



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. I am writing to keep you informed about the work of the school community during this time and our plans for the coming weeks and months.

Individual Tuition

As you may be aware, the government have made some additional funding available to schools, to support catch-up tuition for students who have missed time in the classroom as a result of the pandemic. As a result, we have set up a programme for individual tuition for students in Year 11 and Year 13. It will be delivered remotely by Fleet Tutors, one of the agencies selected by the government to deliver the National Tutoring Programme.

This individual tutoring programme will start for the selected students after half term. Parents have been contacted individually if their son or daughter has been selected for this programme and students should check Microsoft Teams for further details. We would ask parents to read the privacy notice and, if appropriate, complete the withdrawal from data processing form. For any questions regarding tuition, parents should please email Ms Christofides, Assistant Principal - rchristofides@mulberryschoolstrust.org.

Remote learning

Students continue to work well online and attendance to remote lessons has been excellent. We are keen to ensure that students engage fully with their lessons and also take time away from the screen where possible. For that reason, we are encouraging teachers to set work for students to complete over the half term break that does not always require them to use the computer.

We can lend laptops to any students who do not have one at home. Please let us know if your son or daughter does not have their own laptop, so that we can arrange to provide them with one. Please also let us know if you would like support with internet access or access to data - info@mulberryutc.org.

Please remind your son/daughter that they should be checking in online with their tutor between 8.40 and 9am each morning and attending all timetabled lessons. Please also remind students to follow the Code of Conduct when working online. If you become aware of any safety issues relating to students working online, please inform the school so that we can deal with this. Some guidance about working safely online is available on our website: <http://mulberryutc.org/advice-guidance/>.



Emergency school

Our emergency school continues every day between 9am and 3.50pm. Students attending emergency school join lessons online with their teachers, have breaks as usual and receive a free lunch from the school. They are not required to wear school uniform during this time. If there are any students who are finding it difficult to learn remotely and would like to join the emergency school, please let us know - info@mulberryutc.org.

Free School Meals

All families eligible for free school meals should now be receiving vouchers from Edenred. If you have not received your vouchers, or if you have any problems redeeming them, please email info@mulberryutc.org.

The local authority in Tower Hamlets are going to issue some additional vouchers for parents to use over the half term break. These will be sent to you through the post; we will let you know when they are on their way.

Home visits

School staff are in the process of carrying out home visits, to ensure students have face-to-face contact with the school and to provide them with additional study materials or other resources.

School staff undertaking home visits will observe all relevant safety measures and will not enter students' houses. Upon arrival, staff will be wearing face coverings and will stand two metres from the door to ensure social distancing.

February half term break

The school building will be closed for the half term break between Monday 15th and Friday 19th February. Teachers will set work for students to complete during this time so they can continue with their learning. We would like to encourage students to spend some time away from their screens during half term, to support their wellbeing.

Reopening of the school building

Following the government announcement that schools will not reopen for students immediately after the February half term break, we do not yet have any further information about when the school is likely to reopen. Lessons for UTC students will continue online from Monday 22nd February. I will let you know when we have any firm information about when the school is likely to reopen.



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Internal assessments

As mentioned in my previous letter, students in Year 11 and Year 13 will have internal assessments during w/c 22nd February and w/c 1st March. These internal assessments will take place online. In technical and vocational subjects, students will continue to work on their coursework online with their teachers. Students in Year 10 and Year 12 will continue with their lessons online with their teachers during this time.

We know that students may feel stressed or anxious about the prospect of doing assessments online at this time. Please can we ask you to remind students that:

- The internal assessments taking place later this term will not determine students' final grades for their GCSE and A-level qualifications.
- Internal assessments will mainly focus on content that students have been doing this year.
- Most of the internal assessments will take online during students' usual lesson time and will be supervised by their teachers.
- Any students who usually receive extra time or other access arrangements will be offered additional time and other appropriate support with the internal assessments.

A further series of internal assessment weeks will take place later in the spring and summer term, to ensure students have the opportunity to gain credit for their learning and progress. Students will be given plenty of notice about this and will have time to prepare, to ensure they can do their best.

Thank you for all your continued support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal