



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 9th October 2020

Dear parent/carers,

I hope that you are keeping well and that you and your families are in good health. I am writing with some updates for you about the school and the current situation.

Parents' evening

We had an extremely successful Year 10 parents' evening on Thursday 8th October, which was held remotely to avoid the need for parents to travel into school. It was lovely to hear such positive feedback from parents about the way in which students have settled in to the school. Thank you to Year 10 parents for taking the time to speak on the phone with teachers and for all your support for the school during this time.

Attendance at school

We understand that students and parents may be feeling anxious at present about the potential risk of infection to themselves or vulnerable family members. Owing to the safety measures we have in place, the school is a safe environment and all students are expected to attend school every day, unless they are seriously unwell or required to self-isolate. You will be notified if there are any positive Covid-19 cases within the school community and if there are any students who need to self-isolate as a result of potential close contact with a case.

October half term

This is a reminder that the Mulberry Schools Trust has now moved to a model of a two-week October half term break. In addition, there will be a staff training (INSET) day on Friday 23rd October, which means the school is closed to students on that day. Please note the following dates in your calendar:

- End of half term for students - **Thursday 22nd October** (all students should attend on this day)
- School closed to students for staff training – **Friday 23rd October**
- October half term – school closed to students – **w/c Monday 26th October**
- Intervention week for Year 11 and Year 13 – **w/c Monday 2nd November** (school closed to Year 10 and 12)

During the second week of the half term break (w/c 2nd November), the school will remain closed to students in Year 10 and Year 12. Intervention sessions will be running for students in Year 11 and Year 13 during this week, to help them prepare for mock exams and catch up with work they missed when the school was closed. An individual timetable for intervention sessions during this week will be given to your son/daughter – please ensure they attend all scheduled sessions during this time.



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Mock exams

Mock exams will take place in November for all students in Year 11 and Year 13. Please refer to the separate letter about mock exams sent out by Ms Christofides for further guidance about this. Year 11 and Year 13 students are strongly encouraged to use the half term break to revise for their mock exams.

Safety measures

The school is following all government guidance and has a range of safety measures in place to ensure that the risk of infection is minimised.

This includes:

- Face-masks must be worn by all students and staff in all circulation spaces of the school at all times.
- Students and staff must remain 2 metres apart from each other where possible and, where this is not possible, they must remain at least 1 metre apart.
- There is hand sanitiser available all over the school.
- Students and staff are required to regularly wash and sanitise their hands.
- The school is teaching all subjects and following the normal curriculum.
- Students are taught with their own zones with separate classrooms, desk, chairs and toilets.

Any students who are exempt from wearing a mask for medical or other reasons should speak to a member of staff so that this can be properly recorded.

Remote learning

Any students who are self-isolating must continue with their school learning. Where possible, the school will arrange for any students who are self-isolating to join lessons remotely via MS Teams. If a student does not have a laptop they can use for this purpose, they must speak to their subject teachers that we can make arrangements for the school to provide one. Where students cannot join lessons via Teams, work will be given to students via email or in printed packs. If any members of staff are self-isolating, they will teach students remotely using MS Teams.

Many thanks for your continued support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent
Principal