



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 22nd October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your ongoing support for the school. Some information and updates about the work of the school are given below.

Open Evening – Thursday 21st October

A huge thank you to everyone who support our Year 10 and Year 12 Open Evening on Thursday 21st October. It was a fantastic event with over 200 prospective students in attendance. Students and staff very much enjoyed being able to welcome visitors to the building again and we are very much looking forward to our next Open Evening, which will be on Thursday 20th January 4.30-6.30pm.

October half term break

Arrangements for the October half term break are as follows:

- **Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October – half term break;** catch-up and revision sessions will be running during this time for students in Year 11 and Year 13. Students have been told which sessions they need to attend and have been given letters about this.
- **Monday 1st – Friday 5th November – remote learning week;** work will be sent online for students to complete during this time and teachers will check this when school returns.
- **Monday 8th November – return to school;** all students must arrive at 8.40am.

Mock exams

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will take mock exams between Monday 8th November and Friday 19th November. A timetable for these mock exams will be sent to parents separately, so that students know which days their exams will take place. All students in Year 11 and Year 13, and Year 12 Level 2 students, will have mock exams in November and therefore should be spending the half term break revising and preparing for these important assessments.

Trip to the British Film Institute

Year 12 Business students took part in a fantastic opportunity with the British Film Institute (BFI). 23 students visited the BFI Southbank. They were welcomed by Mark Reid, Head of Education and member of the UTC's local governing body. He took students on a full tour of the building and a workshop on the history of the BFI. Students were also about to learn about the BFI Film Festival, which was taking place during the visit.



Screenwriter talk – Namsi Khan

On 19th October, internationally successful screenwriter Namsi Khan visited the school to speak to Creative Industries. Namsi wrote her first script, *Brown Tape*, in 2015 and since then has worked on projects for the BBC and HBO including *Humans*, *The Night Manager*, *Black Mirror* and *His Dark Materials*. Mulberry UTC students were deeply engaged with the session and listened intently as Namsi shared her experiences in the television industry. She generously answered students' questions about themes of diversity, creative inspiration, favourite films and screenwriting tips.

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.

Vaccinations

All young people can now access Covid-19 vaccinations through the national booking system. This includes all students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 at Mulberry UTC. Any students who wish to take up a vaccination can visit the NHS website and find out more about booking their vaccination through this service: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/who-can-get-the-vaccine/>.

In addition to this, Mulberry UTC will be hosting a Covid-19 vaccination clinic in November. This will be run by the local health service and will provide the opportunity for students who wish to be vaccinated to take this up. More information, including consent forms, will be sent to you nearer the time.



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