



**Principal:** Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As we enter the last week of term before the Easter holidays, I would like to congratulate all of our students on their positive attitudes towards school and the hard work they are putting in to their studies. We know that the last twelve months have been an extremely challenging time for our students and their families; it is great to see them back in school, attending school every day and working extremely hard.

### **Lateral Flow Device testing**

All students who have consented have now been given test kits to take home, so that they can start the home testing process. Students should take the LFD tests twice a week at home. We recommend that students do their tests on a Wednesday and a Sunday. Test results must be reported to NHS Test and Trace and also to the school, via the link that has been sent to you by Ms Brian. Any positive tests should be reported immediately by phone to the main office.

The government have asked that students and staff continue with LFD testing during the Easter holidays. This is to ensure that any asymptomatic cases that arise during this time are identified so that appropriate action can be taken. Please remind students to do their weekly tests during the holidays; this will help to reduce transmission of the virus.

### **Masks and face-coverings**

Please remind students that, in line with government guidance, they 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.

### **Challenge Partners seminar**

A group of MUTC students took part in a Challenge Partners seminar this week, focused on 'Learning during lockdown'. We were extremely proud of how our students conducted themselves during this session; they were confident, articulate and reflective about their experiences.



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### **Easter holidays**

The last day of term before the Easter holidays will be Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Students should attend lessons as normal on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April; school will finish as usual at 3.50pm on this day.

The first day of the summer term will be Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April; all students should attend school on that day and the school will open as usual with registration at 8.40am.

### **Easter Holiday Study Programme**

The school will be open between Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April for an additional study programme for Year 11 and Year 13 students. This personalised additional study programme is designed to ensure students have the maximum opportunity to prepare for their final assessments, which will take place when they return to school after the holidays.

A programme for the Easter holiday school will be sent to by Ms Christofides, Assistant Principal. Teachers will speak directly to students about the specific sessions which they are invited to attend during this time.

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

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 are working towards the assessments that will take place after the Easter holidays, 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. We will provide further updates when we receive these from the exam boards.

I do hope that you and your families and 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**