



**Principal:** Dr Katharine Vincent

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well during this time. Please find below some updates about the work of the school.

### Parent governor election

The deadline for nominations for parent governors is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February. If you have any questions about the role, please contact the school by email [info@mulberryutc.org](mailto:info@mulberryutc.org). If more than two nominations are received, an election will be held to determine who takes up the role. Once nominations have been received, we will then inform parents about the next stage of the process.

### 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 undertaking at least two hours a day of study outside of lessons and should be planning to spend the February half term break revising for their exams and completing any unfinished coursework. The timetable for mock exams will be sent to you separately by Ms Brian and this will also be shared with students before the half term break, so they are clear about what they need to revise.

### End of February half term

The last day of half term will be Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February. School will finish at the normal time of 2.10pm on that day and lessons will continue as usual up to the half term break. The school will then be closed during w/c Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, apart from some intervention sessions taking place for invited students in specific subject areas. School will resume as normal on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 8.40am.

### Leadership transition

As explained in my separate letter earlier this week, I will be stepping down as Principal at February half term. When school returns after the half term break, Sally Brian, who is currently Senior Vice-Principal, will be taking on the Acting Principal role. She will be supported by Rachel King, currently Assistant Headteacher at Mulberry School for Girls, who will be taking on the role of Acting Vice-Principal.

### 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.



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### 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 ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

**Principal**