



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your ongoing support for the school. I would like to wish you and your families all the best over the festive season. I hope you are able to stay well and healthy during this time.

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

Covid-19 situation and additional testing

We anticipate that the government is likely to continue to advise students and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas when school returns in January. We will let you know when this has been confirmed.

I would like to strongly encourage all students to continue with their twice-weekly lateral flow tests. It is important that you do these tests on a regular basis and report the result: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

The government has also asked schools to offer rapid testing to students when they return after the Christmas holidays. We hope all students will take up this opportunity to help prevent the spread of infection after the holidays.

Start of term in January 2022

- Monday 3rd January 2022 – School closed – bank holiday
- Tuesday 4th January 2022 – School closed to students - INSET day for teachers
- Wednesday 5th January 2022 – All students return to school at normal time of 8.40am

January 2022 technical and vocational exams

Most students in Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 will sit public examinations in January 2022. These unit exams contribute towards students' final grades in their technical and vocational qualifications. Exam timetables have been sent home with students. Please encourage students to continue with their revision over the Christmas break, to ensure they are well-prepared for these important exams.

Open Evening – Thursday 20th January

The second Open Evening of the year will take place on Thursday 20th January. Please encourage current Year 11 students to attend and please share the date with any friends or family who you know are interested in joining the school next year.



COVID-19 Control Measures

Lateral flow testing

I would like to strongly encourage all students and staff to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow testing. Additional test kits have been given out to all members of staff and students this week, with guidance about how to undertake tests and how to report results. It is extremely important that tests are reported via the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

Any positive test results must also be reported immediately to the school using the email address info@mulberryutc.org.

Dealing with possible or confirmed cases of COVID 19

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.

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, unless they have been identified as a close contact of someone with the Omnicron variant. Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR test. We would strongly 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 and advise about further actions.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal