



Friday 17th September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

A huge congratulations to our new Year 10 and Year 12 students for making such an excellent start to the new school year. It has been a pleasure to meet so many smart, punctual, hard-working and focused young people. We are delighted that you have chosen Mulberry UTC for your studies and are looking forward to working with you.

Please find below some updates about the work of the school.

BFI Film Academy and Film and Video Workshop

The Creative Industries team at Mulberry UTC is delighted to be working in partnership with the BFI Film Academy. They will run sessions during half term and after school, which is a fantastic opportunity for our students. In addition, Media this week took part in a presentation from Simon Oatley, CEO of Film and Video Workshop. They will run their film-making programme at the school this year in an exciting new collaboration designed to enhance students' practical media skills.

MUTC Futures

'MUTC Futures' is a newly launched programme of events focused on giving students insight into their future career opportunities. This will include a series of activities, talks, conversations and advice with professionals who can advise students about their careers paths. Students will hear from doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, chiropractors, psychotherapists, TV producers, theatre directors and more. This exciting programme is designed to encourage our students to be informed and confident about their next steps.

Open Evening – Thursday 21st October 4.30-6.30pm

We are excited to be holding a face to face Open Evening on Thursday 12th October. Please invite anyone you know who may be interested in joining Mulberry UTC to attend. On this day, students will finish lessons at 3pm (after Period 6) in order to give staff and students time to prepare for Open Evening. Any students who are house captains or vice captains will be invited to support with the event; letters will be given to students about this nearer the time.



Paying for food and drink at break and lunchtime

The school operates a cashless system, with students paying for lunch by swiping their ID cards at the till. This includes those students who are eligible for free school meals. Parents/carers can add money to students' accounts using the online Parentpay system. A username and password has been sent to new families in a separate letter. Students are required to wear their ID cards at all times and must present them at the till in order to be served with their lunch.

Uniform and dress code

All students must adhere to the school's uniform and dress code. All students must wear their lanyard and ID card at all times when they are inside the school building.

Students in Year 10 and Year 11 must wear school uniform and are not permitted to wear sweatshirts, hoodies or coats within the school building.

Sixth Form students are required to wear professional dress, with no jeans, no trainers, no hoodies, no hats or caps, no coats within the school building and no headphones or phones to be used within the school building at any time.

A number of Sixth Form students have come to school this week wearing trainers. If this happens, students will be offered plimsolls or, if they live close to the school, the opportunity to go home and change their shoes. Students will not be permitted to come into school wearing trainers. If there is a medical or other issue affecting footwear, parents should contact the school about this.

COVID-19 Control Measures

Dealing with possible or confirmed cases of COVID 19

Students and staff should not come into school if they have symptoms of COVID 19 or if they have had a positive test result. Anyone who has symptoms is advised to take a PCR test and to self-isolate until they have the results. If the result is negative, they can return to school when they feel well enough. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days, following the government guidelines.

If anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms while in school, they will be sent home immediately, recommended to take a PCR test and to self-isolate until they receive the results. Students do not need to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or if they are a close contact of someone with



COVID-19. Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all students to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Contact tracing

Schools are no longer required to carry out contact tracing. In the event of a confirmed case at school, NHS Track and Trace will work with the staff member, student and/or parent/carer to identify close contacts.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive COVID case, or if they live in a household with a COVID case, providing one of the following:

- They are under 18
- They are over 18 and fully vaccinated
- They are in an approved COVID 19 trial
- They are not able to vaccinate for medical reasons

If not required to self-isolate, an individual who is a close contact of a confirmed case will be advised to take a PCR test, but should continue to attend school in the meantime. If the result is negative, they should continue to attend school; if the result is positive, they should immediately self-isolate and notify the school.

Thank you for all your ongoing support for the school, which is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal