



**Principal:** Dr Katharine Vincent

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

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for everything you have done to support the school this term. I am extremely proud of all of our students and the incredible optimism, resilience and determination they have shown over the last year. As we look forward to the easing of lockdown restrictions, it is a good time to reflect on everything that we have endured and everything we have achieved. I know this has been a difficult time for many families within our school community. We are continuing to think of you and to send you all of our best wishes.

### **Return to school after Easter holidays**

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.

We will be delivering an Easter School for **Year 11 and 13 only** from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April – students have been notified about the sessions they are invited to attend during this time.

### **Free School Meals vouchers**

Tower Hamlets local authority will be providing vouchers for families who are eligible for free school meals over the Easter break. Each eligible family will be given a £25 Tesco voucher. These will be the same re-loadable voucher cards which families received during the February half term break. The local authority have not yet sent us the vouchers; we will send them out to families as soon as we receive them.

### **Lateral Flow Device testing**

All students who have consented have now been given test kits to take home. 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 that are received during the Easter holidays should be reported immediately by email to the main office – [info@mulberryutc.org](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org).

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

The requirement for students to wear masks in corridors and classrooms will continue after the Easter break. Please remind students that 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.

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and staying safe during this time. For those of you who will be celebrating Easter, I would like to wish you all the best with that. For those of you who will be observing Ramadan, I would also like to send good wishes to you and your families.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

**Principal**