



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 19th March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to see students back at school over the last two weeks. Attendance and punctuality have been very good and students have been working extremely hard. We are particularly proud of Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have returned with a very clear sense of focus and purpose. It is clear that they want to make the most of the time they have left at school and that they are doing everything to achieve their best during this time.

Lateral Flow Device testing

All students who have consented have now been offered three tests within the school's LFD testing centre. The testing programme has run extremely smoothly and I would like to commend students on their excellent behaviour and conduct during the testing process. Any students who have not yet completed their three in-school tests will be offered the opportunity to take these tests on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd March.

Those students who have completed their three in-school tests will be given test kits to take home during w/c 24th March. Each student will have the opportunity to discuss with the testing team how to undertake home testing, including how to report results. Further information about this will be sent to you next week by Ms Brian, Senior Vice Principal.

Updated government guidance for parents about the management of schools during this time can be found online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>

Masks and face-coverings

In line with government guidance, all students are required 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 should speak to their tutor or Head of House about this. 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.

Uniform and dress code

All students must wear correct uniform and dress code at all times. Trainers are not permitted and students must not come to school wearing jeans, hoodies, hats or caps. If there are any parents who need support with uniform, e.g. if a student has grown out of something during lockdown, please let us know so that we can help.

Students have been permitted to wear coats around the building and in classrooms during the cold winter months, owing to the need for windows to be kept open for ventilation purposes during the pandemic. After the Easter holidays, this will no longer be the case and students will once more be expected to remove coats as they enter the school building.



Awarding of GCSEs, A-level and technical/vocational qualifications

Students are now working towards assessments that will take place over the next three months and which will be used to inform teachers' judgements about students' final grades. Detailed information about the process the school will be following, in relation to the awarding of grades, has been shared with students and parents by Ms Christofides, Assistant Principal. If you have any questions about this, please contact her directly: rchristofides@mulberryschoolstrust.org.

Academic Review Day

The school will hold an academic review day on **Wednesday 24th March**. On this day, students will not attend school. Instead, each parent will have an appointment for a meeting with the school to discuss the progress of their son or daughter. Student reports and appointment times have now been sent out to you; please inform the school office if you have not received this by Monday 22nd March.

Easter holidays

The last day of term before the Easter holidays will be Thursday 1st April. This is because Friday 2nd April is Good Friday bank holiday and the school will therefore not be open on that day. Students should attend lessons as normal on Thursday 1st April; the school will run as normal on that day.

Holiday School

The school will be open during the second week of the holidays (w/c 12th April) for an intervention programme for Year 11 and Year 13 students. This is designed to ensure that students have the maximum opportunity to prepare for their final assessments, which will take place when they return to school after the holidays.

A full programme for the Easter holiday school will be sent to you separately next week. Teachers will speak directly to students about the specific sessions which they are invited to attend during this time.

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and staying safe during this time. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal