



**Principal:** Dr Katharine Vincent

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

At the end of the autumn term, I would like to send my good wishes to you and your families. I hope you are all in good health. Thank you for all your support for the school this term. I know that it has been a challenging time for many of our families; we are grateful for the way in which you have worked with the school constructively during this time.

I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and safe Christmas and all the very best for 2021.

- **The school will close for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3.50pm**
- **Students in all year groups will return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 8.40am**

#### Coronavirus testing and contact tracing during the holidays

**If your child receives a positive Covid-19 test result during the Christmas holiday period, please notify the school using the email address [info@mulberryutc.org](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org). Please include a copy of the test result notification.**

**If your child receives a negative test result, you do not need to notify the school.**

Please note that the school will be closed between 24<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January inclusive. If you notify the school about a positive test during this time, you will not receive a response until the school reopens on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

#### Mass testing for students and their families

Students are encouraged to take a Coronavirus test at the beginning of the Christmas holidays. These tests will be administered at mobile testing centres in Tower Hamlets and surrounding boroughs. Taking a test at the end of term will help to ensure that students and their families are able to gather safely for Christmas.

Students have also been sent home with a testing kit that is to be used after Christmas. This test should be administered at home on 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> December or the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. It should then be dropped off at one of the local drop-off points as stated in the accompanying guidance. As long as students receive a negative test result, they can return to school as normal after Christmas. Any students receiving a positive test result must immediately inform the school and then self-isolate until they are no longer infectious.

#### Free School Meal Vouchers

For eligible Free School Meal families, the Department of Education have issued vouchers for the Christmas period. These have been distributed to students today.



### January exams

Most Sixth Form students and some students in Year 10 and Year 11 will be sitting exams in January. These exams will contribute towards students' final grades in their technical and vocational qualifications, so it is essential for them to take time over the holidays to revise.

Students will be provided with an exam timetable which details the day, date and time for each of their examinations, along with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) examinations regulations. It is important that students read these regulations carefully.

Students should assemble at 8.30am for morning exams and 1pm for afternoon exams. Should students be in a position where they are self-isolating when they are due to sit an examination they must remain at home. Evidence of a positive covid-19 test or a communication from the NHS Track and Trace should be emailed to the school, as this evidence will be required by the examination board.

### Covid 19

If your child has Covid symptoms and you have sent for a test or are waiting for test results, please do not send your child into school until they have received a negative test result. If they have had a continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste and/or smell, they must not return to school until they have received a negative test result even if they are feeling better.

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

Many thanks for your continued support during this time. I hope that you are able to enjoy the holidays and that you and your families will keep well and safe during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent  
**Principal**