



Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It has been lovely to welcome all of our students back to school this week. A real sense of focus and purpose is evident amongst all of our students and levels of motivation are high. With just eight weeks left until the school submits final grades to the exam board, students and teachers in exam groups are working incredibly hard to ensure they are well-prepared, so that they can achieve as well as possible in their final assessments.

Easter holiday school

An extremely successful additional study programme took place during the second week of the Easter holidays. During this time, Year 11 and Year 13 students focused on completing coursework and revising for their final assessments. I would like to say well done to all of those students who attended and thank you to those members of staff who came in during the break to supervise and teach classes.

Free School Meals vouchers

Tower Hamlets local authority provided free school meals vouchers for eligible families for over Easter. The local authority have notified us that this scheme has now closed and they will not be distributing any further vouchers.

Lateral Flow Device testing

We would like to strongly encourage families to continue with the twice weekly lateral flow testing. Everyone within the school community has been asked to take part in this testing programme, to help minimise asymptomatic transmission of the virus. We recommend that students do their tests on a Wednesday and a Sunday. Test results must be reported to NHS Test and Trace and also to the school, via the link that has been sent to you by Ms Brian. Any positive tests should be reported immediately by email to the main office – info@mulberryutc.org.

Please note: Any students who develop Covid-19 symptoms must take a PCR test via a local test centre. The main symptoms are: a temperature above 38 degrees, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to the sense of taste and smell. Any students developing these symptoms must immediately self-isolate. Students with symptoms will not be permitted to return to school until they can provide evidence of a negative PCR test.



Covid-19

If your child receives a positive test for Covid-19, please notify the school: **info@mulberryutc.org**. Your email must include your child's name, house tutor group and a copy of the test result notification. If your child receives a negative test result, you do not need to notify the school.

Please go on to the Covid-19 section of our website for up to date guidance from the Department for Education, Public Health England and the school: <http://mulberryutc.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information/>

Masks and face-coverings

All students must continue to wear masks in school, both in corridors and in classrooms. Laminated passes are available from the pastoral team for students who are exempt.

Students must not wear masks under their noses or under their chins, as this is unhygienic and can lead to the further spread of infection. Students must bring their own masks to school every day. Any student who has forgotten their mask or lost it on the way to school must immediately speak to a member of the pastoral team when they arrive.

Uniform and dress code

All students must wear correct uniform and dress code at all times. Detailed information about the school's uniform and dress code is available on the website: <http://mulberryutc.org/dress-code/>.

- Students are not permitted to wear trainers, sandals or high-heeled shoes
- Students must not wear jeans, hoodies, hats or caps within the school building
- Students must not wear coats or scarves (apart from headscarves worn for religious or cultural reasons)
- Students are not permitted to use mobile phones or headphones inside the school building

Ramadan and Eid

Since many members of our school community are observing the Ramadan fast, we have made additional prayer facilities available within the school building. We have also amended lunchtime arrangements, so that students have quiet spaces in which to sit during lunchtime away from the lunch hall.

The school will be closed for Eid al-Fitr, since this is a closure day across the Mulberry Schools Trust. The closure day will be either Wednesday 12th or Thursday 13th May, depending on when Eid falls. We will notify you about this by text message as soon as Eid is announced, to ensure you know which day the school is going to be closed.



Summer of Togetherness

During the months of June and July, the school will be running a programme of activities for students aimed at creating a sense of togetherness and celebrating the contributions of all members of the school community. This will include graduation celebrations for Year 11 and Year 13 students, as well as a series of trips, visits and other activities for students in Year 10 and Year 12. More information about this will be sent to you over the coming weeks.

End of lessons for Year 11 and Year 13 students

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will continue to attend school as normal up to the May half term holiday. The final day of lessons for most students in these year groups will be Friday 28th May. During w/c 21st May, Year 11 and Year 13 students will follow an amended timetable focused on the completed of final coursework and assessments.

Following the half term break, students in Year 10 and Year 12 will return to normal lessons on Monday 7th June. From this date onwards, Year 11 and Year 13 students will attend school only when there is a specific organised activity that is being run for them.

Activities that will take place for Year 11 and Year 13 students during this time will include:

- Graduation celebrations for each year group
- Transition workshops for any Year 11 students who are remaining at Mulberry UTC for Sixth Form
- Trips and visits organised by the school

More information about these activities will be provided to you nearer the time.

May Day bank holiday

The school will be closed on Monday 3rd May for the early May Bank Holiday. Please ensure that you do not send students to school on this day, as the building will be closed and they will not be able to enter.

I hope that you and your families and keeping well and staying safe during this time. Thank you once again for all your ongoing support for the school, which is very much appreciated by the whole staff team.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal