



Friday 8th October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

There have been a lot of exciting things happening in school this week. Please find more information below.

Rise Up Academy

We were delighted this week to host a week of workshops as part of Rise Up Academy, an organisation promoting diversity within the media and broadcast industry. Students from Mulberry UTC and a local primary school worked with industry volunteers from Sky, BBC Sport and other local media organisations. They to build a functioning broadcast studio and practised taking on all the different roles in a TV studio including sound technician, communications manager and director.

Specialist Science Teacher Training

This week, Mulberry UTC hosted a training day for chemistry teachers from schools across Tower Hamlets. This is part of a project aimed at improving the teaching of science in the local area. There was a real buzz in the room and participants really enjoyed the experience of working in the UTC's specialist science labs for this exciting in-person training day.

Parents' Evening

Year 10 and Year 12 parents' evening will take place on Thursday 14th October 4.30-6.30pm This will be an in-person parents' evening and I would like to strongly encourage the parents of all our new Year 10 and Year 12 parents to attend. This is an important opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers and to hear about how they have settled in to the school.

Further information about parents' evening will be sent to you by Ms Coulson, Assistant Principal

Applications for House Ambassadors

I would like to encourage students in Year 10 and Year 12 to apply to be a House Ambassador. This is an important role within the House System and gives students the opportunity to gain valuable skills including confidence and public speaking. Students should speak to their Head of House if they are interested in applying. I will look forward to reading the applications and interviewing students.



Open Evening – Thursday 21st October 4.30-6.30pm

I would like to warmly invite you and your families to join us at our Open Evening on Thursday 21st October. 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.

Laptops

The school has laptops available for students to loan in order to support their studies at home. Devices can be loaned for up to 12 months. Any students who would like to borrow a laptop from the school should speak to their form tutor in the first instances. They will then arrange for the student to be allocated a laptop by the IT team.

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.

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Mulberry
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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