



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. I am writing to update you about the reopening of the school in March, following the Prime Minister's announcement this week.

Reopening of Schools

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement that schools can begin to re-open from the 8th of March, please find below a summary of how the re-opening process will be managed at Mulberry UTC. We are extremely pleased to be able to welcome students back to school at this time. We do consider this to be a full and formal reopening of school, with all the usual rules and codes of conduct fully in place, so that we can get back to normal as soon as possible.

The return to school will be staggered, so that students who give consent can be tested using lateral flow device (LFD) tests on their return. The government have asked all secondary schools to offer students three LFD tests, 3-5 days apart, when they return to school. Once these three LFD tests have been completed, students will be provided with home test kits so that they can test themselves on a weekly basis at home.

Students will therefore return to school for lessons from Tuesday 9th March onwards, with each year group in turn attending for testing followed by a return to lessons. All students must be on time for school at 8.40am when they are due to come in on the days stated below. All students must wear school uniform (or dress code for Sixth Form students).

The updated government guidance for parents can be found online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>

Wearing of masks

In line with government guidance, all students are required to wear masks in school. When school reopens on the 8th of March, both students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wear masks inside classrooms as well as in corridors and circulation spaces. Students must bring their own masks to school, as the school cannot provide them.

Any students who are exempt from wearing a mask for medical reasons must provide a note from their parent and/or a doctor about this, which should be given to their Head of House. Students will then be provided with a card that can be shown in the event that they are challenged about not wearing a mask.

Government guidance about masks can be found online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>



Awarding of GCSEs, A-level and technical/vocational qualifications

We have received further information from the government this week about how grades will be awarded to students in light of the cancellation of GCSE, A-level and technical/vocational examinations in the summer. I will write in more detail about this next week to parents of those students who are due to complete courses this summer.

The arrangements will involve teachers providing to exam boards the grades which they believe students should be awarded for their qualifications, based on evidence about students' progress and attainment. It is therefore extremely important that students continue to work hard when they return to school, so that teachers can gather a strong evidence-based to support their judgements.

The government have stated that students will receive results on 10th August for A-level subjects and 12th August for GCSE subjects. They have not confirmed when students taking technical/vocational qualifications will receive their results.

There will be an appeals process for students who do not believe their grades are an accurate reflection of their achievement. We will send more information to you about this when we receive it.

Free School Meals

Once the school re-opens on the 8th of March, the government voucher scheme will finish and the school will therefore no longer provide free school meals vouchers to families. Instead, eligible students will receive lunch at school when they attend for lessons, testing or emergency school.

Academic Review Day

The school will hold an academic review day on **Wednesday 24th March**. On this day, normal lessons will not take place. Instead, each parent will have an appointment for a meeting with the school to discuss the progress of their son or daughter. Appointments will take place remotely and times will be given out after the half term break. A separate letter has been sent to you about this by Ms Christofides – please contact her if you have any questions about this.

I hope that you and your families and keeping well and staying safe during this time. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal



Information for Parents: School reopening – March 2021

Date	Information for parents
<p><u>Monday 8th March</u></p> <p>Students will only attend school on this day if invited for testing or emergency school</p> <p>Year 10 and Year 11 students will be invited for LFD testing on this day</p> <p>Staff will be in school preparing for the return of students</p>	<p>No live remote teaching from this day. Students who have not yet returned to school will be set work by teachers to complete online.</p> <p>Only Year 10 and Year 11 students who have given consent for Lateral Flow Device Testing will attend school on this day, to have the first of their three tests. Students must come for their tests at the time they have been given and will immediately return home afterwards. Students coming in for tests <u>must</u> wear a mask.</p> <p>Students who have been invited to attend emergency school will come in as usual 9am – 3.50pm. No other students are to come to school on this day.</p>
<p><u>Tuesday 9th March</u></p> <p>All staff in school</p> <p>Year 10 and Year 11 students will attend school as normal from 8.40am – 3.50pm</p> <p>Year 13 will be invited for testing</p> <p>Year 12 and Year 13 will attend only if invited for testing or emergency school.</p>	<p>Year 10 and Year 11 students will return to school and resume normal lessons including registration on this day. All students <u>must</u> be in full school uniform and MUST WEAR A MASK unless exempt.</p> <p>Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with lunch at school.</p> <p>Year 13 students will be invited for the first of their three tests on this day.</p> <p>There will be no live remote teaching on this day; Year 12 and Year 13 students will be set work to complete online. Emergency school will run for Year 12 and Year 13 students only.</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 10th March</u></p> <p>Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13 students will attend lessons as normal</p> <p>Year 12 will attend only if invited for testing or emergency school</p>	<p>Students in Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13 will attend lessons as normal on this day. All students must be in full school uniform (or dress code for Sixth Formers) and MUST WEAR A MASK.</p> <p>Students in Year 12 will be invited for the first of their three tests on this day.</p> <p>Emergency school will continue to run for Year 12 students.</p>



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<p><u>Thursday 11th March</u></p> <p>All students will return to normal lessons</p> <p>Year 10 and Year 11 students will receive their second test on this day</p>	<p>All students from Year 10 to Year 13 will attend registration and lessons as normal from this day onwards.</p> <p>Students must be in correct uniform/dress code and MUST WEAR A MASK UNLESS EXEMPT.</p> <p>Any Year 12 students who have not yet received the first of their three tests will be invited to do so on this day.</p> <p>Year 10 and Year 11 students will be invited for the second of their three tests on this day.</p>
<p><u>Friday 12th March</u></p> <p>All students will attend normal lessons</p> <p>Year 13 students will receive their second test on this day</p>	<p>All students from Year 10 to Year 13 will attend registration and lessons as normal from this day onwards.</p> <p>Students must be in correct uniform (or dress code for Sixth Form students) and MUST WEAR A MASK UNLESS EXEMPT.</p> <p>Year 13 students will be invited for the second of their three tests.</p>