



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Monday 18th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well during these challenging times. I am writing to update you about the arrangements that are currently in place for your child's learning and the changes that are likely to take place to this during the second half of the summer term.

Remote learning

While the school is closed, all students are being provided with work and with feedback on their work via Microsoft Teams. Students are also regularly exchanging emails with their teachers and, in some cases, talking on the phone. During the last half term, we have seen high levels of engagement amongst all year groups and excellent work has been produced by students in all subject areas.

Please can I ask that parents and carers continue to monitor students' learning and to highlight any concerns to subject teachers or members of the pastoral team. Support is in place for those students who are having difficulty accessing Teams or who are in need of extra help with their work. Paper copies of worksheets can be made available for students where access to technology is an issue and in some cases the school is also to lend equipment. Please contact your child's form tutor or the relevant Director of Progress if this is an issue for you.

Potential re-opening for students in Year 10 and Year 12

In accordance with government guidance, Mulberry UTC currently remains closed. Following recent government announcements about the potential reopening of schools, we are now in the process of creating a re-opening plan that would enable us to welcome back some students in Year 10 and Year 12 later in the term.

I want to reassure you that any plans that we make will prioritise the health, safety and welfare of all members of our school community. The plans that we are creating will include extensive measures for infection control and we will do everything we can to ensure that we protect students and staff from any unnecessary risk.

Any re-opening of the school will not mean the end of remote learning. Since a full re-opening of the school is unlikely to be possible this term, the main mode of learning for students in Year 10 and Year 12 will continue to be online. Any face to face learning that is able to take place within the building will be designed to supplement the work that students are doing online, enabling them to ask questions to teachers face to face and to have small group discussions in a way that will support their understanding of the work they are doing online.



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I will write separately to the parents and carers of students in Year 10 and Year 12 later this week with further details about our re-opening plans. In the meantime, the emergency school and community food bank continue to operate from Mulberry School for Girls and we would encourage any families who require it to take advantage of this.

I would also strongly encourage you to read the guidance for parents published by the government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

We are aware that some parents may choose not to send students back to school this term, owing to illness or the risk of illness to individuals or to family members. The government have made clear that there should not be any sanctions in place for students who do not attend school this term, though the school will continue to monitor attendance carefully and keep parents informed about it in the usual way.

Year 11 and Year 13 students

For students in Year 11 and Year 13, and Year 12 students who are on Level 2 programmes, this week would ordinarily have marked the start of the examination season and consequently the end of students' courses. As a result, we will be writing to students in these year groups later this week to congratulate them on completing their courses and to provide them with further guidance about the next stage of their education.

From the 1st of June onwards, students in Year 11 and Year 13, and Year 12 students on Level 2 programmes, will no longer be required to check in with their tutors on a daily basis. They will, however, be able to continue with the projects and transition work that have been provided by their teachers and to receive feedback about these remotely if they would like to do so.

As mentioned in my previous letter, our subject teams are required to submit to the exam boards their estimates for the grades which students should be awarded this summer. Teachers are working hard to ensure that students receive the fairest grades possible. The guidance makes clear that the school must not inform parents and students of their estimated grades, since these are subject to change and will not be finalised until results days in August.

Updated guidance is available on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>



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Free School Meals

While the school is closed, students who are eligible for Free School Meals will continue to be given weekly vouchers worth £15 each week. The vouchers are issued via 'Edenred', a company that has been chosen by the government. If you have any trouble with this service, please email info@mulberryutc.org. Please note that the government are not making these vouchers available over the half term break (w/c Monday 25th May).

If your financial circumstances have changed and you think you might now be entitled to free school meals, we can provide support for your application. Please contact your child's form tutor or Director of Progress for more information about this.

Support for students and their families

If you need any extra help, support or guidance, or if you wish to discuss anything relating specifically to your child's progress or welfare, please contact the relevant Director of Progress:

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

If you feel that a young person's safety or well-being is at risk, please contact Ms Brian who is our Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ms Brian	sbrian@mulberryschoolstrust.org
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Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent
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