



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are continuing to keep well and that you and your family and friends are in good health. I am writing to update you about the current situation and to share our first newsletter of this academic year, which gives some information about what has been happening at the school so far this year.

Return to school

We have had an excellent start to the year, with students in all year groups working hard and demonstrating an extremely positive attitude towards their studies. The changes we have put into place to minimise the risk of infection, including the zoning of the building, are working well. The school is continuing to follow government guidelines in relation to keeping the school community safe and we will review these arrangements regularly in light of changing government guidance.

Attendance

The government have stated that all students must attend school this term and that schools must follow all usual attendance procedures. Please ensure that you send your child to school unless they require immediate medical attention, are self-isolating or are clearly displaying symptoms of Coronavirus/Covid-19. If your child is not able to attend school, please telephone the school office before 8.40am in the morning.

Please see attached to this letter a clear guideline as to what to do in the event your child has symptoms of Covid-19.

Start of school for Sixth Form students

From Monday 14th September onwards, we will be operating a 'soft start', with all students expected to arrive at school between 8.30 and 8.40am. As soon as students arrive, they will enter the building through their allocated doorway and go up their allocated staircase to the classroom in their zone where they have their first lesson of the day. Students will then be welcomed into the room by their teachers, who will take the register, at 8.40am.

The only exception to this is those Sixth Form students whose lessons start at 11am, who should continue to arrive at the school building between 10.40 and 11am.

Notices and reminders for all students and parents

All students are expected to wash their hands within their Zone when they arrive at school in the morning. There is also hand sanitiser available and students and staff are asked to wash and sanitise their hands on a regular basis. Students in

Part of the

Mulberry
Schools Trust



Year 10 and Year 11 must wear full school uniform and Sixth Formers must wear smart professional dress, as set out in the school's uniform policy. Each student has their own timetable, with lessons taught to them within their Zone. Each Zone has its own staircase and set of toilets, to ensure there is minimal mixing between students from different Zones.

Further to the government's recent announcement regarding face masks, this is a reminder that face masks are not compulsory at the school. If students and staff wish to wear a face mask around the school building, they may do so but the school will not provide them and they are not permitted in classrooms. If students do choose to wear a face mask in school, they must wear it properly and must not have the mask pulled down below their nose or under their chin. Students must wash their hands before and after removing their masks and must store them within a plastic bag inside their pocket or school bag.

Advance notice

Please note the following dates for your diary:

- Year 10 Parents' Evening – Thursday 8th October 4.30-6.30pm
- Staff training day (school closed to students) - Friday 23rd October
- Half term (school closed to students) – w/c Monday 26th October
- Intervention week (school open for students in Year 11 and Year 13) – w/c 2nd November

Thank you for all your ongoing support for the school during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,



Dr K Vincent
Principal



The Broadcast

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Congratulations to all students for a great start to the academic year! It has been wonderful to have everyone back in the building and to see students making so much progress with their learning already.

Students and staff have adapted well to the new systems that are in place, including the zoning of the building.

Those students who have returned to the school in Year

11 and Year 13 have made an exceptional start to the year.

They are clearly determined to catch up with the learning they missed out on while the school was closed and we are delighted to see how motivated they are.

Our new Year 10 and Year 12 students have also made an excellent start, with students living up to the UTC's professional expectations.



Our new House lanyards



Year 10 parents evening

Our first parents evening of the year will take place between 4.30 and 6.30pm on Wednesday 8th October.

This is an opportunity for teachers to talk to parents about how students have settled in and how they are progressing.

We are really excited about meeting with the parents of our new Year 10 students, who have made an excellent start to the year and settled in extremely well. Parents will be contacted two weeks before the event to book appointments with their child's teachers.



House system

Our new House system has been successful established and students are proudly wearing their house lanyards.

All students in the school are a member of one of the three student houses: Oak, Ash and Elm.

Heads of House oversee students' pastoral care and support their well-being. Students are awarded House points for exceptional contributions to lessons and to school life.

Head of Ash House – Mr Alam

Head of Elm House – Ma Akther

Head of Oak House – Ms Salam

Industry partners:



Information for parents and carers on suspected COVID-19 (coronavirus) in a child

WHEN TO SUSPECT COVID-19 IN YOUR CHILD:

if they develop symptoms of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Do not send your child to school or childcare setting. Inform the setting through absence reporting

If your child develops symptoms at the childcare setting, they will be separated from others, and will **be sent home**

If your child (or anyone in your household) has symptoms they must arrange a test **as soon as possible** and isolate at home for **10 days** from date of onset of symptoms (or until they receive a negative result). Everyone else in the household who does not have symptoms must isolate at home for 14 days (or until the symptomatic household member receives a negative result)

Arrange for a coronavirus test for anyone in your household with symptoms either online via www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call NHS testing line on 119. The test must be done within **five days** of when symptoms start. Ensure you know who to contact with the results in the school/childcare setting if the results are received outside usual working hours

You will be offered a test at your closest drive-through centre. This is the quickest option. A parent or carer will need to perform the test on children under 12 years old. If you don't drive, you can request a home test kit. **Do not** get a taxi or public transport to the test centre

Result of test (you will receive this by email or text message)

NEGATIVE

Child/staff member can return to setting once well, unless they are a contact of a case, when they will need to complete 14 days self-isolation

If your child is identified as having been in contact with a confirmed case, they will need to self-isolate for 14 days, even if they have had a negative test result. If they develop symptoms, they should isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms, arrange testing and follow the flowchart above

For medical advice call NHS 111, or in an emergency call 999

POSITIVE

Inform the school or childcare setting as soon as possible even if outside opening hours. The child's close contacts within the school will be advised to self-isolate for 14 days

Ensure the child who has tested positive completes the **10 day** isolation period (from date of onset of symptom)*. Household members without symptoms should complete 14 days isolation

NHS Test & Trace will send you a text or email alert or call you with instructions of how to share details of people with whom you have had close, recent contact and places you have visited

*If the child is a confirmed case they can return to the childcare setting/school after 10 days. If they still have a temperature, diarrhoea or are being sick they should wait until 48 hours after these symptoms stop. If the child does not develop symptoms, but lives in a household with someone who has tested positive, they can return to setting after completing 14 days self-isolation at home