



13 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been an excellent first term of the year here at Mulberry UTC and I am immensely proud of all that your child and our staff have already achieved. I wanted to write to you as term ends to celebrate some successes and give you information about what to look out for as we go into the Spring.

### Year 11 and Year 13 Parents' Evening

Please make sure you use Edulink to book your appointments for this event on Wednesday December. *School will close for all students at the slightly earlier time of **3pm on Wednesday 18 December**.*

### Parent Survey

I'd be very grateful if you would take 5-10 minutes to complete our parent survey. It's so useful for us to find out your views so that we can further improve the UTC. It is quite quick to do and its online. The link is [here](#). The survey will close on Friday January 10<sup>th</sup> so try to find 5-10 minutes between now and then to complete

### Last Day of Term

We will have rewards assemblies on the last day of term (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December) to celebrate all our students' successes over the term. There will be a staggered dismissal of students from 12pm on that day.

### January Exams

From January 7-10 **Year 10** will take progress tests during lesson time. These are 45 minute tests that help teachers to gather information on progress. Year 10 parents will receive a school report based on these exams and this can be discussed at Year 10 parents' evening which is on 12 February.

Some **Year 12** students have exam board vocational exams in early January. If this applies to your child then an exam timetable personal to your child will be sent home separately. We will also have progress tests for other subjects in the week from 20-24 January. These will be in class tests. Year 12 parents will receive a school report based on these exams and this can be discussed at Year 12 parents' evening which is on 12 February.

### Year 10 and Year 12 Parents Evening

As mentioned above, Year 10 and Year 12 parents evening will be from 3pm-7pm on

### **Open Evening 16 January (4.30-6.30pm)**

Thursday 16 January is the second of our Open Evenings this year. This means the school will close at the slightly earlier time of **3pm on 16 January** to give staff time to prepare for the event.

The main purpose of the event is to attract new students to the UTC, but if you as parents would like to use this as an opportunity to look round then please feel free to join us! This will be particularly relevant if you are a current Year 11 parent and are considering the UTC for Year 12. We will also be asking lots of students to stay and help us to make the evening a success.

We will be asking lots of the students to act as ambassadors for us, so look out for a permission slip that you may need to sign so that your child can come and help us on the evening.

### **Year 10 Work Experience**

This will be from 3-7 February. Lots of our students have already found exciting work placements, if your child is yet to find a placement then our careers officer will be in touch with you to see what we can do to help. If you have relatives/friends who are happy to host your child then that's great. They will just need to fill out a short form which your child can provide.

### **The Importance of Attendance**

There is a great deal of research that shows the clear link between achievement and attendance. The more your child is at school, the better they will do. Students with attendance over 95% generally do one grade better than students with attendance below 85%. We will be writing next week to update you on your child's attendance this half term, we will also be contacting parents/carers individually where attendance is a concern. We want to support and assist and will work with you constructively to get your child where they need to be – in the UTC and studying for their future.

### **Speakers and Experiences**

We have had a packed term with trips to Sky, Google, Spotify, Pinewood studios, Sunderland University, City University, lectures at Mulberry School for Girls...the list goes on. We have also hosted 15 guest speakers in school from all walks of life: nurses, accountants, TV producers and policemen to name but a few. We have a range of speakers coming into school and trips going out next half term. Look out for more information.

Many thanks for all your support as parents/carers. If you would like to get in touch with me about the contents of this letter or any other matter then please write directly [dseed@mulberryschoolstrust.org](mailto:dseed@mulberryschoolstrust.org). I'm always happy to help.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Seed  
Principal