



**Principal:** Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families are keeping well during these difficult times. I know some of our families have experienced illness or bereavement within the last few weeks. Please accept our condolences for the losses you have suffered; the school community is thinking of you at this time and sending you their best wishes.

Students and staff at Mulberry UTC are continuing to work extremely hard online. All students are engaging with remote learning and they are making considerable progress despite not being able to work together face to face within the building. Teaching and support staff are working hard to ensure students have the help they need and to reward them for their effort and engagement and the quality of their work.

### **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](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org).

### **Remote learning**

The school has received some additional laptops from the Department for Education. We are therefore able to 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, so that we can arrange to support you with this – [info@mulberryutc.org](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org).

Students in all year groups are expected to check in every morning between 8.40 and 9am with their tutors. This helps ensure students receive pastoral support while learning remotely. A weekly assembly is recorded by Heads of House and shared with students on a Friday morning every week. Lessons start at 9am each morning and students should be working all day until 3.50pm Monday to Thursday and 2.10pm on Fridays.

Please 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 immediately so that we can deal with this as a matter of urgency.



### **Free School Meals**

Those families who are eligible for free school meals should now be receiving vouchers from Edenred. We are aware of some cases where the e-code has been delivered to a junk mail folder. If you are still waiting for your vouchers, please check your junk mail and other folders to ensure it has not been sent there. If you have still not received your vouchers, please let us know so that we can look into this – [info@mulberryutc.org](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org).

### **Home visits**

School staff will carry out a series of home visits during the spring term. This is to ensure students have face to face contact with school staff and that they can receive additional study materials during this time. We are very much looking forward to seeing our students during these home visits; staff will observe all relevant safety measures and will not enter students' houses.

### **February half term break**

The school building will be closed for the half term break between Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Online lessons will not take place during this time. Teachers will set work for students to complete during half term, to ensure they are able to continue with their coursework and classwork during this time.

### **Reopening of the school building**

As you will be aware, the government have announced that schools will not reopen for students immediately after the February half term break. Lessons for all UTC students will therefore continue online from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The government have stated that they hope schools will be able to start reopening from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. As soon as we have any more definite news about the reopening date, I will let you know.

### **Internal assessments**

The school usually runs mock exams for Year 11 and Year 13 students in the autumn and spring term each year, to prepare students for their final exams at the end of the summer term. Since exams are not going to be running this summer term in the normal way, the mock exams scheduled to start on 22<sup>nd</sup> February will be replaced by internal assessments, which will be completed online during lesson time.

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will sit these internal assessments in their GCSE and A-level subjects when they return to school after half term in w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> February and w/c 1<sup>st</sup> March. Since the school building will remain closed during this time, 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.



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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.

Further details of arrangements for internal assessments will be sent out before half term by Ms Christofides, Assistant Principal.

### **Awarding of grades in summer 2021**

The government have now published a consultation about the awarding of grades this summer. Once these consultations have been completed, we will know more about how students' grades will be awarded. As soon as we have firm information about this, I will share it with you so that you are fully aware of the implications for our students.

Thank you for all your continued support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

**Principal**



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TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:45am 09:00am	Tutor time: Reply to your tutor on MS Teams to register for the day. See activities & competitions	Tutor time	Tutor time	Tutor time	Tutor time
09:00am 09:50am	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
09:50am 10:40am	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
10:40am 11:00am	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00am 11:50am	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
11:50am 12:40pm	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
12:40pm 13:20pm	Lunch - Why not cook for a family member?	Lunch - Let yourself play a game	Lunch - Do some fitness to keep focused	Lunch - Relax and read your favourite book	Lunch - Play some music and dance - it's nearly the end of the week!
13:20pm 14:10pm	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5 - Early finish, HURRAY!
14:10pm 15:00pm	Period 6	Period 6	Period 6	Period 6	
15:00pm 15:50pm	Period 7	Period 7	Period 7	Period 7	