a>
Year 13	Ms Bruce/ Mr Alam	<a href="mailto:mbruce@mulberryschoolstrust.org">mbruce@mulberryschoolstrust.org</a> <a href="mailto:nam@mulberryschoolstrust.org">nam@mulberryschoolstrust.org</a>

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	<a href="mailto:sbrian@mulberryschoolstrust.org">sbrian@mulberryschoolstrust.org</a>
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### School reopening

School re-opening is dependent on government direction. We have not yet received any update on this and so we will continue with all the current arrangements until further notice.

We will contact you immediately if the government advice on this changes. Please also be assured that we will continue to do everything we can to support every member of our school community to the best of our ability during this time and beyond. Thank you once again for all of your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent  
Principal