



**Principal:** Dr Katharine Vincent

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you are keeping well during this time. As well as the usual updates, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support for the school during my time as headteacher. It has been my privilege to serve as Principal of Mulberry UTC and I have greatly enjoyed working with all of you.

### Leadership transition

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, I will be moving into a new role and Sally Brian will take over as Acting Principal. I am delighted to be handing over to Sally, who has been Vice Principal at the school since it opened in September 2017. Sally will be supported by other colleagues including Rachel King, currently a member of the senior team at Mulberry School for Girls, who will take on the role of Acting Vice-Principal.

### February half term break

Today is the last day of the first half of the spring term. The school will be closed during w/c Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, apart from intervention sessions in specific subject areas on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February. School will resume as normal for all students on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 8.40am.

### Year 11 and Year 13 mock exams

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will sit mock exams starting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Please encourage students to use their time wisely in the run-up to these mock exams. Students should be planning to spend the February half term break revising for their exams and completing any unfinished coursework. The timetable for mock exams has been given out to students so they should know exactly when each exam will take place and therefore how to structure their revision time.

### Uniform and dress code

Please remind students that they must adhere to the school's uniform and dress code:

- All students must wear their lanyard and ID card at all times inside the school building
- Y10 and Y11 students must wear school uniform including blazer, tie and school shoes
- The school does not permit any students to wear sweatshirts, hoodies or jeans
- Students are not permitted to wear coats, scarves, hats or caps within the building
- Headphones or phones must not be used within the school building at any time.

Students will not be permitted to come into school wearing trainers unless there is a medical reason affecting their ability to wear shoes. If this is the case, parents should contact the school and discuss the situation with the child's Head of House, before sending them to school wearing trainers.



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## Face-masks

We would like to encourage students and staff to continue to wear face-masks in corridors and other parts of the school building, as we seek to minimise the number of Covid-19 cases within the school.

## Use of student images in photos and videos

As part of the home-school agreement, parents are asked to give permission for the school to make use of student images in publications relating to the work of the school. This includes the school prospectus, website and social media. If you do not want your child's image to be used for this purpose, please contact the school to let us know about this: [info@mulberryutc.org](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org).

## Lateral flow testing

Please continue to test twice weekly at home. Any students who are a close contact of a confirmed case should test every day for 7 days while continuing to attend school as normal. Students and staff should report results immediately online: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

## Changes to requirements for confirmatory PCR tests

As you will be aware, the government have temporarily removed the requirement for a confirmatory PCR test following a positive lateral flow test result. Anyone who receives a positive lateral flow test should assume they are infectious and isolate in line with government guidance. They can then return to school or work after day 5, as long as they have two negative test results 24 hours apart.

## Open Evening – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Our next face to face Open Evening will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at Mulberry UTC 4.30-6.30pm. 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 support. I have very much enjoyed leading the school during the last five years and meeting many of you during this time. I wish you and your families all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

**Principal**