



Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to wish you and your families and friends a Happy New Year and all the best for 2022.

As school returns following the Christmas holidays, I'm sure you will be aware that there are a significant number of cases of Covid nationally owing to the new Omicron variant. We are committed to doing everything we can to prevent the spread of infection within school. Please find below some updates about how we are implementing revised government guidance in relation to this.

Face-masks

In accordance with government guidance, all students and staff are now required to wear face-masks in lessons as well as in corridors and other parts of the building. All students must wear a face-mask in school unless they are exempt for specific reasons set out in government guidance.

Students are expected to bring their own masks to school and parents/carers should ensure these are provided. If any students forget to bring their mask to school, they will be provided with one but this should not be an expectation as the school has only a limited supply.

Any students who are exempt from wearing face-masks must ensure they have a badge, card or lanyard that makes this clear. If a student without an exemption refuses to wear a masks around the school or in a classroom, they may be sent home and parents invited to a meeting to discuss the issue.

Lateral flow testing

All students will be offered one on-site test at school when they return this week. Separate communication has been sent to you about this, including consent forms. I would like to encourage you to consent to this testing, as it is one of the important measures we can take to minimise the spread of infection within school.

Links to the online consent forms for these on-site tests are as follows:

KS4 <https://forms.office.com/r/rDSgwyrpSn>

KS5: <https://forms.office.com/r/9iPYRHeZ4L>

All students and staff are also asked to take one self-test at home, either the evening or the morning before they return to school on Wednesday 5th January. After that, students and staff should continue with their twice-weekly lateral flow tests. Results should be reported at: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.



Changes to self-isolation requirements

Close contacts, including confirmed cases within the household:

Students under the age of 18, or those over 18 who are fully vaccinated, are not required to self-isolate if they are close contacts of a positive case. Instead, they should continue to attend school while taking a lateral flow test every day for seven days. As long as they continue to test negative, they can continue to attend school as normal.

Confirmed positive cases:

If a student receives a positive lateral flow test, they must immediately isolate and should take a PCR test within 48 hours. If the PCR is negative, they may return to school. If the PCR is positive, they should isolate for 10 days from the date on which symptoms started (or the date of the test if they did not have symptoms). On day 6 and day 7, they can do a lateral flow test at home. If both tests are negative and the student does not have a high temperature, they can return to school on day 8.

I have enclosed a document summarising this, to help answer any questions you may have.

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 and we do not expect there to be any changes to this schedule at the present time.

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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal



Staying Safe at Mulberry UTC - January 2022

Guide for Parents



TESTING AND SELF ISOLATION

Students will be offered one on-site LFD test when they return to school. Students will also be provided with packs of LFD tests to take home. Students are advised to take these home tests every 2-4 days at home.

If a student tests positive from an LFD test they should self-isolate and immediately seek a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR test is taken within two days and is negative, they can return to school.

It is now possible for students to return to school after 7 days if they have received two negative LFD results on day 6 and day 7 of their isolation and they do not have a high temperature.

CLOSE CONTACT

Students are not required to self-isolate if they believe they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive. Instead, they are advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days and attend school as normal, unless they test positive. Tests can be requested from the school.



HYGIENE AND VENTILATION

Classrooms will be kept well ventilated with windows and doors open. We encourage students to regularly wash their hands and will provide hand sanitizer in all classrooms and around the school building.



VACCINATION

Students are able to take up a vaccine. 16-18 year olds can now access the booster vaccine.



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REPORTING RESULTS

If your child tests positive please notify the school as soon as possible and send the confirmation email to info@mulberryutc.org. A member of the pastoral team will give the family a welfare call and explain the arrangements for home learning during isolation.