



**Principal:** Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your ongoing support for the school. Please find below some information and updates.

### **Covid-19 situation**

As you will be aware, we have re-introduced face-masks in communal areas following recent changes to government guidance. Students are required to wear face-masks in corridors, around the school building and in Independent Study. This is in addition to other measures such as increasing ventilation and encouraging students and staff to wash and sanitise their hands regularly. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to create a safe environment in school and to reduce the risk of infection.

### **Winter weather**

I would like to remind parents that the school does not permit students to wear hoodies, trainers, hats or scarves within the building. We encourage students to wear a warm winter coat to school, which can be stored in students' lockers while they are inside the building. Year 10 and Year 11 students may wear a grey v-neck jumper or cardigan underneath their blazers but are not permitted to wear sweatshirts or hooded tops. If students feel cold, we would encourage them to wear a thermal vest or other warm clothing underneath their uniform. If any families need help purchasing warm winter clothing, please speak to a member of the pastoral team so that they can arrange this.

### **Year 11 and Year 13 parents evening – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 4.30-6.30pm**

We are looking forward to seeing in person the parents of students in Year 11 and Year 13 on the afternoon of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Mock exam results will be given to parents as part of this evening. If you are unable to attend for any reason, please contact your child's Head of House to let them know.

### **Christmas lunch – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

A Christmas lunch will be available for students on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December. I hope that all students will join us for lunch on that day, as a way of marking the festive season together.

### **End of the autumn term – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

The last day of the autumn term for students will be Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. On this day, students will finish lessons at 12.40pm, at the end of Period 4. Packed lunches will be given to any students who are eligible for free school meals on this day.



## Trips and visits

Students have been taking part in a number of exciting trips and visits this week. We are delighted to be able to facilitate these enriching events and would encourage all students to attend wherever possible. This week's trips and visits include:

- Inspirational Societies trip to the Old Operating Theatre Museum
- Year 10 and Year 11 theatre trip to The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time
- Year 10 Business trip to Price Waterhouse Coopers
- Theatre trip to ' & Juliet ' musical at the Shaftesbury Theatre
- Sixth Form trip to the London Velodrome at the invitation of Amazon Web Services, to learn about the broadcast media set-up relating to the UCI Track Champions cycling event

A number of further trips and visits are planned for the last two weeks of term, including end of year trips to various venues across London. We will review these trips in light of any new government guidance relating to Covid-19 and trips will only go ahead if we deem it safe to do so.

## Open Evening – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January

The second Open Evening of the year will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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

In light of current concern about the Omnicron variant, 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](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org).

### 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.



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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, 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.

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, or over 18 and fully vaccinated
- They are in an approved COVID 19 trial
- They are not able to vaccinate for medical reasons
- They have not been informed that they are a close contact of someone who has contracted the new Omnicron variant

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**