



Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

At the start of the new academic year, I would like to welcome back all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. I would also like to welcome for the first time those who are joining us in Year 10 and Year 12. We are excited about welcoming you to our school community and very much looking forward to working closely with you.

I would also like to thank our students, parents, carers and families for being so supportive of the school and so resilient in the face of the many challenges we have all faced during the past 18 months. We are hopeful that this year will not be so disrupted by the pandemic and that there will, therefore, be more time to focus on the usual business of school life, including trips, visits and other enrichment activities.

Importance of Attendance and Punctuality

Students in all year groups must attend school every day and arrive before 8.40am. If a student is so unwell that they are unable to come to school, a parent/carer must telephone the school before 9am. The school will take action to address persistent absence or ongoing punctuality issues. We would like to remind parents and carers of students in Year 10 and Year 11 that it is a legal duty for them to attend school every day.

Changes to Covid-related precautions

In accordance with current Government guidance, we have now removed most of the Covid-related safety measures which were in place during the previous academic year:

- Students and staff are not required to wear face masks, but can continue to if they wish to do so.
- Students are no longer grouped in bubbles or restricted by zones within the building.
- Practical lessons will resume and students will have full use of the school's facilities and equipment.

We would like to strongly encourage students to continue to take the twice-weekly lateral flow tests, which help identify asymptomatic infection. In addition, students are being offered two tests at the start of term, to help identify infection and help prevent further spread of the virus.

Under current government guidance, students under the age of 18 are not required to isolate if they are a close contact of a confirmed Covid case. Instead, they will be asked to take a PCR test and to isolate only if the result is positive. The same applies to adults who are fully vaccinated, which applies to most of our staff. As a result, we do not expect to need to ask groups of students to isolate on a regular basis.



Start of the new academic year

The first day for Year 10 students was Thursday 2nd September and the first day for Year 11 students was Friday 3rd September. Returning Year 13 students will start back at 8.40am on Monday 6th September and our new Year 12 students will attend induction at the following times:

- Tuesday 7th September - Maths and Science students (Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Applied Science)
- Wednesday 8th September – Creative Industries students (Film, Media, English)
- Thursday 9th September – Business and IT
- Friday 10th September – Health and Social Care

Uniform and dress code

Please remind students that they must wear correct uniform and dress code at all times. Detailed information about the school's uniform and dress code is available on the school's website.

- 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

Lateral Flow Testing

Please encourage students to continue to take their Lateral Flow Tests twice a week. All results – negative or positive are to be registered on the Government website - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

If your child tests positive, please register this on the Government website and then let the school know as soon as possible. Do not send your child to school if they have a positive test result. **If your child becomes ill and receives a positive test result for Covid19, please email info@mulberryutc.org with the details.**

The details must include your child's name, tutor group and the positive test result that was sent to you by Public Health England in your email. You may also take a screen shot of this.

Thank you once again for all your ongoing support for the school, which is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal