



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well during this time. I am writing with some updates and some information about things that are happening within the school at the current time.

### **Wearing of face-masks in school**

As you may be aware, the government have recently announced some changes to their guidance in relation to the wearing of face-masks in schools. Within the Mulberry Schools trust, we are going to continue to ask students and staff to wear masks in school, both in corridors and in classrooms, unless they are exempt.

We have taken this decision on health and safety grounds, owing to the presence of new variants in the local area and ongoing surge testing relating to the Indian variant within Tower Hamlets. We will review the situation again at the end of May, in light of the changing situation and any further guidance.

Please also find on our website a letter from Tower Hamlets Council relating to Covid-19 testing. They are asking all residents under the age of 11 to seek a PCR test at a local test site. This is owing to the need to ensure residents are regularly testing, to detect any potential increase in infection rates.

### **Uniform and dress code**

A number of Sixth Form students have been coming to school recently wearing jeans, hoodies and trainers. There are also an increased number of students wearing 'air-pod' headphones within the school building, which are not permitted. Please remind students that they must wear correct uniform and dress code at all times. Detailed information about the school's uniform and dress code is available on the website:

<http://mulberryutc.org/dress-code/>.

- Students are not permitted to wear trainers, sandals or high-heeled shoes
- Students must not wear jeans, hoodies, hats or caps within the school building
- Students must not wear coats or scarves (apart from headscarves worn for religious or cultural reasons)
- Students are not permitted to use mobile phones or headphones inside the school building



### **End of courses for Year 11, Year 13 and Year 12 Level 2 students**

The final day of lessons for most students in Year 11 and Year 13 will be Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. During w/c 21<sup>st</sup> May, Year 11 and Year 13 students will follow an amended timetable focused on completing final assessments. A separate letter has been sent to you about this by Ms Christofides – please contact her if you have any questions.

### **Free School Meals vouchers**

Tower Hamlets local authority will be providing some additional free school meals vouchers for eligible families over the May half term break. Those families who are eligible will be contacted directly with more information about this shortly.

### **Lateral Flow Device testing**

Please can we encourage families to continue with twice weekly lateral flow testing. Everyone within the school community has been asked to take part in this testing programme, to help minimise asymptomatic transmission of the virus. We recommend that students test on Wednesdays and Sundays. 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 email to the school – [info@mulberryutc.org](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org).

### **Covid-19**

If your child receives a positive Covid-19 test, please notify the school immediately using the email address [info@mulberryutc.org](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org). Your email must include your child's name, tutor group and a copy of the test result. If your child receives a negative test result, you do not need to notify the school.

Thank you once again for all your ongoing support for the school.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal